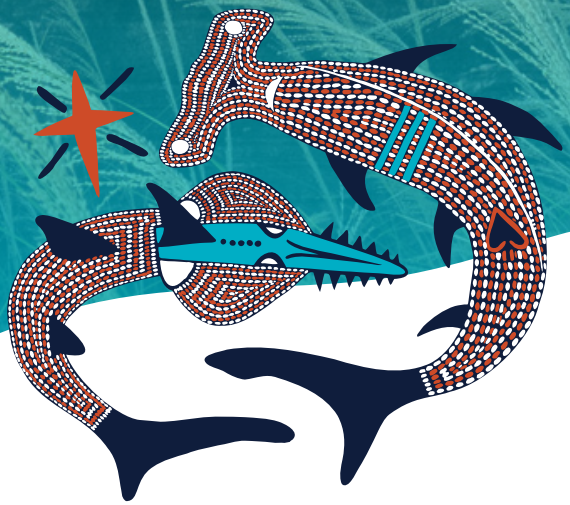
Anindilyakwa
Land Council

Stories from Groote

Edition 13
10 July 2025



Message from the CEO

My primary focus as CEO has been enhancing transparency and communication for the Anindilyakwa people and I'm very encouraged by what we've achieved so far.

The ALC Board's Finance Committee meeting in June was a critical step in setting financial priorities.

We focused on:
- Reviewing the board's priorities for the upcoming financial year.
- Improving the 64.3 royalty application distribution process to better align with community priorities and ensure transparent delivery of royalty monies. This is a core commitment.

I'm working closely with the Board to reaffirm our collective commitment to:
- A strong and transparent mine closure plan.
- Delivering fit-for-purpose community housing.
- Strengthening the community development sector to support a healthy and thriving community.

I'm pleased to share since the Northern Territory's first Community Court and Community Justice Group was established on Groote Eylandt, we have recorded a huge decline in offending, with crime rates now at an all-time low. There were 130 offences recorded in the last 12 months compared to 1,041 in 2019. The decline is the result of our alternative and community led approach to justice which includes our Peacemakers Program.

We are half-way through our community census. The data collected will help us understand community needs moving forward.

In this edition of 'Stories from Groote' we share the return of hundreds of historical films and photos of Anindilyakwa people and their culture thanks to our Anthropology and Media Programs and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

Find out what's happening in our community with important meetings across the Eylandt, engaging with community members on our strategy and vision.

We are always open to feedback you may have or stories you may like covered – you can reach us directly on corporate.media@alcnt.com.au

Matthew Bonson, CEO

Subscribe now



Angurugu Community Meeting | Photo by: Britten Syd Andrew

Repatriation

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

Hundreds of historical recordings showcasing Anindilyakwa people and their unique culture have been played for the first time in 65 years to Traditional Owners in the Groote community.

Community viewing events of the recordings captured in the 60s and 70s were held across the Eylandt.

The footage is part of a repatriation project between the ALC and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). The films, photographs and recordings were repatriated after being requested by community members through the ALC Anthropology and Media Programs.

The AIATSIS team spent six months digitally remastering the recordings, syncing audio to multi-camera footage to ensure the highest quality for the community.

Media Coordinator Britten Syd Andrews said the return of the audio-visual collections marks the continuation of a great partnership between the ALC and AIATSIS, which stems from the repatriation of 174 cultural items from the Manchester Museum back to Groote Eylandt in 2023.

“The screening events were unifying and emotional, as people connected with their relatives through these carefully preserved recordings,” Mr Andrews said.

“Ramson Lalara from Connected Beginnings was particularly engaged with the footage, expressing a desire to film a contemporary version of the Alukwanja (traditional dance), bridging the past with the present,” he said.



The returned films and photographs will be accessible in ALC Media rooms, as well as in Anthropology, Music, and Language Centre spaces. Wider community screenings have been requested at upcoming community concerts.

The ALC Media Program is working with Traditional Owners to continue storing and building information in its digital Keeping Place, a repository for the community’s audio-visual cultural materials.

The project highlights the importance of repatriating cultural materials and empowering communities to actively engage with and preserve their heritage.

AIATSIS holds the world’s largest collection dedicated to the cultures and histories of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Community viewing events of the recordings were held across the Eylandt | Photo by: Britten Syd Andrew

Listening to our community and engaging with stakeholders

Invest in the present to build a self-sufficient future

The Groote Eylandt community is steering the ALC's strategic direction as CEO Matthew Bonson listens to their insights at two community meetings in Umbakumba and Angurugu during June.

Key ALC updates and initiatives were discussed at the meetings.

Mr Bonson said listening to the community and gathering direct feedback is paramount to the decisions of the ALC.

"We are interested in community-identified priorities directly from the people we serve," he said.

"The ALC is committed to building a bright and transparent future. We are dedicated to ensuring royalty funds are directed toward meaningful and impactful community outcomes that genuinely benefit the Anindilyakwa people.

"It is thanks to the continued support and engagement that we work towards these important goals."

Mr Bonson said he has also had extensive engagement with key stakeholders across Eylandt and beyond, including Aboriginal Housing Aboriginal Corporation (AHAC), Groote Archipelago Regional Council (GARC), Anindilyakwa Royalties Aboriginal Corporation (ARAC), Anindilyakwa Mining Trust (AMT), GEMCO representatives, Northern Territory Government representatives, Australian Government representatives and the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) representatives.



"These discussions are crucial for fostering strong partnerships and aligning our efforts with community needs and governmental frameworks," he said.

"I also travelled to our ALC Cairns and Darwin offices, connecting with our teams and streamlining operations.

"We held key consultation meetings with Traditional Owners to resolve the royalty dispute between ALC and Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust (GEAT) which will be fundamental to moving forward collaboratively."



Key ALC updates and initiatives were discussed at the meetings | Photo by: Britten Syd Andrew

Culture and empowering community: National Reconciliation Week

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

The Groote Eylandt community came together to unite and reflect on National Reconciliation Week, featuring food, market stalls, art, music and a smoking ceremony.

The theme this year is Bridging Now to Next, with the community evening event held at the Alyangula squash court lawns.

As part of the event, new films and music videos were played on the big screen, accompanied by Alukwanja (traditional dance).

National Reconciliation Week is an opportunity to move towards a brighter future and is an important time for the ALC with Anindilyakwa Arts showcasing artwork and Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Rangers sharing their knowledge and giving local kids tours of their ghost net boat.



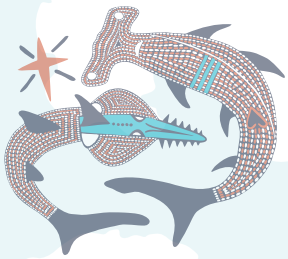






The community evening event was held at the Alyangula squash court lawns| Photo by: Britten Syd Andrew

Our values



One People One Family
Ngarrurrakawuruma ngarnumamalya

Pride
Ngarriwerrikiyangmakwajinama

Honesty/Truth
Akuwerrikilyangmandukunadinama

Listen
Akeningmidini-yada

Respect
Akumaringkirradinama

Our Future
Ambakumurra-yada

The Strategic Plan 2023-33

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

Invest in the present to build a self-sufficient future

Create pathways for youth to stand in both worlds

Anindilyakwa Land Council

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