



Wunan Foundation

Building a stronger future in the East Kimberley



Annual Report 2005/06



Tom Birch – Chairperson

Chairman's Report

In 2005/06, Wunan Foundation continued to grow and further expand the reach of its activities in line with the region's increasing demand for innovative approaches to improve Indigenous employment and engagement.

During this period, there were some major milestones achieved in the East Kimberley. Argyle Diamond Mine confirmed its underground expansion to extend the life of the mine until 2018. This was of course underpinned by the Argyle Participation Agreement settled earlier between the company and Traditional Owners. Significant too was the landmark signing of the Ord Stage II agreement between the WA State Government and the Miriuwung Gajerrong people that paves the way for large scale agricultural expansion, new employment schemes, and the opening up of conservation parks.

The challenge that local Aboriginal people and organisations now have is to turn the potential of these opportunities into reality. I am pleased to see Wunan is making things happen for East Kimberley Aboriginal people through a number of initiatives outlined further in this report.

I wish to thank my fellow Board Members, the Wunan staff and all of our partners from the Government, private and philanthropic sectors for their continuing support in helping us build a stronger future for Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley.

Tom Birch, Honorary Chairperson



A successful work-readiness program completed by East Kimberley Job Pathways.

Job Pathways

The momentum that had started in 2004/05 bore fruit this year with the formal commencement of East Kimberley Job Pathways – a joint venture between Wunan and Kimberley Group Training - to develop and facilitate community-driven solutions for sustainable employment, training and leadership for local Indigenous people.

East Kimberley Job Pathways commenced in early 2006 with the recruitment of General Manager, Murray Coates, and the launches of the Local Community Partnership program (LCP) and the Indigenous Employment Centre (IEC) – operated under contracts with the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) respectively.

In its early stages, this initiative is already demonstrating the benefits of having a dedicated team with independent capacity to tackle some of the gaps that otherwise prevent young people from transitioning successfully into and sustaining long-term jobs. We are particularly grateful for the support that Telstra Foundation and Westpac Foundation have provided to enable us to establish this initiative. We also acknowledge the wonderful support that we have had from many individuals, groups, schools and businesses in the region.

Housing Project

In 2005/06, Wunan teamed up with Beacon Foundation to initiate an innovative job creation project that aims to concurrently address two of the most vexed issues for improving the lives of Aboriginal Australians – employment and housing.

Involving a major partnership with the WA Department of Housing & Works, supported by the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 'Something Concrete' is providing real job opportunities for local young Indigenous people in the housing industry. With current contracts worth over \$1 million, the project is building a staff house and later a new triplex unit development to provide affordable housing for Indigenous trainees in Kununurra.

The project has attracted significant private and community interest and support. It is providing skills training and real jobs for 9 local Aboriginal young men as well as building a significant amount of pride, self respect and confidence in their capabilities. Importantly, this has been recognised by their families and peers too.

As expected, the project presents a number of challenges which we are working on together with our various stakeholders to see 'Something Concrete' progress further. We thank the many organisations that have supported the project thus far and provided this opportunity for the young Aboriginal men who have made such a promising start.

Community Management and Governance

In 2005/06, Wunan Foundation continued to its share capacity with other Indigenous community organisations in the region.

With support from Macquarie Bank Foundation, Wunan Business Services (WBS) was established to work with Council leaders and executives of Indigenous organisations in the East Kimberley to help them improve their internal business operations to in turn perform more effectively for their respective communities. Wunan's philosophy with WBS is that if community organisations can maintain strong leadership matched with stable management and sound financial performance, communities will develop better solutions to issues confronting them and consequently achieve improved returns from investments made by governments and other stakeholders.

During the year, WBS also initiated a new Indigenous leadership mentoring role to build the capacity of other Indigenous leaders and work



Hostel residents relaxing from a hard days work at Wunan House.

Wunan House

Wunan House continues to demonstrate its value to the community in providing affordable, quality accommodation for Indigenous trainees and apprentices.

In 2005/06, Wunan House hosted on average 10 residents each week and managed to keep its room rates unchanged despite rising costs and in a market where private rents have increased dramatically. We particularly acknowledge the continued support of Aboriginal Hostels Limited and to the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal's Rural Education Program for providing extra financial support via scholarships.

Wunan House is very fortunate to have a great team in Derek and Trudi who are responsible for its day-to-day operation. Of course, we thank all of the residents, who express high levels of satisfaction with the service that the hostel provides and collectively help to create such a positive and supportive living environment.

with Councils to develop improved governance skills, procedures and practices. Funding support for this role was assisted with a grant from Indigenous Land Corporation.

WBS is pleased to be working with key communities in the region to support them in achieving various reforms and help them build their own capacity to sustain more effective delivery of vital community services to the many children and families living in these areas.

We thank the whole of the WBS team, led by General Manager Nathan Dyer, and particularly acknowledge the progress that our two Indigenous Management Cadets are making as we look to expand this program further in our continued efforts to develop local Indigenous capacity.

2005/06 Overview

The 2005/06 year for Wunan Foundation was an exhilarating and challenging one. Especially pleasing for the Foundation were the formal commencement of East Kimberley Job Pathways, the significant expansion of Wunan Business Services, and the development of the Housing project. The Foundation is also delighted to see the stable growth of other key Aboriginal organisations in the East Kimberley as evidence of increased Indigenous capacity in the region.

More so than previous years, Wunan demonstrated the benefits of synergies within its internal functions along with key partnerships such as Kimberley Group Training and Wunan House. As an example, the integration of related services focused on Indigenous employment has significantly boosted job outcomes for local Aboriginal people.

The Foundation is most grateful for the continued strong support from the community, government, private and philanthropic sectors — both within and from outside the region. Renewed and long-term partnerships with renowned groups such

as the Telstra, Westpac, Macquarie Bank and Beacon Foundations provide a real shot in the arm for Wunan and significantly enhance returns from public resources invested in the region to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians.

There is still much work to be done. Yet with the momentum that exists in the region and the confidence that we have gained from our achievements so far, Wunan and its partners are building a stronger future for Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley.



Ian Trust, Tom Birch and CEO, Ralph Addis, at the 2006 National Indigenous Governance Awards where Wunan Foundation was Highly Commended.



Wunan Foundation Inc

Cnr Messmate Way & Konkerberry Dve
PO Box 1338
Kununurra WA 6743
AUSTRALIA

Ph: 61-8-9168 3881

Fax: 61-8-9168 3885

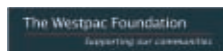
e-mail: info@wunan.org.au

website: <http://www.wunan.org.au>

ABN: 61 577 218 799

Wunan Foundation is a not-for-profit and non-Government Indigenous organisation with focus across the East Kimberley in Western Australia.

The Foundation enjoys a number of important strategic partnerships and particularly wishes to acknowledge the following organisations:



Department of Education, Science & Training (DEST)
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)
Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)
Indigenous Business Australia (IBA)



Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA)
Department of Industry and Resources (DIR)

The Danks Trust

CLAYTON UTZ

