

September 2019

Larrakia Nation Members' NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Larrakia Nation Chairman's Report – Newsletter: The warmth of Larrakia Land is returned. When our people are happy, our land is happy...

Once again it is with great pride that I report to our members that the hard work being undertaken by our board, our CEO and our staff has placed the Larrakia Nation in a strong community position. We are strong financially, we are strong in our staff growth and the are strong in our community representation.

The restored faith in us given by our members, our stakeholders and our community is a direct result of the efforts given by so many to bring about positive change in our community. We are no longer on the back foot but instead leading by example and demonstrating our Larrakia vision, "living longer, living stronger" with deliberate purpose.

"Living longer, living stronger" is more than a motto, because it has become a very real and tangible way of life for those who we are affecting in a positive way every day.

As the Chairman and as a Larrakia man, I see, hear and feel the difference of the amazing work being done by our staff every day. The disadvantaged speak of our staff like heroes and I can hear the humbleness in their voices and see the sincerity in their eyes and I know they are telling the truth.

This is the reward of your resilience and your persistence to undertake the everyday duties of caring for country and caring for community in the way that only the Larrakia can. As leaders, as supporters, as advocates and speaking for our country through our actions.

Our programs are growing along with our ability to help so many more people in so many more ways. There will always be people who still struggle to face the challenges they face every day, but we can be the difference and to many, we are the difference and as we grow from strength to strength, we will continue to be the difference.

Take pride in your identity and stand together alongside your fellow Larrakia people under the umbrella of the Larrakia Nation. Take pride in our staff because when they wear the Larrakia Nation shirt, they represent you. Take pride in what we have achieved and what we are still achieving as we continue to grow from strength to strength.

"Living longer, living stronger"!

Thank you

Richard Fejo
Chairman - Larrakia Nation

New Independent Member to LNAC Board

The LNAC Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr John Hender to the Independent Director's position. The position had been vacant since Allan McGill moved into the role of Chairman of the newly established Risk and Audit Committee and his replacement Director resigned for personal reasons, earlier this year.

The Nominations Committee received six high calibre nominees, making choosing a suitable appointee difficult. The Board decided that Mr Hender, an experienced Independent Director on Indigenous Boards, had the right skills, experience and networks to advise on current business approaches and assist the organisation to advance Larrakia aspirations for land acquisition and culture-based business development.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



This Issue - Breaking Through Barriers

Our Corporation is going from strength to strength. For the last 4 months we have consistently earned revenue in excess of \$1 million per month. That is a reflection of, not only the respect shown for the LNAC in the Darwin

region, but also the high quality work and dedication being delivered every day on the streets and in our community by all of our staff.

Such is our strength now that we are breaking through the 100 employee barrier, with more indigenous staff, and especially more Larrakia staff, being employed.

That translates into higher visibility – last year our vehicles travelled over 750,000 kms delivering services to the community, and our vehicle fleet has grown to 40. Greater respect is being shown to the Larrakia through the number of Welcome to Country and Cultural Performances being requested – nearly 300 in the year to 30 June. That in itself is an opportunity for Larrakia to share their culture. And we now have a group of dancers showing international visitors Larrakia

Dance. Not only did they perform at the Arafura Games but they made the international media with their welcome to Prince Edward.

Perhaps the most important barrier to be broken through in recent times, however, was the barrier between the Larrakia people. By signing the MOU between the two corporations the LDC and the LNAC have agreed to work together for the benefit of all Larrakia.

I am proud to be working for the Larrakia people and looking forward to helping you break through more barriers in the future.

Robert Cooper
CEO - Larrakia Nation

Larrakia Welcome Prince Edward

The Larrakia people were honoured to be asked to perform a traditional welcome for Prince Edward upon his recent visit to the Northern Territory. A smoking ceremony, traditional dance and formal Welcome to Country were presented to Prince Edward as he arrived at Government House to meet with the Administrator.

The Welcome follows one provided to Prince Charles when he visited Darwin in 2018.

The welcome was well reported on television and in the newspaper, with a photo of the group with the Prince appearing in the NT News.

His Royal Highness is shown standing with a photo with all of the Larrakia mob present at the Welcome ceremony.



Are your Membership details up to date?

If you would like to update or register a family member, please contact us on (08) 8948 3733

Would you like to be a Director of the LNAC?

The 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation will be held on 27 November 2019. The meeting will commence at 5.30pm in the LNAC conference room, 76 Dick Ward Drive, Coconut Grove. All members are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be available.

At this year's AGM we will be selecting a maximum of three Member Directors – one Member Director, Pauline Babbin, is retiring permanently from the board and two other Member Directors, Bill Risk and Richard Fejo are retiring by rotation.

The LNAC Rulebook states:

5.3 Eligibility of directors

A director (other than a director appointed under rule 5.8) must be:

- at least 18 years old
- a member
- an Aboriginal person of Larrakia descent
- must reside on Larrakia country
- must have skills that are relevant to the governance or business of the Corporation.

A person is not eligible to become a director if the person:

- is the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Corporation
- has been disqualified from managing corporations
- has been convicted of a criminal offence in the last five years and been ordered to serve a term of imprisonment (suspended or served).

In addition we are seeking nominees that have the following expertise or capabilities:

- Corporate governance
- Strategic and business planning
- Professional expertise in one or more of the following;
- Corporate management ie HR, IT, Finance
- Community-based organisations ie sports and recreation, social services delivery
- Tourism business planning and implementation
- Cultural knowledge; and
- be of good standing in the Larrakia Community

If you meet the above criteria and would like the opportunity to guide and support a strong, energetic community-focused organisation we would like you to consider standing for election to the LNAC Board.



New BBQ Trailer

In 2018, Larrakia Nation were successful in getting a grant, under the Federal Government Stronger Communities Program, to purchase a Mobile BBQ Trailer, Tables, Chairs and Eskies for our NAIDOC program. These items may be borrowed by our Stakeholders, particularly during NAIDOC week, to reduce the cost of hiring these items. That trailer has now arrived and will get its first use at a staff BBQ.

We thank Luke Gosling for all of the support he has shown us.

New Audit and Risk Committee Established

In January 2019 the LNAC Board decided to establish an Audit and Risk Committee (A&R Committee) to assist the board to fulfil its oversight responsibilities in financial reporting, internal control systems, risk management systems and the internal and external audit functions. Specifically the Committee will:

- 1 assist the Board in its oversight of the integrity of LNAC's financial reporting, including supporting the Board in meeting its responsibilities regarding financial statements and the financial reporting systems and internal controls;
- 2 monitor, on behalf of the Board, the effectiveness and objectivity of internal and external auditors;
- 3 provide input to the Board in its assessment of enterprise risks and determination of risk appetite as part of the overall setting of strategy for LNAC;
- 4 assist the Board in its oversight of LNAC's risk management framework ie monitoring its effectiveness and its performance to mitigate risks.

The Chairman of Audit and Risk Committee is Allan McGill. There are four committee members - Member Directors Nicole Brown and Jerome Cubillo and independent members Mark Snowden, a local Darwin Businessman with complex project, financial and risk management expertise and Roland Chin, a local Darwin accountant with 24 years professional practice and service on various professional and not for profit boards. The Committee will meet on 2 October 2019.



Culture Empowering Community

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Darwin's Traditional Owners

Notice of 2019 Annual General Meeting

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation will be held on Wednesday 27th November 2018

The meeting will commence at 5:30pm in the LNAC conference room, 76 Dick Ward Drive, Coconut Grove.

All members are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be provided.

Agenda

1. Checking the register of members
2. Confirming the minutes of the 2018 annual general meeting
3. Presenting reports: general, financial and directors'
4. Discussion about how the Corporation is managed
5. Electing directors (if required)
6. Choosing an auditor and agreeing on the fee

Members can appoint another member as their proxy to attend meetings and vote for them.

A proxy appointment must contain the member's name and address, the LNAC's name, the proxy's name, the meeting where the proxy is going, and it must be signed by the member.

The Corporation must receive the proxy's appointment at least 48 hours before the meeting.

A member must not be a proxy for more than one other member.

Note: An appointment of proxy form is available from any director, the CEO or LNAC Head Office Reception.

Robert Cooper
Chief Executive Officer