Anindilyakwa
Land Council

Stories from Groote

Edition 17

17 November 2025

Message from the Chair

In this edition of 'Stories from Groote' we explore the amazing work being done by Groote Aqua to connect our young people with sea country through the Aquariums in Schools program.

We are also proud to share our coordination with Northern Territory's Land Councils in advocating for our voice to be heard on environmental law. We're determined to represent the interests of the Anindilyakwa people and protect our lands and seas.

Plus, a reminder that Round 3 of Aboriginal Investment NT Business Grants is now open for eligible applications. We will also share some positive insights from an independent review of the Healing Centre and some awe-inspiring photos from the ALC Land and Sea Rangers' whale shark expedition!

As always, we are open to feedback or stories you'd like covered – you can reach us directly on corporate.media@alcnt.com.au

Cherelle Wurrawilya, Chair

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Aquariums connecting Groote's kids to sea country

Create pathways for youth to stand in both worlds

Groote Aqua's Aquarium in Schools program is working to strengthen connections between our young people and sea country, while supporting future employment pathways in aquaculture.

Aquariums have been installed in all three local schools across the Groote Archipelago, thanks to this joint initiative between Groote Aqua and the CSIRO, in partnership with the ALC.

The goal of the Aquarium in Schools program is to reach schools in remote Aboriginal communities, tying in with CSIRO's efforts to support aquaculture development in northern Australia and the ALC's Strategic Plan vision to 'create pathways for youth to stand in both worlds.'

"The Aquarium in Schools program is a great way to connect our children to sea country and traditional knowledge while building real pathways into marine science and aquaculture," said Dr. Valentin Thépot, Operations Manager, Groote Aqua Aboriginal Corporation.



"For Groote Aqua, it's about inspiring young Anindilyakwa people to see the opportunities that exist within their own waters — to learn, to care for country, and to create meaningful local jobs for the future."



Photos courtesy Valentin Thepot

Aboriginal Investment NT's round 3 applications now open

Invest in the present to build a self-sufficient future

Round 3 of Aboriginal Investment NT's Business Grants is open for eligible applications from 17 November until all funds are allocated!

The Business Grant application process has two steps:

1. **Eligibility Application** (up to 6 weeks to assess): Fill in and submit the Eligibility Application Form. The team will assess to see if you meet all the eligibility criteria.
2. **Grant Application** (up to 12 weeks to assess): If you are eligible, the team will then send you the link to the application form to apply for the grant.

Resources to assist with applications are available on the Aboriginal Investment NT website on the Start-Up and Growth Business Grants pages.

The objective of Aboriginal Investment NT's Business Grants is to increase the size, scale, diversity and maturity of NT Aboriginal businesses, as well as the number of Aboriginal Territorians employed by NT Aboriginal businesses.

For more information visit:
www.aboriginalinvestment.org.au

Or you can contact the team by email at info@aboriginalinvestment.org.au or phone (08) 7906 1741

ABORIGINAL
INVESTMENT

Land Councils join to raise our voice on environment law

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

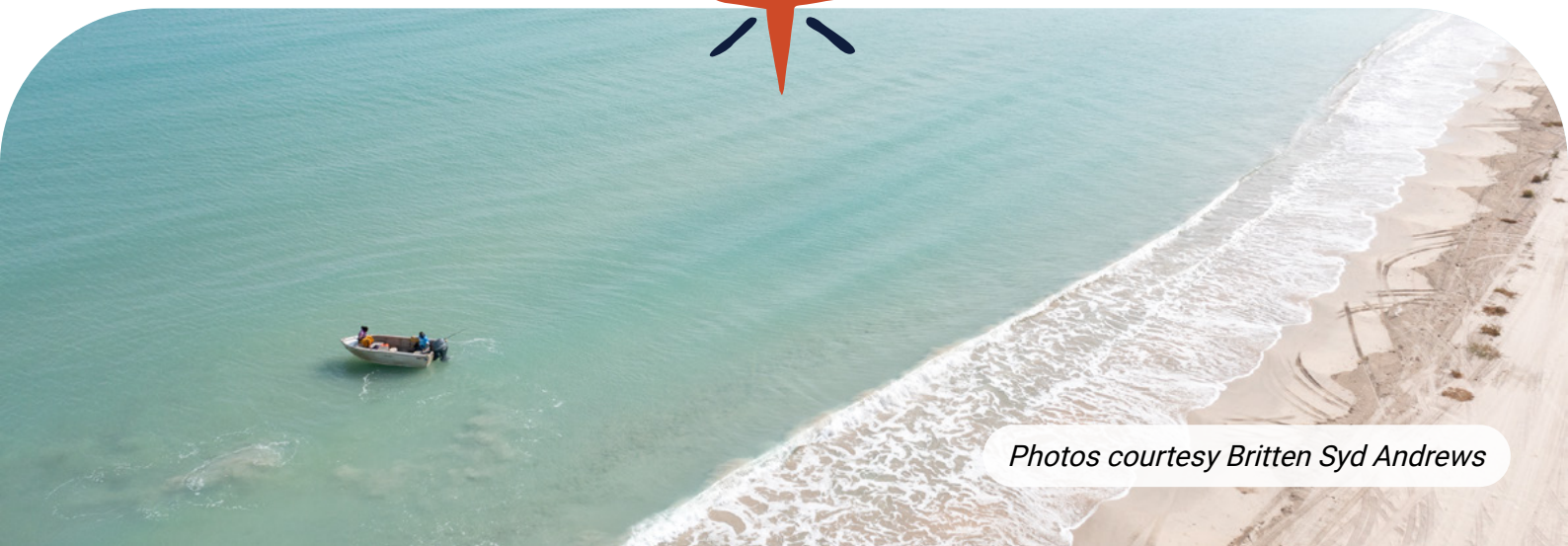
The ALC has united with Northern Territory's Land Councils to advocate for our voice to be heard on how environment laws are applied to big projects that affect our lands, waters and climate.



We recently called on the Federal Government to consult with us on the reform of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.* As the communities most vulnerable to the risks of climate change and water insecurity, we're raising our voices to ensure rigorous assessments are undertaken for all major projects with impacts on land and surface water, including fracking and coal mining projects.

"We were proud to add our voice to the NT Land Councils and demonstrate our commitment to preserving Anindilyakwa culture and looking after our lands and seas," said ALC Chair Cherelle Wurrawilya.

"The united stance of the Land Councils demonstrates our unwavering commitment to preserving the long-term future of the Groote Archipelago against imposing climate threats."



Photos courtesy Britten Syd Andrews

Healing Centre review is proof that local decision-making works

Invest in the present to build a self-sufficient future

An evaluation report on the Anindilyakwa Healing Centre is proof positive that community-led justice is working for Groote.

The independent report highlights the success of local decision-making models that support crime reduction and rehabilitation pathways that prioritise Anindilyakwa culture and values.

“Before the Anindilyakwa people had Local Decision Making Agreements, Traditional Owners had little ability to influence the systems that shaped our lives,” said ALC Chair Cherelle Wurrawilya.

“Decisions were made for us, not by us. Today, through these agreements, we are following our vision, one where Anindilyakwa people have control over our own outcomes, and where our leadership is recognised and respected.”

The new 32-bed Healing Centre is funded by the NT Government, the Australian Government, the Anindilyakwa Land Council, and philanthropic partners. It provides a culturally appropriate, on-country alternative to custody for young men aged 17–25 to support them in avoiding future contact with the criminal justice system while offering access to employment, training, and tailored rehabilitation and therapeutic programs.

The ALC and local Elders were instrumental in the planning and design of the culturally-safe Healing Centre.



This initiative is a significant part of a broader justice reinvestment strategy on Groote Eylandt, which includes other community-led initiatives to divert young people from the justice system, already resulting in a significant drop in youth offending.

Read the full Anindilyakwa Healing Centre and Community Justice Group Evaluation Report.

Evaluation Report here



Photo courtesy Britten Syd Andrews

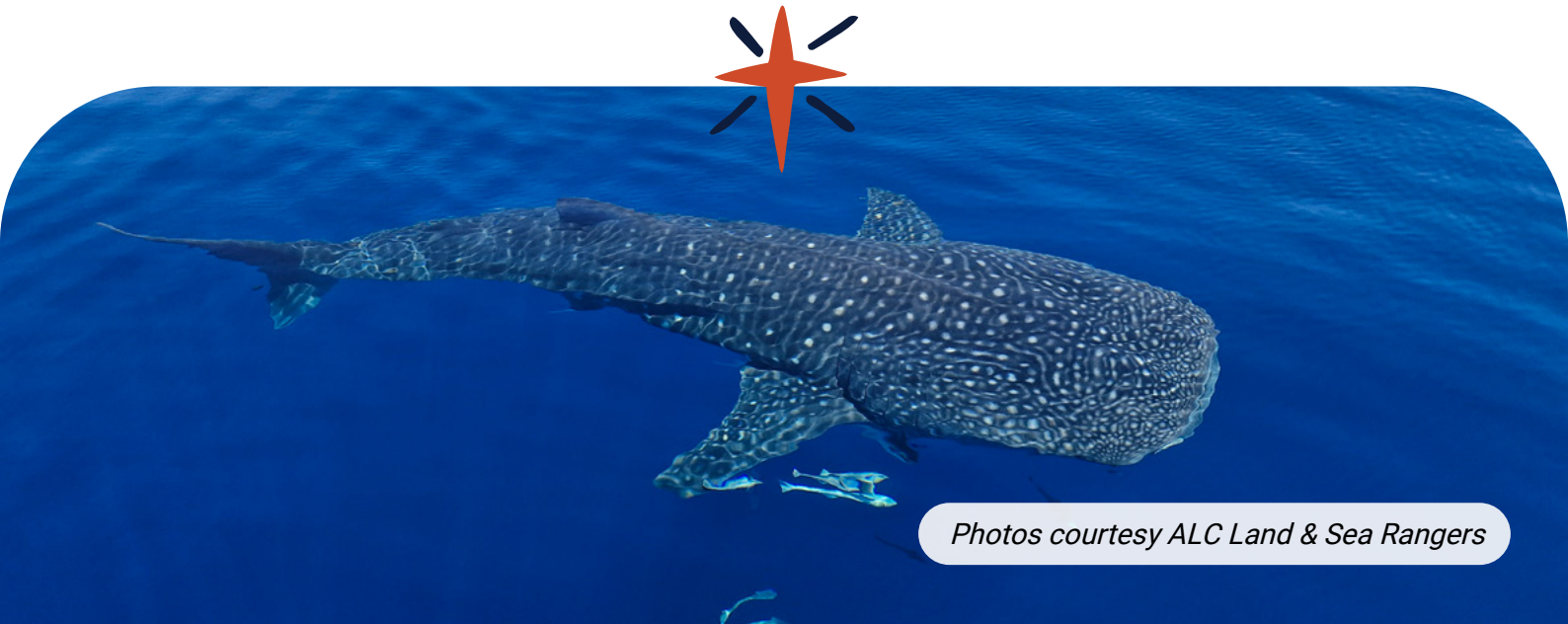
A majestic moment with gentle giants

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

The ALC Land and Sea Rangers recently teamed up with the Australian Institute of Marine Science on a thrilling mission to spot whale sharks.

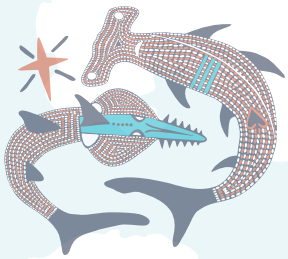
The team were beyond excited to encounter eight juvenile whale sharks – a rare and significant sighting that will help build our knowledge of these gentle giants and our Sea Country.





Photos courtesy ALC Land & Sea Rangers

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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