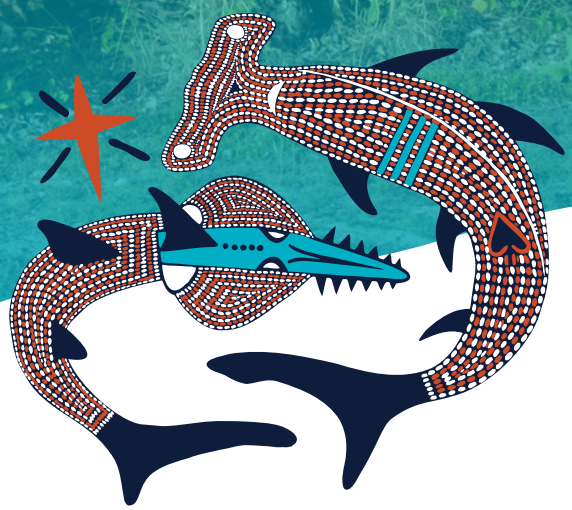
Anindilyakwa
Land Council

Stories from Groote

Edition 24
23 June 2026



Message from the Chair

In this edition of 'Stories from Groote', we look back at the recent commemorations and celebrations that took place here on Groote and further afield.

I was honoured to be among the contingent of Northern Territory Land Councils to travel to the Barunga Festival earlier this month. While this was a special moment to share our music and culture with fellow participants, it was also an opportunity to mark the 50th anniversary of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

I spoke with fellow leaders about this milestone and the work still to be done to provide access to safe housing, healthy communities, and a justice system Aboriginal people can trust.

The festival was a proud moment for Anindilyakwa people, with representation both on stage and in the field, with one of our own winning the highly competitive spear-throwing competition!

Back home, we showed our community spirit by coming together for a Reconciliation Day gathering at Alyangula. This year's theme was 'All In', and it was heartening to see so many people from all communities take part.

In this issue, we also have some exciting developments to share – including a new Anindilyakwa Permit App and a progress update on the new boarding school in Bickerton.

We hope you enjoy this issue! If you have any ideas for stories you'd like to share, get in touch with our team at corporate.media@alcnt.com.au

Cherelle Wurrawilya, Chair

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Anindilyakwa pride on display at Barunga Festival

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture



A strong contingent of talented Anindilyakwa musicians, dancers and artists represented the spirit of Groote Eylandt at this year's Barunga Festival.

The event started with a show-stopping performance of alukwanja (traditional dance) and emeba (song) and ended with a spear-throwing challenge that saw Groote local Sammy Wurrawilya take home first place.

The Barunga Festival is held each year in the remote Barunga community, an hour outside Katherine in the Northern Territory. ALC Arts, Music and Media Programs were proud to be part of this iconic event.

Joewah Wilson from the ALC Music Program was at the festival and shared a few memories of this uniquely special turnout from Groote representatives:

"All up, there were 33 performers and the largest band of songmen I've seen representing Groote. The sound was powerful from the stage!

Ramson Lalara was the spokesman and told wonderful stories to make Groote proud.

Eric Amagula was the senior songman who put this crew together and done a great job on stage.

The men dancers looked strong painted up and were a hit with the audience. The ladies looked great too, and lots of kids got up to dance with our mob.

The next day Groote Eylandt took out first and second with the spear throwing, with Sammy Wurrawilya in first place! Thanks to all the crew who performed and thanks for making our mob look so strong and proud!"

ALC CEO Kupa Teao reflected on the significance of the event:

"This year's Barunga festival marks 50 years of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA). All four NT Land Councils met before the festival to hold their annual Joint Land Council Committee meeting, with Board Directors, their Chairs, CEOs, and support staff in attendance. A big thank you goes out to the Bagala community for having us on your country."



Images courtesy Joewah Wilson

Shared experiences bring Groote together for Reconciliation

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

During Reconciliation Week in May (27 May - 3 June), people from across Groote Eylandt came together to commemorate and celebrate Anindilyakwa culture and strengthen community bonds.

United by this year's Reconciliation theme 'All In', South32's GEMCO put on a special event in Alyangula that brought together music, dance, food and storytelling from the Anindilyakwa community.

Highlights of the day:

- A traditional smoking ceremony to cleanse and welcome attendees
- A traditional dance (alukwanja) and song (emeba) led by the ALC Music Program
- A fascinating display of sea life specimens and the custom-built Jarrangwa marine debris boat hosted by the ALC Land & Sea Rangers

> *"It was wonderful to see the Reconciliation Week community event in Alyangula bringing people together. The Anindilyakwa community were pivotal to the success of this event. Well done to GEMCO and the ALC teams for putting together this wonderful event."*
>
> **Kupa Teao, ALC CEO**







Images courtesy ALC Media Program

ALC Rangers launch all-in-one permit app

Invest in the present to build a self-sufficient future

The Anindilyakwa Land & Sea Rangers have launched an exciting new permit and information app for visitors, permit holders and community members on Groote Eylandt.

The Anindilyakwa Permit App will be the primary platform for sharing important updates, like land closures, access conditions and emergency notifications.

The tool eliminates the need to download and print permit paperwork, making it easier for visitors to apply for and carry permits on their phones.

Kirsten Eden, ALC Land & Sea Manager, said offering a user-friendly experience makes it easier for visitors to stay safe and follow biosecurity rules, supporting the team's mission to Care for Country.

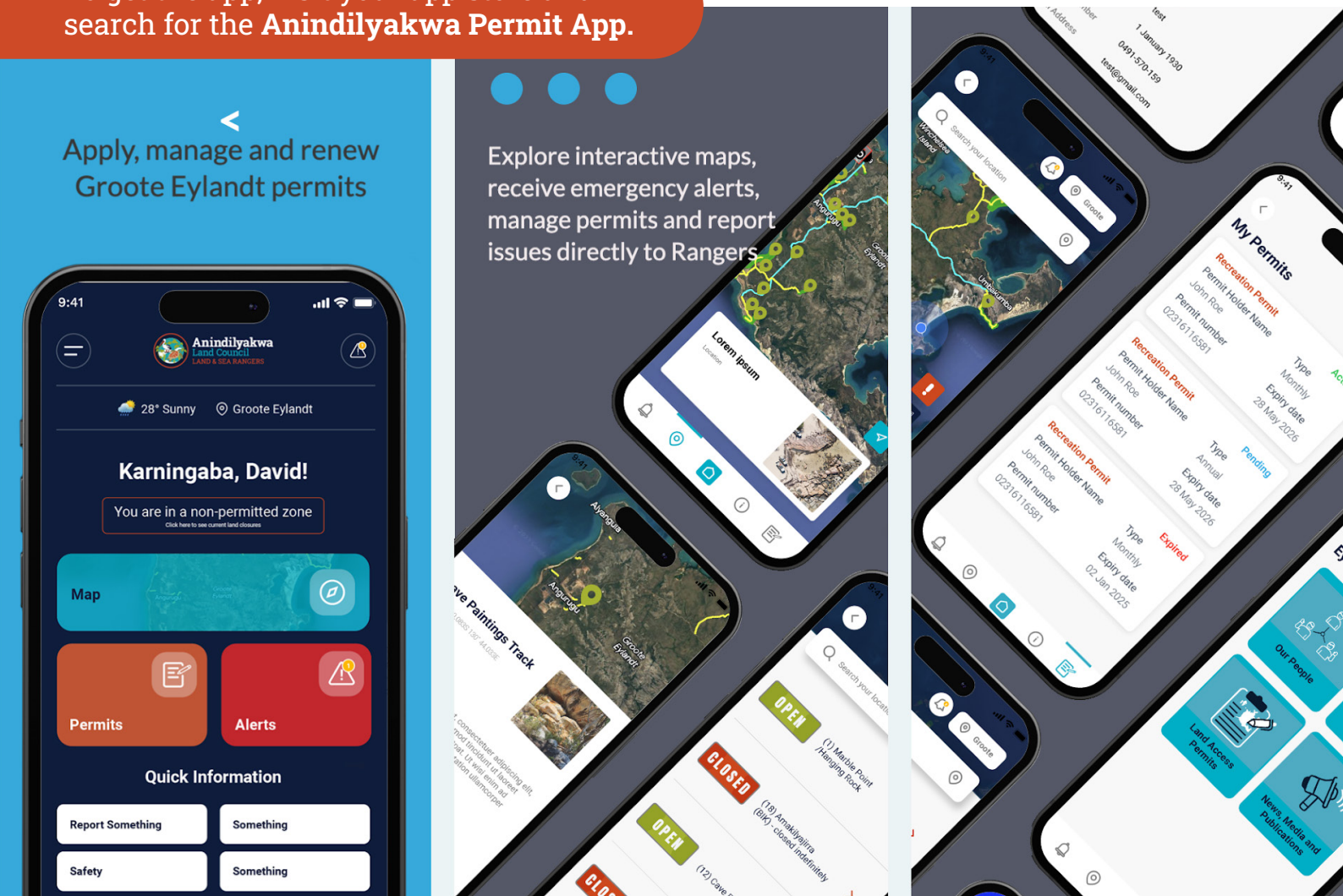
"The purpose of this app is to provide clear, accessible information about Groote Eylandt and its designated recreational areas.

Respecting rules on Country and staying within the boundaries of recreational areas is essential, and this app empowers users to navigate with confidence and awareness of their surroundings," she said.

Features of the app include:

- Recreational permit purchases
- Real-time land closure updates
- Biosecurity information
- Safety information
- Interactive maps
- Offline maps to support navigation while on Country
- A 'report something' feature

To get the app, visit your app store and search for the **Anindilyakwa Permit App.**



Boarding school on track for 2027 school year

Create pathways for youth to stand in both worlds

Construction is well underway on a new bi-language boarding school on Bickerton Island, with the first bell set to ring in 2027.

The Wurriyukywayuwa-langwa College will blend subjects on the national curriculum with Anindilyakwa language studies and on-Country learning.

These photos show some of the progress of the school – a priority initiative of the Groote Eylandt Bickerton Island Primary College Aboriginal Corporation (GEBIPCAC).

While work is underway on the school's physical structures, more work is happening behind the scenes to develop the school's unique 'Our Country Our Culture' curriculum.





Images courtesy GEPIPCAC

> *We are working with Warnumamalya experts in language and culture to align with the requirements of the Australian Curriculum while prioritising language and cultural learning. This is essential to preparing our children for the future.*
>
> *'Our Country Our Culture' has already proven to be a successful education program across Groote's other schools. One day a week, students from each school participate in a program developed by Traditional Owners to support on-Country learning.*
>
> *We are excited by the opportunity to weave the threads of 'Our Country Our Culture' into a classroom-based program for future students at Wurriyukwayuwa-langwa College during 2027. Our new school has been a long time coming, and we'll do everything we need to in order to meet the vision of the community.*
>
> **Ida Mamarika, GEBIPCAC Chair**

We'll continue to keep you updated on the progress of the school. You can also follow updates on the GEBIPCAC Facebook page.

AINT announce new round of grants

Aboriginal Investment NT will release a new round of Community Quick Response Grants on 1 July 2026.

Designed to support one-off projects in urban, regional and remote Aboriginal communities and homelands across the NT, these grants feature a simple application process and minimal admin.

Eligible projects include:

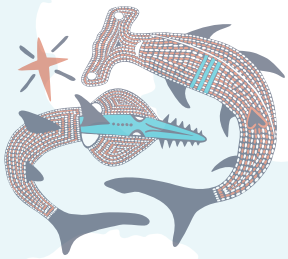
- cultural or community celebration days
- community barbeques
- local sports team uniforms and equipment
- community training or skills workshops
- art, cooking, music or dance classes
- small community infrastructure.

To learn more about **Community Quick Response Grants**, visit: www.aboriginalinvestment.org.au/community-quick-response-grants



ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT

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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