



Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation

ANNUAL REPORT 2022





CHAIR'S REPORT

This is the first annual report for the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation, which comes at a really exciting moment in our journey towards establishing the Settlement and making it work for all Noongar people.

Our regional corporation has made a great deal of progress since our pre-incorporation meeting in August last year. Our first general meeting was held in Maylands on Saturday, 25 June 2022. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend, either in person or online, to be part of this historic moment.

Our first cultural advice committee (CAC) was elected at the meeting, and they are progressing business regarding cultural matters.

We will appoint our first expert directors and CEO, who will begin the work of hiring staff and finding office space, along with all the other necessary work to make our corporation run effectively.

We are now focussed on the final steps towards endorsement by the State and the Trustee.

The Noongar Boodja Trust has now received two of its annual payments, and the Noongar land estate has received its first parcels of land. We will continue to accept more land over the next few years, to be used for cultural, social and commercial projects. The resources of the Trust and the central services corporation will support our work on projects that will improve social and economic outcomes for Noongar people, including jobs, housing and support for cultural heritage.

As a corporation, we're committed to transparent communication with members so that we can all be empowered to participate in the work of our corporation and to contribute to its success.

Our website will contain all the formal documents you may need to refer to, and all the latest news and events information, especially through during the next few busy months.

The website also includes an online membership form, and we encourage you to make sure your friends and family join our corporation so that we have many voices contributing to the best possible outcomes for our people.

Find us at whadjuknoongar.org.au.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this journey to this point. We are excited to continue the work of building a strong, sustainable and united Noongar Nation in 2023.

Kerry-Ann Winmar
Whadjuk Chair



PROGRESS UPDATE

PREINCORP MEETINGS

Our initial directors volunteered a huge amount of time and effort to bring our corporation to where it is today. Since our pre-incorporation meeting, the initial directors met regularly to work towards setting up the corporation.

Our initial directors were Karen Garlett, Vickey Hill, Diana Ponton and Kerry-Ann Winmar.

During their terms, they successfully registered the corporation with ORIC, gained charitable status and an ABN, and registered our corporation's name. They also processed the first rounds of membership applications, member director elections, and cultural advice committee nominations.

We greatly appreciate and value all the work our initial directors have done to get us to this point.

MEMBERSHIP

The Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation has held three successful membership drives, with 439 members having now been accepted as members of the corporation. Applications for membership were made online via the SWALSC website, and through hardcopy forms.

Applications for membership were made online via the SWALSC website, and through hardcopy forms. Noongar people with family connections to the Whadjuk region are encouraged to fill out the membership application form on our website, at whadjuknoongar.org.au/join.

ELECTIONS

The Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation held two successful ballots this year, for our first member elected board and our cultural advice committee.



The member elected directors were chosen by postal ballot. The successful candidates were: Diana Ponton, Kerry-Ann Winmar, Rosemary Walley and Vickey Hill.

The board of directors will be responsible for the strategic and financial direction of the corporation.

The directors will appoint two expert directors, and are recruiting a CEO. They are also looking for a suitable office location in our region.

Members of our first cultural advice committee (CAC) were elected by secret ballot at the first general meeting. The CAC is made up of Elders who will consider matters relevant to culture, and make decisions to promote and protect cultural interests of the region.

The female members of the CAC are: Doreen Nelson and Violet Coyne (term end 2025); Geri Hayden and Glenys Yarran (term end 2024); Dulcie Donaldson and Karen Morich (term end 2023).

The male members of the CAC are: Gregory Ugle and Kelvin Garlett (term end 2025); Terry Morich and Joseph Collard (term end 2024); Stan Headland and Simon Forrest (term end 2023).

FIRST GENERAL MEETING

The Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation's first general meeting, held in Maylands on Saturday, 25 June 2022, was a great success.

After a Welcome to Country from Stan Headland, the meeting was facilitated by Think Culture.

The outgoing initial directors were thanked for their hard work in setting up the corporation.

The first member elected directors commenced their terms at the close of the meeting, and are now busy on the next stages of gaining endorsement as the regional corporation.

In her report as interim board chair, Kerry-Ann Winmar celebrated the historic occasion, and updated members on the journey so far.

"Thank you so much to every one of you who have joined us. The more members we have the more effective we will be in our efforts to build our a strong, sustainable, united Noongar Nation," Kerry-Ann said.

"The Southwest Native Title Settlement is a momentous part of our long history as Noongar people. As we all know, it has taken us many, many years for us to get to this point.

"It has taken our past Elders many more years, and some of them were not able to see this day. So, we honour them by continuing their work, to protect and respect our corporation and its potential.

"Now that regional corporations are ready to start work, we will start seeing the results of all of that time and effort."

INDUCTIONS AND MEETINGS

At the close of the first general meeting, the board of directors and the cultural advice committee took up their roles.

Prior to the general meeting, the directors took part in an information session, and then on 25 July they had their formal induction to the role.

The board has since met regularly and will continue to meet monthly.

The cultural advice committee had its induction session on 26 July, and will also meet monthly.

To get in touch with the board or the cultural advice committee, email regionalcorporations@noongar.org.au.

YOUR NEW BOARD

DIANA PONTON

Diana has a Master of Education, Grad-Dip in Natural Resource Management, and was owner/operator of a hairdressing business. She is passionate about dedicating her knowledge to shape the development of the Noongar nation.

KERRY ANN WINMAR

Kerry is a director for the Moodjarl Aboriginal Corporation and serves as the Trustee of Nyungar Tours. She is also a Master of Basic Noongar Language Training and has extensive experience in land value/property development.

ROSEMARY WALLEY

Rosemary is a proud Whadjuk and Pindjarup woman with a solid ancient and historical connection to most of the south west. She has a passion for improving the social and emotional wellbeing of the Aboriginal community.

VICKEY HILL

Vickey is a proud Whadjuk yorga who has worked in commonwealth and state government, including Centrelink, Abstudy, Child Protection, Relationships Australia, Education and Health, as well as not-for-profit organisations.

MICHAEL PIU, EXPERT DIRECTOR

Michael is the CEO of specialist homelessness service and community housing provider, St Pat's. He serves on the boards of the WACOSS and Shelter WA, and on the steering committee of the WA Alliance to End Homelessness.

KIM HARMER, EXPERT DIRECTOR

Kim is a senior executive with extensive experience in finance, governance, and strategic planning. He is CEO of Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation and a non-executive director of Legacy WA.

YOUR CULTURAL ADVICE COMMITTEE

Each regional corporation has a cultural advice committee made up of Elders who consider matters relevant to culture, and make decisions to promote and protect our cultural interests.

Matters that may be decided by the committee include:

- Determining what cultural connection exists, or could exist, to support a piece of land being considered 'Cultural Lands' as part of the Noongar Boodja Trust.
- Determining those people who have most knowledge of relevant lands in order for surveys to be properly conducted.
- Determining how cultural knowledge should be recorded, and when and how it is shared with others.
- Determining how Noongar cultural protocols and practices should be acknowledged, valued, honoured and respected, including through welcome to country practices.

FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE WHADJUK CAC:

DOREEN NELSON
VIOLET COYNE
GERI HAYDEN
GLENYS YARRAN
DULCIE DONALDSON
KAREN MORICH

MALE MEMBERS OF THE WHADJUK CAC:

GREGORY UGLE
KELVIN GARLETT
TERRY MORICH
JOSEPH COLLARD
STAN HEADLAND
SIMON FORREST

LANDS UPDATE

THE NOONGAR LAND ESTATE

The State Government, via the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DLPH), have continued to offer land to the Noongar Boodja Trust (NBT) with year two lands now provided.

The NBT will consult with the cultural advice committee regarding acceptance of these lands. This consultation process is expected to commence in early 2023.

METRO NOONGAR RANGER PILOT PROGRAM

SWALSC was successful with a funding application to the state government's Aboriginal Ranger Program to fund the employment of 11 Trainee Noongar Rangers in the Whadjuk area.

The 11 trainees will be employed by various local government, Department of Biodiversity and Attractions (DBCA) and local land care groups and will complete a Certificate II in Land and Ecosystem Management.

Kuditj Pt Ltd, a Noongar employment agency, has been engaged by SWALSC to provide recruitment, mentoring and training services and will support the trainees to meet the employment and training requirements.

MARMION MARINE PARK EXTENSION

The state government has been undertaking community consultation in order to extend the footprint of the Marmion Marine Park, proposed to cover an area from Hillarys Boat Harbour in the south, to the north boundary of the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation's area.

SWALSC has worked closely with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) to engage a consultant to undertake an interim consultation with Noongar people from the Whadjuk area to ensure that Noongar interests and values are taken into account during the design phase.

Our cultural advice committee has now selected six senior Noongar representatives to continue to work with DBCA to ensure that Noongar cultural values and interests are protected.

Negotiations regarding the protection of Noongar values and joint management of the park are expected to be finalised in 2023.

LAND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

SWALSC, as the central services corporation (CSC) has been working closely with an IT consultant to design the specifications for an online land management system.


This system will be available to us and each regional corporation to assist with scheduling of land management obligations, cost tracking, mapping of individual land parcels as well as Noongar cultural values, manage Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement processes, and provide advice regarding Noongar land access and the undertaking of Noongar customary activities.

SWALSC will now seek quotes to build the land management system and expects to complete work before the end of 2022.

SWALSC LANDS SUPPORT

The SWALSC land unit is continuing to work with us to help meet our obligations under the South West Native Title Settlement (SWNTS).

For more information on land matters contact SWALSC's lands coordinator, Justin McAllister, on 9358 7400 or at justin.mcallister@noongar.org.au.



*Building a
strong,
sustainable,
united
Noongar Nation*

Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation

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