

SEPTEMBER 2005



Wunan Foundation  
Pathways to a stronger future in the East Kimberley

***“Our vision is for  
Aboriginal people to  
be able to share  
equitably in the  
social and economic  
opportunities in the  
East Kimberley”***

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# PATHWAYS

**Welcome**

Welcome to our fourth “Pathways”! We take this opportunity to congratulate each of the parties involved in the recent Argyle Participation Agreement. The pro-active approach demonstrated by Argyle Diamonds and Traditional Owners in reaching this ground-breaking agreement is a great lesson for Australia and the rest of the world in doing business with Indigenous people. We look forward to working collaboratively with Gelganyem Trust, representing the Traditional Owners of the mine area, to achieve improved outcomes for all Indigenous people in the East Kimberley.

**Australian of the Year – Official Visit to the Kimberley**

In July, Wunan Foundation was proud to host burns specialist, Dr Fiona Wood AM, on her official visit to the Kimberley as the 2005 ‘Australian of the Year’. Travelling with Fiona were her daughters, Evie and Jess. Fiona also has four sons!



**Wunan Foundation board member  
Vicki Butters with Dr Fiona Wood at  
the Language Centre in Halls Creek**

Fiona’s trip included visits to Kalumburu, Kununurra, Argyle Diamond Mine, Warmun, Halls Creek and Broome. Here are a few words from Fiona about her visit to our region:

*“The north west of WA is awesome country – the vast space, rich in resource, brings unique problems as a result of environmental changes over many decades. But it is here and now where we need to focus our attention - learning from the past and today’s experiences to make tomorrow better. Although the problems in health, education and employment are significant, there is hope in that many individuals are working hard to contribute to making a difference. The clear motivation for their contribution is to make sure that children have improved opportunities beyond those of the previous generations.*

*Problem solving with the community, rather than extrinsic to the community, is the key to future success. Problems exist in many facets of the society with multiple agencies involved. Again, collaboration and coordination is key to avoid disconnected and conflicting strategies. Practical solutions are in place and are building. With the Indigenous students who are moving well down the education pathway they become an inspiration to those younger – is it possible for them to motivate others to remain in school? Every drop in the ocean does matter.*

*I would like to thank all who made my visit so very special to me and my girls and I look forward to visiting and helping where and when I can.”*

We look forward to having you come back anytime, Fiona!



**Codie Rose and Skeeta Benning at Wunan House**

## **New scholarships at Wunan House**

Thanks to a \$20,000 grant from the Rural Education Fund, through the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), we recently launched new scholarships at Wunan House. Congratulations to Codie Rose and Skeeta Benning on being the first new scholarship recipients! "These scholarships provide great support for us as we work to establish our careers", explains Codie. Wunan House is an initiative supported by Wunan Foundation and Aboriginal Hostels Limited to meet an identified need for safe, affordable and culturally supportive housing in Kununurra.



**PAC Chairperson Shirley Drill gives the traditional welcome at the official opening**

## **KWA Bungle Bungle Wilderness Camp officially opened**

Kimberley Wilderness Adventures' new \$1.2 million Bungle Bungle Wilderness Camp inside the World Heritage listed Purnululu National Park was officially opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> September by WA Environment Minister, the Hon Dr Judy Edwards MLA. "This wonderful facility sets a whole new standard for tourism in the region", said Minister Edwards. KWA, a joint venture between Wunan Foundation and national industry leader, Australian Pacific Touring, acknowledges the support of the Purnululu Traditional Owners, AusIndustry, CALM and the Purnululu Park Council. Recently, Miss Universe 2004, Jennifer Hawkins, presented a special feature about the new camp on Channel Seven's 'The Great Outdoors'.



**Kalumburu Store -back up and running!**

## **Team effort gets Kalumburu Store back up and running**

In February, the community store in remote Kalumburu was forced to close due to financial and management difficulties - leaving 500 local Indigenous residents without access to fresh fruit and vegetables. After several months of trying to resolve the matter via traditional channels, the community approached Wunan Foundation to help get things moving. Through a persistent team effort involving the Kalumburu Council and staff, Peter Grundy and Wirrimanu (Balgo) Store, Westpac and DEWR's Indigenous Capital Assistance Scheme, the Kununurra ICC and Indigenous Business Australia, we were quickly able to settle with the creditors of the previous store, negotiate re-financing and establish a new company with a strong board of management to ensure the store now operates as a viable business. A great outcome!



**Tim Trust enjoying his work at Argyle Diamond Mine**

## **New Apprenticeship success for KGT & Argyle Diamonds**

Kimberley Group Training's partnership with Argyle Diamond Mine was nationally recognised at the 2005 Minister's Awards for Excellence for Employers of New Apprentices. The awards were announced at a Gold Coast ceremony on 1<sup>st</sup> August and presented by the Minister for Vocational and Technical Education, the Hon Gary Hardgrave MP. Apprentice mechanic Tim Trust (pictured left) agrees the partnership offers real benefits to local Indigenous people. "The mine is an exciting and challenging place to work. The support you get from KGT and Argyle really makes it easy to start a career and stick at it", says Tim.

## **Feedback?**

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## **Important regional initiatives from Wunan Foundation**

Wunan Foundation will soon be starting up the first Indigenous Employment Centre in the East Kimberley and has recently secured a new contract with the WA Government to provide intensive management and governance support to remote community organisations including Kalumburu, Oombulgurri and Warmun. These are important regional initiatives which we are very excited to be leading.