



WANGKA MAYA
PILBARA ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE CENTRE
Annual General Meeting 14/10/00
Yule River

AGM Meeting commenced at 11.00am

Welcome

The group was welcomed to Kariyarra country by Norton Williams.

Lorraine Injie (Chairperson) welcomed all and thanked them for coming today. Lorraine introduced the Wangka Maya staff and committee to the meeting.

Members Present: Lorraine Injie, Norton Williams, Susan Brown, Rose Murray, Richard Oderson, Bruce Thomas, Alma Gray, Sandy Brown, Denese Griffin, Betty Lockyer, Fanny Horace, Winnie Grey, Marnmu Smyth, Gladys tucker, Bonny Tucker, Peter Coppin, Ian Taylor, Trudy Hayes, Karen Hayes, Margie Ginger, Slim Parker, Diana Robinson, Janet Stewart, Doris Eaton, Lily McKay, Peggy Smirk, Linda Smirk, Lorraine Smirk, Priscilla Ashburton

Staff Present: Fran Haintz, Albert Burgman, Thomas Saunders

Guests: Stephen Nile - Wangka Maya Accountant

Apologies: Smithy Robinson, Rosie Munro, Anne Sibasado, Gloria Lockyer, Samuel Munro, Bella Wildridge, Dundora Whyardie, Stephen Stewart, Frances Hayes, James Wally

Minutes from last year AGM read by Denese Griffin.

Business arising: Tjalka Wara annex was raised. Alma Gray said there was a meeting about the annex/house being used for the language centre but we are just old people and there was no coordinator or chairperson there.

Lorraine responded that Wangka Maya did not have enough equipment to set up the annex at that time.

Moved acceptance of minutes: Rose Murray

Seconded: Alma Gray

Carried unanimously

Chairperson Report: Presented by Lorraine Injie

(See attached in Annual Report)

Lorraine thanked committee members and others, especially the old people who had helped at Wangka Maya through the last year. It has been a hard year due to changes in staff and other things and the committee has had to work hard to keep Wangka Maya going.

Lorraine gave an overview of Wangka Maya's activities and history for the people at the meeting who had not been involved before. Before whiteman came there were over 30 languages in the Pilbara and more than 15,000 people. There are now only 5000 people. Some of the languages we have now only have five speakers, such as Putijara. For languages to survive they need a vocabulary of 10000 words. There are three Pilbara languages with over 500 speakers. Lorraine emphasised that land is nothing without language.

Annual Report: Read by Rose Murray

(See attached)

Moved to accept the Annual Report: Bruce Thomas

Seconded: Alma Gray

Carried unanimously

Audit Report: Presented by Stephen Nile

(See attached)

Made the point that Wangka Maya is working hard to improve the financial systems and has done well not to over spend the money they are given.

Peter Coppin talked about the trouble money has caused for the Aboriginal people. People need to learn that money is not so important and cannot expect to be given money from everywhere, like Wangka Maya.

Lorraine welcomed members to visit the Wangka Maya offices if they are worried about the money side of the centre.

Lorraine also stated that the government gives money only for projects, not for individual people who were stolen. If they gave money to individuals it will mean they are acknowledging that the wrong thing happened and then they would have to say sorry.

Moved to accept Audit Report: Betty Lockyer

Seconded: Bruce Thomas

Carried unanimously

Auditor for next year

A motion retain the same auditor for next year was put to the meeting and explained by Fran Haintz, who suggested it was better for the organisation to have consistency. Each year we can work towards improving our systems not starting again as is the case with different auditors every year.

Moved acceptance of Stephen Nile & Associates as auditor for next year: Marnmu Smyth

Seconded Rose Murray

Carried unanimously

Election of Office Bearers

All positions were declared vacant and Fran Haintz conducted the meeting for the elections.

Chairperson

Nominations for Chairperson - Lorraine Injie by Slim Parker Lorraine, accepted elected unanimously.

Vice Chair

Nominations for Vice Chairperson - Bruce Thomas nominated by Trudy Hayes, Bruce accepted elected unanimously.

Secretary

Nominations for Secretary - Trudy Hayes nominated by Marnmu Smyth, Trudy declined. Denese Griffin nominated by Lorraine Injie, Denese accepted elected unanimously.

Treasurer

Nominations for Treasurer - Rose Murray nominated by Alma Gray, Rose accepted until such time as someone else became available. Passed unanimously.

Public Officer

Nominations for Public Officer - Rose Murray nominated Marnmu Smyth, Marnmu accepted elected unanimously.

General Committee Members

A request for interested members to be part of the general committee that meets three to four times year was made, the following people volunteered:

Richard Oderson, Slim Parker, Betty Lockyer, Karen Hayes, Alma Gray, Fanny Horace, Susie Brown, Diana Robinson, Doris Tucker and in absence Bella Wildridge, Dundora Whyardie and Rosie Munro.

Closed Election.

General Business:

1. Cross Cultural Awareness Courses - Albert Burgman put a motion to the meeting, see attached, regarding the delivery of Cross Cultural training.
Discussion: Marnmu Smyth said that the AAD Commission of Elders had endorsed Wangka Maya to do this job, but it really is up to the old people to make this decision.
Moved acceptance of the motion: Diana Robinson
Seconded: Alma Gray
2. Ara Irritja Project - Fran Haintz explained the project that is a genealogy program. A feasibility study will be done in the Pilbara next year that Wangka Maya is supporting to show community people the program and to see if they want this set up in the community. Wangka Maya is keen to have it set up with the Language Centre.

Meeting closed 12.30pm.