

RED LILY HEALTH BOARD NEWSLETTER

AGM of Red Lily Health Board



On 19th November 2020, the Annual General Meeting of Red Lily Health was conducted in the presence of Board Directors and Members at Red Lily Head Quarters, Jabiru. In the beginning of the meeting the Deputy Chair of Red Lily Health Board Mr. Sampson Henry acknowledged the traditional owners of the Mirrar people followed by the Chairperson's report presented by Mr. Reuben Cooper; Transition Manager's report by Mr. Stephen Hayes; Business Manager's report by Mr. Brad Palmer and financial reports by the Auditor (BDO). The Board Directors and members appreciated the productive journey of Red Lily Health so far. To get access to the AGM report please click on the link- [2019-2020 | Red Lily Health Board](#)



NAIDOC Week Spectacular

What a magnificent NAIDOC week it was in Kakadu. A week that celebrated and recognised Aboriginal culture and heritage with the theme of NAIDOC this year being Always Was Always Will Be which will resonate with a lot of us, not only in this community but around the nation.

The week kicked off with a flag raising ceremony which included elders and youth from Jabiru Area School and a Welcome to Country by Mirrar representative Corben Mudjandi. This was followed by a public health expo which included outreach services from Darwin, Alcohol & Other Drugs, Donate Life, Heart Foundation, Menzies, Body Fit NT NTG Primary Healthcare Outreach. Energy Resources Australia (ERA) supplying cold beverages while Warnbi Aboriginal Corporation Executive Director Lynnette Cahill Miller, CEO Ralph Blyth and Benny from the council cooked up a storm on the BBQ.

On Tuesday the preview premiere of the Desert Pea Media and Red Lily, Health promotion music video was shown at the Mercure Crocodile Hotel with a terrific turnout showcasing the talent of elders and youth with a strong message of looking after each other, harm minimisation and the importance of culture and language.

Wednesday evening was a time to embrace, celebrate and showcase culture and pride through fashion at the local Marrawuddi Gallery. It was a jam-packed event with a terrific evening had by all, with The Deadly Black Beauties leading the runway with fashion from North Indigenous Textiles, Magpie Goose, Marrawuddi Gallery, Raw Cloth Darwin and Injalak designed pieces from members of the community. The last ever NAIDOC Fashion Parade as quoted by Andy Ralph happened 30 years ago back in 1990 at the Croc organised by Lyle Cooper and MC by Andy Ralph himself. Andy also said, 'Let's hope we don't have to wait for another 30 years, let's make it an annual event'.

Thursday night was movie night with the screening of Emu Runner, which was generously provided by Umbrella Entertainment & Beama Film. Thank you to the Crocodile Hotel for providing the Jim Jim room to show the film in comfort, with thanks to the NLC Jabiru team for providing a delicious BBQ dinner.

Our last day of NAIDOC Week celebration ended on the Friday and was held at Coinda Lodge Kakadu, which showcased a magnificent yet intimate weaving and painting exhibition. People were lucky enough to be able to participate in



the weaving with elders Violet Lawson and Elizabeth Pettersson. While others watched on in awe as David Cameron, John Lemibanda and Joy Nabegeyo showed absolute skill in the fine line artwork. The skills and knowledge that these women and men showed have been handed down through generations. Coinda also put on a delightful and tasty luncheon.

Thank you to all the fantastic stakeholders and service providers that made NAIDOC Week 2020 so fabulous and deadly.

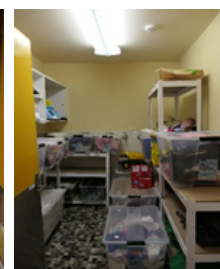
Jabiru Stars Academy come to the rescue



Folding and sorting the donated clothing items



The young women that assisted



Result: well organised, accessible storage room

Visualise this – a room you cannot get into, not because the door does not open, because the donations of clothing have been so huge opening the door was becoming impossible.

Hundreds of clothing for all ages and sizes have been donated to Red Lily to hand out to community members, and to assist in folding and storing and sorting in size Red Lily needed immediate HELP! So, who did Red Lily call on to rescue them from the room of avoidance? The wonderful young women from Jabiru Stars Academy.

Within two hours these wonderful young women transformed this room into a well organised, easily accessible go to clothing space.

Thank you, Stars Academy and coordinator Richard Tambling, whose folding skills shone on the day.

Red Lily and Stars Seniors Yarning Circle

Red Lily Health staff Emma and Trish visited Stars foundation to have a yarn with the Senior students to talk up our strengths and resilience as Aboriginal people, with the use of strength cards that feature themes to spark conversations.



Each student picked up a card that had a word that was important to them, themes included Our Elders, Our Stories, Our Pride, Our Land and many more.



It was interesting to see and hear what was important to each of us and realised that we all had the same values to keep our health and culture strong in our community and to inspire future generations.

300 dogs, 1 calf, and a pig all treated with anti-parasitic medication



Sounds like a Christmas song! And it felt like Christmas with the wonderful service delivered last month from the staff of Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC).

Red Lily staff assisted Chelsea and Michelle from AMRRIC over two days providing contraceptive injections (to stop a puppy cycle) and anti-parasitic medication to animals located at eleven (11) Kakadu communities.

AMRRIC expect to return next year for a full surgical veterinary program and to deliver education in areas such as: itchy skin (dogs/people), dog behaviour and safety, cat breeding and feral cat hunting, and a new tick disease: Ehrlichiosis.



The Greatest Gift

Red Lily staff Denise House was grateful that the workshop she was meant to deliver to ERA female employees was postponed, as this allowed her the wonderful opportunity (as scared as she was) of delivering this with other staff members of Red Lily.

What was discussed? A terrific insight into human behaviour and what drives us. Tony Robbins six core human needs.



There are six needs which drive our behaviours. These six core needs are not our values, or things we want. We must experience these needs.

It was discussed how these needs can be obtainable, and in a way this is sustainable. Obtainable means we can meet the need, but it is not necessarily being met in a sustainable way. For example, we can meet our need for variety by trying drugs. Is this obtainable? Yes. Is it sustainable? No.

Sustainable means we can meet that need on an ongoing basis, in a way that is good for us, and good for our future. For example, we can meet our need for certainty by developing a solid and healthy sense of certainty about ourselves and our purpose.

The training flowed onto vital needs model, behavioural profile D.I.S.C and ended with the greatest gift.

This training not only allowed unity of the staff but also provided tools for the ongoing needs of contribution and growth. Something they can take with them, because this makes engaging with community even better, and from now on will enhance our power to assist others on the importance of the greatest gift- self-respect!





Media Release

Public Health Association of Australia
 Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory
 Red Lily Health Board
 Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation

9 December 2020

Disease cluster in Northern Territory region raises serious questions for Traditional owners and health professionals

Public Health Association of Australia Northern Territory Branch (PHAA NT), Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, Red Lily Health Board and Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT) welcome the release of the Northern Territory Government's long awaited report into the Gunbalanya-Kakadu disease cluster in the Northern Territory.

The investigation report confirmed a significant increase in cancers (1.8 times expected) and fetal deaths (1.86 times expected) in the region compared to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations in the Top End of the NT.

Despite suspecting that increased rates of smoking and alcohol consumption have contributed to the disease cluster the study was unable to prove this conclusively. The investigation concluded that it is highly unlikely that exposure to ionizing radiation directly contributed to this disease cluster, but it was unable to rule this out.

Dr Michael Fonda, a rural specialist GP and member of the PHAA NT Branch commented 'Our organisations have been advocating for many years for further investigation into this disease cluster in the Alligator Rivers region, an issue raised initially in a 2006 report.

Justin O'Brien, CEO of Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation added, 'Given that no clear cause for the disease cluster has been identified, we jointly recommend that there be continued close monitoring of the health outcomes of the Gunbalanya-Kakadu cohort specifically studied in this investigation.'

Reuben Cooper, Chair of the Red Lily Health Board commented, 'We strongly support the health promotion messaging emerging from this investigation to encourage reduction in smoking and alcohol consumption – health issues known to have a



devastating effect on the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the NT.'

Mr Cooper added however, 'this investigation does not discuss the reasons for higher rates of smoking and alcohol consumption in the Gunbalanya-Kakadu region which could include factors such as cultural dislocation, stress and royalty payments, nor does it discuss the potential social impacts that the uranium mining industry has had on the population in the region.'

John Paterson, CEO of AMSANT commented, 'The Health Department advising people to stop smoking and drinking is a narrow approach, and potentially blames Aboriginal people rather than exploring approaches to reducing poverty and increasing empowerment.'

A 1984 AIATSIS report raised concerns that significant social and health impacts might eventuate following establishment of the Ranger uranium mine in the region. The report made numerous recommendations which were accepted at the time by the Australian Government, but which were not implemented. One of these recommendations was for continued monitoring of the social impact of uranium mining in the region.

Mr O'Brien commented: 'It is of great concern to GAC that significant social and health impacts resulting from uranium mining in the region were foreshadowed and have ultimately transpired, even if the sources of these impacts are not yet clear. There was a responsibility to monitor the health and wellbeing of the population in this region throughout the period of uranium mining operations and this did not take place adequately'.

Dr Fonda added, 'This disease cluster should serve as a warning that similar problems could emerge in other remote Aboriginal communities following the introduction of a mining, industrial or other significant commercial operation in their region. Rigorous health assessment and monitoring is required, and projects should not be able to proceed if a safe plan cannot to be implemented.'

Mr Paterson highlighted the importance of ensuring Aboriginal communities are involved in developing frameworks for assessing health impacts. 'Cultural and social impacts of mining need to be included in approval processes', he said. He added, 'Aboriginal communities need to feel comfortable that their long-term health and wellbeing will be monitored and not be threatened by such projects and that they have the option to say no to the development if it is not in their best interests.'

For further information/comment:

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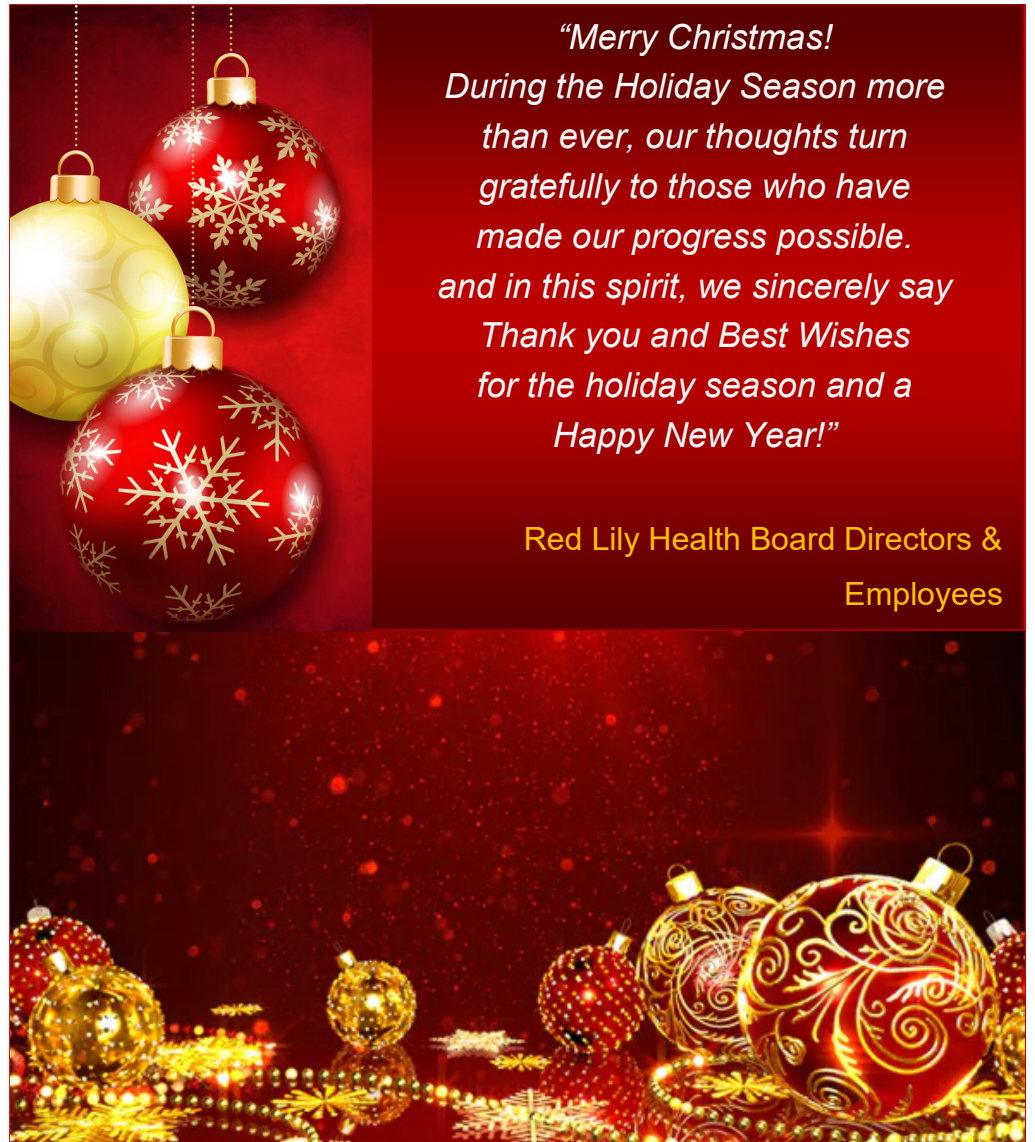
Kirsten Blair (Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation) – 0412 853 631

Reuben Cooper (Red Lily Health Board) – 0474 354 912

John Paterson (AMSANT)- john.paterson@amsant.org.au

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*“Merry Christmas!
During the Holiday Season more
than ever, our thoughts turn
gratefully to those who have
made our progress possible.
and in this spirit, we sincerely say
Thank you and Best Wishes
for the holiday season and a
Happy New Year!”*

**Red Lily Health Board Directors &
Employees**

Do you have questions or want more information?

Contact Red Lily Health Board at info@redlily.org.au

If you would like to get latest information about Red Lily Health, please visit our website or follow us on Facebook & LinkedIn.

Website: redlily.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/redlilyhealth

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/31371580

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/redlilyhealth>

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