



WCCCA NEWSLETTER

Q4 2025



LOYLA CHEVATHEN



CONSTANCE PORT

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRS

Dear Shareholders,

2025 has been a year of continued growth and positive momentum for the Trust. Our focus has remained on strengthening community partnerships, supporting programs that deliver lasting benefits, and ensuring funding continues to reach and support Traditional Owners as well as organizations making a real difference across the Western Cape. Throughout the year, the Trust has proudly continued to support the Napranum PCYC, Clontarf Foundation, and the Stars Foundation. Both Clontarf and Stars hosted their annual awards nights in November, with the Stars Foundation celebrating its first full year - showcasing the achievements of our young people and the strength of the support networks that are guiding them to their future aspirations. This year also saw the release of our new Grant Funding Guidelines, which are readily available on our website alongside all Grant Funding Application Forms.

As we close out the year, please note our office will close from 12pm Friday 19th December, and re-open Monday 5th January 2026. The Q1 Grant Funding Application closing date is Friday 9th January 2026.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our communities, partners and Board Directors for their ongoing commitment. I look forward to continuing our hard work for another term. Wishing everyone a safe, joyful, and prosperous New Year.

*-Loyla Chevathen,
Chairperson, Main Trust*

Welcome readers,

As we come to the end of 2025, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a productive and engaging year for the WCCC.

This year we have continued to strengthen our partnerships and connections across the region. Highlights included our Naidoc Morning Tea, our visit to Nhulunbuy to meet with Traditional Owners from Gumatj and Rirratjingu Corporations, and attending Rio Tinto's Apprentice and Trainee Awards Night. We also held our Annual Land and Rehabilitation Tour of the Rio Tinto Weipa operations as well as prioritising our quarterly community visits, providing important opportunities to meet face-to-face with our signatory community members.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be a re-election year for the WCCCC members. I encourage everyone to start considering now if you would like to nominate or continue to contribute. Your voice and participation remain vital to the strength and direction of the WCCCA.

The year ahead will also see continued progress in several key areas - including the East Weipa Mine Closure Planning, the advancement of the Kangwinan Project as Rio Tinto expands operations into Norman Creek and continued discussions around the future closure of the Andoom Mine, anticipated for 2029.

Thank you to all of our members, partners and community representatives for your ongoing commitment and collaboration throughout the year. I look forward to another year as the Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee and wish you all a very safe and prosperous holiday period.

*-Constance Port
Chairperson, Coordinating Committee*

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ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE SUB-COMMITTEE ANNUAL AND REHABILITATION TOUR

In August, the Environment and Heritage Sub-Committee participated in the annual two day Land and Rehabilitation Tour, spending valuable time on country to observe key environmental initiatives. Day 1 was held at Amrun, where members visited the newly energised solar farm, learned about the turtle monitoring program delivered by the Land and Sea Management Program at Boyd's Bay, and inspected the cattle trapping yards installed by Rio Tinto to help manage feral cattle. Day 2 included visits to the Rio Tinto seed collection stores, observation of regeneration works along the Weipa foreshores, followed by site inspections of rehabilitated areas at Andoom Mine, comparing two year and ten year old rehabilitation blocks.



KANGWINAN PROJECT UPDATE

The Kangwinan Project has received full funding approval of US\$180 million, marking an important milestone for Rio Tinto and ongoing operations at Amrun.

The project contains around half of Amrun's declared Ore Reserves (978 million tonnes). Construction has commenced, with works including a 19 kilometre haul road, camp accommodation, and a communications tower. The first production is expected in 2027, with full completion anticipated by 2028. Rio Tinto and the WCCCC continue to meet quarterly to discuss the progress of the expansion project.





EAST WEIPA MINE CLOSURE SUB-COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT WITH NHULUNBUY TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Members of the East Weipa Mine Closure Sub-Committee spent four days in Nhulunbuy, Northern Territory visiting Rio Tinto Gove Operations and meeting with Traditional Owners at Gumatj Corporation and Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation. We thank both corporations for hosting our team on their country, where we heard and observed first hand the mine closure challenges their communities are navigating.

On our first full day, we visited the Gumatj Corporation, a 100% indigenous-owned organisation established to create sustainable business opportunities and employment and training for the Yolnu people. Founded in 2007, Gumatj operates a range of enterprises across construction, mining, timber, and tourism. During our visit, we met with Directors of their board and toured several key sites, including new community accommodation developments, the local school, timber mill and their mine site operations.

The next day, we were hosted by the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation, which represents the Rirratjingu people of the Gove Peninsula. Established in 1984, Rirratjingu focuses on developing commercial enterprises to support long-term economic independence and community wellbeing. We were warmly welcomed to Country at the Buku Larrngay Mulka Art Centre, where we experienced a powerful song and dance performance. Members also had the opportunity to view the historic Yirrkala Bark Petitions, a landmark expression of Traditional Owner voices when bauxite mining was first proposed for their country. Rirratjingu operate several local businesses, including a strong quarry, and are advancing plans for farming initiatives to provide fresh produce and employment to the community.

Our final day included a site visit to the Rio Tinto Gove Operations where we were shown the rehabilitation initiatives in process as the Gove operations draw to a close.

Our visit concluded with a farewell dinner at the Gove Boat Club, where members reflected on the deep connections made and the valuable insights gained from the Yolnu people.

We thank all of those who hosted and to our partners Rio Tinto for this opportunity.





CLONTARF UPDATE

The Western Cape Clontarf Academy recently held their awards night at the PCYC Napranum. Our Executive Officer had the honour of attending and celebrating the wonderful achievements of these Year 12 graduates.



STARS UPDATE

The Stars Foundation celebrated their annual End of Year Celebration and awards night at the Western Cape College in early November. The night was shared with students, families, community members and staff for an inspiring event to celebrate a year of outstanding achievements. Our Main Trust Chairperson had the pleasure of attending and presenting the Academic Achievement Awards to these talented young girls. The WCCT is proud to continue supporting the Stars Foundation in Weipa and look forward to what 2026 holds.





NAPRANUM PCYC UPDATE:

The PCYC Napranum Breakfast Club continues to enjoy a strong attendance, providing a welcoming space for students to start the day positively. Recently the club hosted an “Amazing Race” event, proudly supported by other partners such as Clontarf, Stars Foundation and the Napranum Shire Council. The Community programs continue to thrive, including a Junior Movie night and a visit from the 51st Battalion during a community BBQ.

We would also like to congratulate Troy Hudson who recently travelled to Brisbane to receive the Bronze Level of Achievement at the International Duke of Edinburgh Awards.



WESTERN CAPE TRAINING AWARDS NIGHT

In early November, Rio Tinto hosted the annual Western Cape training Awards Night, celebrating the achievements of apprentices and trainees across Weipa and surrounding communities. The evening highlighted the dedication and hard work of those undertaking apprenticeships and traineeships, showcasing their skills and commitment to their chosen careers.

Our Coordinating Committee Chairperson and Employment and Training Chairperson attended the event and had the pleasure of presenting awards for LAP Apprentices and Trainees, recognising their accomplishments and contributions. Congratulations to all winners - your success is a testament to your dedication, and we look forward to seeing your continued growth in your careers.





Elder Interviews

The WCCT team were honoured to interview our Honorary Elders this year, who generously shared their stories on film - passing on invaluable knowledge of language, culture, history and their experience growing up. Their reflections on more than 20 years of contributions to the WCCCA were both humbling and inspiring, reminding us of the strong foundations on which our work continues today.



"You come to work for your family - you might have a house here, or maybe you fly in and out - but you have to know the history of the place... you need to know the lores of the land. Take that welcome to Country whether you like it or not. If you don't like it, that's fine - but something might visit you in the night"
-Mary Ann Coconut.



"When we signed the WCCCA, we were happy. When we were all signing on the day, all of a sudden we seen this big rain coming, big storm coming - but the men were there dancing... dancing happy."
-Celia Fletcher and Beatrice Gordon



"I think first and foremost, respect - respect not only for Traditional Owners but for others... We are at the tip of the iceberg. there is more underwater than on top. There's a lot more we can do, and I will try to do it in my lifetime, but i know others will take on the challenge."
-Edna Mark



"We don't have much of our language left anymore because we were stopped from using it, but we still have our culture. We are teaching our young people and getting them to sit with our Elders and listen to them - the stories."
-Charles Woosup



2025 HIGHLIGHTS





Christmas Closure Notice

Our office will be closed from 12:00pm Friday, 19th December 2025, and will reopen on Monday, 5th January 2026 for normal business hours.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to working with you all again in the new year. For any urgent enquiries during the closure period, please contact the

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Q1 2026 MEETING DATES

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING	MONDAY 2 ND FEBRUARY
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE	TUESDAY 3 RD FEBRUARY
EAST WEIPA	WEDNESDAY 4 TH FEBRUARY
ANDOOM MINE CLOSURE	THURSDAY 5 TH FEBRUARY
CENTRAL SUB REGIONAL TRUST	MONDAY 16 TH FEBRUARY
NORTHERN SUB REGIONAL TRUST	TUESDAY 17 TH FEBRUARY
SOUTHERN SUB REGIONAL TRUST	WEDNESDAY 18 TH FEBRUARY
INDIGENOUS DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS	TUESDAY 3 RD MARCH
COORDINATING COMMITTEE	WEDNESDAY 4 TH MARCH
MAIN TRUST	THURSDAY 5 TH MARCH

FUNDING APPLICATION CLOSING DATE FOR Q1 2026 IS FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY

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