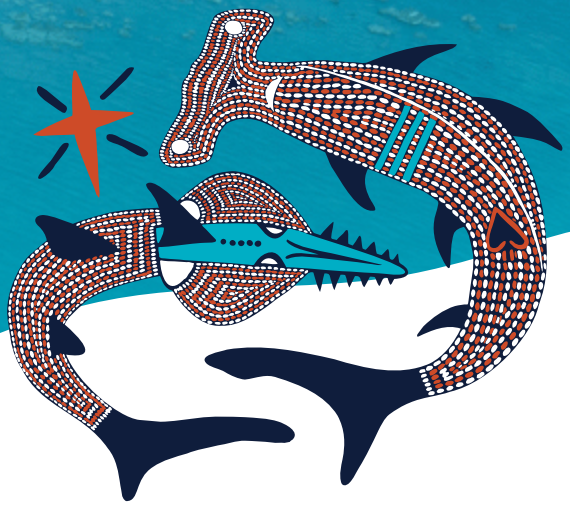
Anindilyakwa
Land Council

End of Year Special

Stories from Groote

Edition 18
12 December 2025



Message from the Chair

In this edition of 'Stories from Groote' we look back over our achievements from the past year and celebrate the people and programs that have contributed to great outcomes for Groote!
From representing the Anindilyakwa people through region-shaping policies to protecting our Land and Sea Country for future generations, the work of the ALC continues to bring to life the values and mission of our organisation:

- to protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture
- to invest in the present to build a self-sufficient future
- to create pathways for youth to stand in both worlds.

In addition to our 2025 highlights, we celebrate the ALC Land and Sea Rangers' win at the NT Natural Resource Management Awards for their ghost nets program. Plus, we share some insights from the ALC Arts and Media programs' recent participation at the ANKA regional arts conference.

We hope you enjoy this final issue for 2025 and some of our highlights from the year.
From all of us at the ALC, have a safe and joyous holiday season!

Cherelle Wurrawilya, Chair

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Highlights of the year

2025 was an eventful year at the ALC! We're looking back over the past 12 months to present our top achievements and proudest moments. We couldn't have made this progress without the support of our entire team – from our Chair, Members of the Board and the ALC's various departments and community programs – to the Anindilyakwa communities who encourage us to live our values every day. Thanks to everyone who contributed to these fantastic achievements.

We are One People, One Family. Let's celebrate our achievements together!

Entering a new era for the Groote Archipelago

In March, the Groote Archipelago Regional Council (GARC) was officially established! The new three-ward GARC structure means better representation for Groote Archipelago communities in local government. As an outcome of 2018's Local Decision-Making Agreement, this marked a significant step forward for local people to be empowered to make their own decisions for their communities.

Funding local arts, nurturing local artists



Anindilyakwa Arts received a share in the Australian Government's $38m Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program. $240,000 will be distributed over four years to provide visual arts services to Aboriginal artists on Groote Eylandt. Funding will go to studio space and materials, as well as marketing and professional services to help local artists earn a living from their talents.

Supporting data governance and sovereignty



This year, we released our Data Unit Strategic Plan 2025-2028 – a road map to providing the Anindilyakwa people with access to, and control over, data and information about their community and country. This initiative supports evidence-based decision making that will help our people plan for a better future!

Bringing home cultural memories



Hundreds of historical recordings of Anindilyakwa people and culture made an emotional and welcome return to Country as part of a repatriation project between the ALC and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. The footage from the 1960s and 70s was shown to Traditional Owners in the Groote community as part of the ALC Anthropology and Media programs' repatriation initiative.

Cleaning up our precious coastline

An army of 100 volunteers took part in Clean Up Groote Eylandt Day, an annual community event in collaboration with GEMCO and the ALC. This year, we headed to 6 Mile Beach to clean up marine plastics and debris that present a risk to our pristine coastal ecosystem. Thanks to the ALC Land and Sea Rangers and the Yantarrnga Traditional Owners for coordinating this successful clean up!



Standing up for our environment

Recently, the ALC united with NT Land Councils to state our concerns around the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. We called for more consultation on reforms, including stronger involvement for local Aboriginal people in decision-making; a broader water trigger for all projects that use or impact significant water resources; climate impact assessments; and greater ministerial transparency. Read our joint statement.



Supporting data governance and sovereignty

We've spoken out about culturally appropriate and sustainable housing for the Anindilyakwa community. Recently, we met with Senator Malarndirri McCarthy to discuss the $4 billion Partnership Agreement for Remote Housing and Homelands – the Minister for Indigenous Australians agreed that a long-term vision to drive housing reform was needed to achieve Closing the Gap targets. Read the full story.



Demonstrating the power of healing

The Anindilyakwa Healing Centre is gaining attention for its positive impact on preventing and reducing youth crime. A newly released independent evaluation report is proof positive that community-led justice is working. The ALC and local Elders were instrumental in the planning and design of this culturally-safe rehabilitation centre, which was also featured in a recent ABC News report.



Anindilyakwa Rangers win People's Choice Award

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

The ALC Land and Sea Rangers recently took home the prestigious People's Choice Award at the NT Natural Resource Management Awards for their ghost nets program!



This program saw the Rangers collaborate with Charles Darwin University to address the growing problem of ghost nets and marine pollution, a major threat to biodiversity, cultural values, and marine life in the Groote Archipelago. Between 2024 and 2025, the ghost nets initiative used high-resolution drone imagery and AI analysis to identify 265 ghost nets over 223 kilometres of coastline and actively remove 54 ghost nets using land vehicles and the Jarrangwa vessel. The program also delivered important on-Country training for new Rangers, building local capacity for caring for Sea Country.

Kirsten Eden, the ALC's Ranger Manager, said she was proud of the ghost nets program's achievements and ongoing benefits: "The project delivered lasting benefits through on-Country training, with Rangers and Anindilyakwa Land Council members gaining drone qualifications and licenses. This investment sets a strong example for technology-driven marine debris management across northern Australia."



ALC Land and Sea Rangers attending the NTRM Conference | Photo courtesy ALC Rangers

ANKA conference unites artists to share knowledge and stories

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

The ALC's cultural programs recently attended the Arnhem Northern and Kimberley Artists (ANKA) Aboriginal Corporation conference – an event that provided a welcome space for artists to engage in practical arts and media training and industry learning.
Representing Anindilyakwa Arts were senior artists Noeleen Lalara, Elvis Bara and Stephanie Durilla, while Britten 'Syd' Andrews represented the Anindilyakwa Media program. Meaningful conversations were held about intellectual property rights, art centre governance, and Aboriginal employment opportunities within the Arts.

ALC participants created connections with other ANKA attendees. Following a showing of the film Engku-Wa Anglaywa (Far-Away From Home), Noeleen brought tears to the room, talking about her emotional journey bringing home her ancestors' hand-made items. The film raised a discussion about how the repatriation of artefacts has inspired upcoming exhibitions, both nationally and internationally.

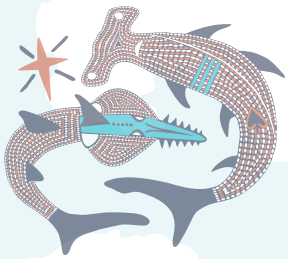
Syd and Elvis delivered a filmmaking workshop, providing training in camera techniques, crafting stories, and the art of capturing cultural charm. A passionate believer in the power of film, Elvis spoke to the young crowd about the importance of film in documenting culture and showcased the Anindilyakwa Media Program's extensive portfolio.

"The ANKA event was a special time to share ideas, stories and perspectives from across our regions. Everyone's contributions made the discussions strong and inspiring," said Syd.



ANKA Aboriginal Corporation Conference | Photo courtesy ANKA

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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