



# WCCCA NEWSLETTER

Q1 2026



**LOYLA CHEVATHEN**



**CONSTANCE PORT**

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRS

Dear Shareholders,

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a warm welcome to the new year and hope you had a safe and happy one. As we move into 2026, the Trust continues to build on its commitment to strengthening community partnerships and supporting initiatives that create meaningful opportunities across the Western Cape. Our focus remains on delivering lasting benefits for Traditional Owners and supporting programs that positively impact our communities.

This quarter, we were pleased to host AFL Cape York on their visit to the Western Cape Cultural Centre, alongside the AFLW 2025 Cup. The Trust is proud to be one of the longest-standing sponsors of AFL Cape York, and we continue to support the important work they do in promoting health, wellbeing, and positive pathways for young people across the region. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to celebrate community engagement and recognise the strong role that sport plays in bringing people together.

We also remind our stakeholders that the next Grant Funding Application closing date is Friday 10th April 2026, with Trust meetings scheduled to follow in May. We encourage community organisations and groups seeking support to review the Grant Funding Guidelines and submit their applications ahead of the closing date.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our communities, partners and Board Directors for their ongoing dedication and support.

— Loyla Chevathen  
Chairperson, Main Trust

Welcome readers,

As we move into the new year, I would like to reflect on what has been a significant and productive period for the Western Cape Communities Coordinating Committee (WCCCC). Last year saw continued focus on key priorities under the WCCCA, particularly in relation to mine closure planning and future mining developments that will shape our communities for years to come.

In 2025, we strengthened our understanding of mine closure impacts and long-term outcomes for Traditional Owners and signatory communities. This included travelling to Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory to collaborate with Traditional Owners and community representatives to learn how mine closure has affected their communities. These discussions provided valuable insights to help inform our approach to closure planning in the Western Cape. We also worked in collaboration with Rio Tinto on initiatives such as fire management, supporting broader land stewardship and management practices across the region.

This year, we will continue to work closely with the community, Rio Tinto, and other key stakeholders on important matters including the future closure of mining operations and the advancement of the Kangwinan Project, south of the Embley. These processes remain critical in ensuring community interests and Traditional Owner perspectives guide both closure planning and future expansion activities.

I look forward to another year of working together to support strong outcomes for our communities.

— Constance Port  
Chairperson, Coordinating Committee

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**Tracking Manta Rays on the Western Cape**

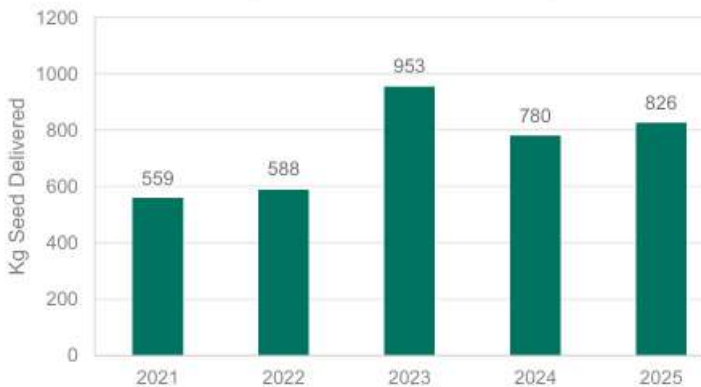
Exciting environmental work is underway by Rio Tinto, with a recent Manta Ray tagging program delivering important insights into local marine life. The three-day program was completed in partnership with the Amrun Land and Sea Team, the University of the Sunshine Coast, and the BioPixel Oceans Foundation.

During the program, five manta rays were successfully fitted with satellite tracking devices, including three juvenile rays. One juvenile manta ray also received an internal acoustic tag - a significant achievement as it is the first of its kind in Australia and only second in the world.

The data already being collected is helping researchers better understand manta ray movements along the coastline and identify important habitats across the region.



**Community Seed Collection Program**



**Seed Collection Program**

Over the past year, the Community Seed Collection and Land and Rehabilitation Program has delivered strong results with more than 826 kilograms of native seed collected by community members to support rehabilitation activities. A total of 36 new community seed collectors joined the program, contributing to a growing network of local participants helping to restore the landscape. In total, 28 different plant species were collected, supporting ongoing revegetation efforts across sites.

**Indigenous Employment and Training Update**

The next intake of Local Aboriginal Person (LAP) traineeships is scheduled for April. Community members interested in participating are encouraged to keep an eye on the Rio Tinto Weipa Facebook page for upcoming dates when the Indigenous Employment Department (IED) team will be visiting communities and when applications officially open.



**LAP PARTICIPATION  
ACROSS RIO TINTO  
WEIPA SITES:  
17.8%**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF  
LAP EMPLOYEES  
ACROSS SITE:  
270**

**40% OF RIO TINTO  
WEIPA APPRENTICES  
IDENTIFY AS LAP**



## CLONTARF UPDATE

The Clontarf students enjoyed their first camp of the year at the recent Year 9/10 Employment Camp. Although road conditions meant the group remained in Weipa, the students made the most of their two nights together, focusing on building employment pathways and practical life skills. Activities included a workplace tour of Woolworths, interactive employment education and trivia sessions, and hands-on life skills training such as cooking. The camp provided a valuable opportunity for the boys to build confidence, develop independence, and gain insight into future employment opportunities.



## 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 inspirational event celebrating 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 looks forward to 2026.



## NAPRANUM PCYC UPDATE

Some of the young women from Napranum PCYC, proudly supported by the Western Cape Communities Trust, recently embarked on an exciting opportunity with the 51st Battalion Army Reserves, travelling to Darwin. Camilla, Dianne, and Dabita represented their community with pride as they took part in this unique experience, demonstrating leadership, determination, and a strong commitment to their personal growth.





### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Elections are held every two years to appoint the members of the WCCCA Coordinating Committee.

This process gives the community the opportunity to vote for the Traditional Owners they feel can effectively lead and represent their Traditional Owner Group in the Coordinating Committee. The successful nominees that are voted in during this election will become: Members on the Coordinating Committee for the WCCCA, from where Members may also be appointed to sit on each of the Sub-Committees: Employment and Training, Environment and Heritage, East Weipa Mine Closure and Andoom Mine Closure. There are a total of 22 positions for the Coordinating Committee.

Now is the time to be thinking of who you will be nominating or if you would like to nominate yourself. Regardless of what you decide, now is the time to get the word out and start talking to your families and clan groups to support the whole election process so that we get good candidates for these positions.

The official election notices will be sent out to all shareholders on the **16<sup>th</sup> March 2026**. So please make sure you check your mail as it will have all the information you need to understand the entire election process and instructions on what you need to do to nominate either yourself or someone else.

You will be asked to nominate and vote for the following Members for the Coordinating Committee:

- Two (2) Alngith Representatives
- Two (2) Anathangayth Representatives
- Two (2) Ankamuthi Representatives
- Two (2) Peppan Representatives
- Two (2) Taepadhighi Representatives
- Two (2) Thanikwithi Representatives
- Two (2) Tjungundji Representatives
- Two (2) Warrangu Representatives
- Two (2) Wathayn Representatives
- Two (2) Wik & Wik Waya Representatives
- Two (2) Yupungathi Representatives

### ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

If you want to nominate yourself or someone else during this election, you must comply with the following requirements:

1. You must be a registered "A" Class Shareholder as of 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

If you are not an A Class Shareholder then you are not able to nominate or vote in this election.

2. As the role of the Coordinating Committee requires close interaction with the Communities and Traditional Owners who live in these Communities, you must reside in the following post code areas to be eligible to stand for election:

4874 - WEIPA , NAPRANUM & MAPOON  
4892 - AURUKUN  
4876 - NPA AREA  
4895 - HOPEVALE  
4870 - CAIRNS  
4878, 4879, 4865, 4868, 4869 - CAIRNS SURROUNDS

### WANT TO CHECK IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE?

Please contact the WCCT on (07) 4069 7945 or via email at [reception@westerncape.com.au](mailto:reception@westerncape.com.au)

## ELECTION TIMELINE



As we approach the upcoming election period, we kindly ask all A Class Shareholders to ensure their postal details are current and correct to support the smooth delivery of election materials and communications. If your postal address has changed recently, or you would like to confirm your details, please contact the WCCT office.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

**Election Notices, Information Kit and Nomination Forms sent to Shareholders**

Keep an eye out and check your mail: You will need to read the information provided to you and start spreading the word if you want to be nominated.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

**Nominations Open at 9:00am**

Now is an important time. You will need to make sure that you nominate a person who you believe best represents your families and Traditional Owner Group. You must make sure that every nomination has been signed by two eligible A Class Shareholders within your Traditional Owner Group. There is also an email provided to you in the nomination information package that you can email nominations through without having to post.

**Remember: You only have one month to post or email these nominations back so please do that as soon as they are completed.**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**Nominations Close at 12:00pm**

Nominations are now closed. Now is the time to wait for the ballot papers to be posted to you. The ballot papers will be in the post on the Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

**Ballot Paper Approval**

**UPDATE ON VOTING**

*This year you will also find local polling booths in your community for voting. The dates of these polling dates are yet to be confirmed.*

*Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for up-to-date information on our 2026 elections, including dates, times and locations for polling booths.*

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May****Ballot Paper Mail Out to Shareholders**

Please check your local post office this week as you will be receiving your ballot papers. You will receive the following:

- One ballot paper
- A Reply Paid envelope (you should use this to post your ballot paper back to us without having to pay)
- And the Declaration Envelope (this goes inside the Reply Paid envelope to be posted back to us).

Remember: you must complete the Declaration for your vote to be accepted.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June****Postal Ballots Open at 9:00am**

You will be able to post your completed ballot papers and you only have one month to do so. Please make sure your votes are clear and correctly marked.

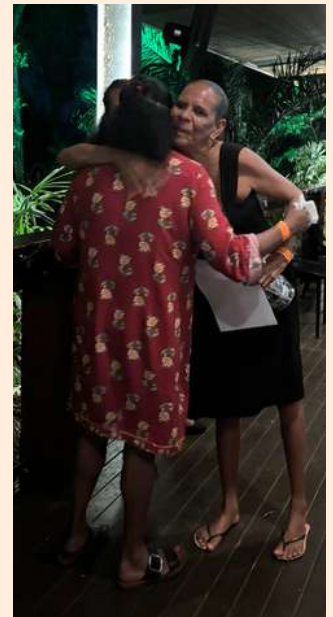
You only have one month to get everyone voting and also get your own votes in as well.

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June****Postal Ballots Close at 10:00am****Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July****Counting of Ballot Papers, followed by the Declaration of Results****THE RESULTS WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE.**



**End of year WCCT function**

Directors and Members of the Western Cape Communities Trust (WCCT) and the Western Cape Communities Coordinating Committee (WCCCC) came together to celebrate the end of 2025, recognising a year defined by strong commitment, collaboration, and dedication to community outcomes.





**AFL Cup Visits Weipa**

The Western Cape Communities Trust were honoured to host Brisbane Lions AFLW players Ally Anderson and Cathy Svarc, along with the AFL Brisbane Lions premiership trophies, at the Western Cape Cultural Centre yesterday.

During the visit, they had the opportunity to explore and learn more about the WCCCA Cultural Centre and meet with our Executive Officer, Chair Ladies, Implementation Team, and Western Cape Centre Limited Staff. A big thank you to Aunty Beatrice Gordon and Uncle Richard Barkley for the Welcome to Country.

We also extend our gratitude to Rick Hanlon from AFL Cape York for organising this special visit. As one of the longest standing corporate sponsors of AFL Cape York, the WCCT is proud to support pathways, connections, and opportunities for our young people.



**Q2 2026 MEETING DATES**

<b>EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING</b>	TUESDAY 5 <sup>TH</sup> MAY
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE</b>	WEDNESDAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> MAY
<b>EAST WEIPA MINE CLOSURE</b>	THURSDAY 7 <sup>TH</sup> MAY
<b>ANDOOM MINE CLOSURE</b>	FRIDAY 8 <sup>TH</sup> MAY
<b>CENTRAL SUB REGIONAL TRUST</b>	MONDAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> MAY
<b>NORTHERN SUB REGIONAL TRUST</b>	TUESDAY 19 <sup>TH</sup> MAY
<b>SOUTHERN SUB REGIONAL TRUST</b>	WEDNESDAY 20 <sup>TH</sup> MAY
<b>INDIGENOUS DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS</b>	TUESDAY 2 <sup>ND</sup> JUNE
<b>COORDINATING COMMITTEE</b>	WEDNESDAY 3 <sup>RD</sup> JUNE
<b>MAIN TRUST</b>	THURSDAY 4 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE

**FUNDING APPLICATION CLOSING DATE FOR Q2 2026 IS FRIDAY 10TH APRIL**

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