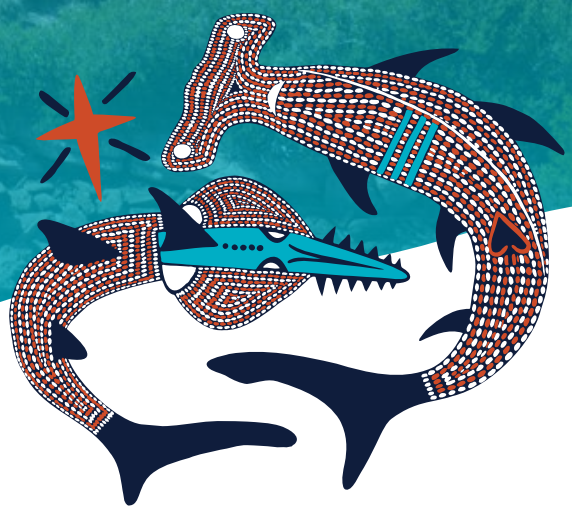
Anindilyakwa
Land Council

Stories from Groote

Edition 25

20 August 2026



Message from the ALC

In this edition of ‘Stories from Groote’ we get to know the ALC’s Chief Executive Officer, Kupa Teao. Kupa shares his vision for Groote’s post-mining future and how Anindilyakwa resilience gives him hope and optimism for the future.

Also in this issue, we see Anindilyakwa cultural pride front and centre at the recent Garma Festival. We have some great photos from the event to share with you!

We also have a report from the recent Country to Couture exhibition at the Darwin Fashion Show. Anindilyakwa Arts brought the Dadikwakwa-kwa (shell doll) collection to life through the amazing work of Anindilyakwa designers and models in collaboration with fashion designer Anna Reynolds. This collection is a great example of how we can celebrate our culture while remembering our past and building a future for our amazing artists.

Finally, we take a look inside our road map for the future: the ALC Corporate Plan for 2026-2027. This is more than a governance document – it sets out our big picture priorities for the year ahead and how we plan to prepare for a future beyond mining.

The Corporate Plan was developed with Anindilyakwa people and approved by the ALC Board. We are all working together to protect, preserve and promote Anindilyakwa culture, build a self-sufficient future and support our young people to grow up with cultural pride and practical skills.

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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Get to know... Kupa Teao

Meet ALC's Chief Executive Officer

Six months into the role as ALC's CEO, Kupa already has big plans for Groote. We asked him about his achievements so far and his hopes for the future.



Q. Six months into life on Groote Eylandt, what's your impression so far?

A. Groote Eylandt is, in my opinion, close to heaven. Sometimes I have to pinch myself that I'm living on this incredible tropical island on Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Country, working on amazing projects, with people who have been so warm and welcoming. I hope to keep building on my relationship with this community as I work towards the goals I'm here to achieve.

Q. Have you been able to pick up any Anindilyakwa language?

A. I'm slowly building my vocabulary, but it's a work in progress! I recognise how important it is to understand the language to understand the people. For instance, we outsiders use the word 'Anindilyakwa' to refer to the Traditional Owners of the Groote Archipelago. But they use the word 'Warnumamalya' to refer to themselves. I'm learning it's important to understand these nuances.

Q. What are some early achievements you are most proud of since stepping into the role as ALC's Chief Executive?

A. There are quite a few things I'm really proud of happening across the organisation. We're filling important roles within the wider ALC team, so we can keep moving forward with significant projects. We've been reigniting the committees and subcommittees connected to ALC, which is a great step towards getting people back around the table, talking about the work that matters. And I'm really excited about an upcoming all-in community meeting happening next month. This will be a great chance to unite all our teams, organisations and community members and bring everyone up to speed on what's happening across the Groote Archipelago. There's a lot to talk about — housing, education, employment. And most importantly, what life beyond mining royalties will look like.

Get to know... Kupa Teao

Meet ALC's Chief Executive Officer



Q. What are your long-term goals to aid the transition to a post-GEMCO mining future?

A. Preparing for life beyond mining starts with understanding how we can support our economy when the mine closes. What services do we provide? How can we make them profitable? And how do we make sure any money generated on Groote stays on Groote and is reinvested back into Groote? I want to spend time with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and other organisations on the island to find economic opportunities that align with our values. There are big opportunities in industries like tourism and renewable energies. But there are also big opportunities for small businesses. We can look at business incubators to support local business ideas – like running a café at the airport or a lawn mowing business. It's all about creating practical, sustainable ways to build jobs, skills and income to support Anindilyakwa people.

Q. What gives you confidence for the future?

A. The resilience of the Anindilyakwa people. They have adapted to change over a long period of time, and they know how to keep moving forward while holding on to who they are. There are strong leaders in this community, both Elders and emerging. That combination — resilience, leadership and potential — is what makes me optimistic about the future.

Q. Lastly, if you weren't CEO, what would be your dream job on Groote?

A. I'm a muso at heart, so I'd probably be in the recording studio! I'd love to be around the instruments and the band, just making music. I'd also love to spend time with the language team or the arts team. But first choice? Definitely music.

Strong Groote presence at this year's Garma Festival

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

Anindilyakwa culture was proudly on display at Garma Festival 2026 - Australia's largest Indigenous gathering. Twenty traditional singers and dancers from Groote put on a display of alukwanja (traditional dancing), inviting Garma attendees to get up and to get involved.

Joewah Wilson from the ALC Media team was there to capture the highlights:

> *Groote was first up on the sand to perform on Saturday afternoon. Our songmen and dancers done us all proud! It was good to see some younger songmen attending this year and the young dancers participating in singing during the rehearsals. It definitely put a smile on Oldman Eric Amagula's face! Big thanks to everyone who attended and the effort that was given.*
>
> **Joewah Wilson, ALC Music Program**





Photos courtesy Joewah Wilson, ALC Media



Hosted by the Yothu Yindi Foundation, the Garma Festival is an important meeting point for the clans and families of the northeast Arnhem region. The word 'garma' means a two-way learning process, and provides a space for Traditional Owners to exchange knowledge and culture. The event also provides a forum for Elders to explore significant issues and address concerns with political leaders.

Learn more about the Garma Festival:
https://yyf.com.au/garma-festival/

Doll shell collection inspires Country to Couture

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

The stories, knowledge and creativity of the Groote Archipelago were showcased on the national stage this month, when the Anindilyakwa Arts x Anna Reynolds Dadikwakwa-kwa Fashion Collection debuted at Country to Couture in Darwin.

Country to Couture is Australia's premier showcase of First Nations contemporary fashion, textiles and art. Since 2016, Indigenous artists, designers and art centres have come together from across the country to celebrate the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fine art, high-end fashion and cultural storytelling.



Artists and community members travelled to Darwin to participate in the event, walking the runway and sharing Anindilyakwa culture through fashion, song, and performance.

The collection featured digital print textiles, hand-painted fabric, woven accessories and colour palettes inspired by the Dadikwakwa-kwa (Shell Dolls), highlighting the connection between culture, country, art and textile design.



Noeleen Lalara models the Dadikwakwa-kwa collection on Groote Eylandt / Photo courtesy ALC media

Doll shell collection inspires Country to Couture

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

The collection reflects the ongoing cultural revitalisation of Dadikwakwa-kwa following the return of 174 Anindilyakwa cultural objects from the Manchester Museum in 2023. The return created renewed interest in the tradition and encouraged artists from Umbakumba and Angurugu to continue this important cultural practice. Through contemporary garments, textiles and accessories, the collection reinterprets the forms, colours and significance of the shell dolls and shares Anindilyakwa stories and cultures with new audiences.



Country to Couture fashion models Annabell Amagula, Sylvia Lalara and Bernadette Watt / Photos courtesy @dylanbuckee.photography



Anindilyakwa Arts has developed a strong presence at Country to Couture over several years, with artists continuing to explore innovative ways of combining traditional knowledge, weaving practices, bush dyes and contemporary design. The runway provides a powerful platform for Anindilyakwa artists to preserve culture, strengthen knowledge and showcase the creative talent of the Groote Archipelago to audiences from around Australia and beyond.

> *When I was walking my design, I was thinking of dadikwakwa-kwa and how proud I was to wear it. It was my first time walking in Country to Couture, with Elvis, Bernadette, Sylvia. Our fashion means something to us, to show our culture, and how the old people left it for us, and we stick on it.*
>
> **Annabell Amagula, Senior Artist and Fashion Designer**

A road map for the future: the ALC Corporate Plan 2026-2027

The Anindilyakwa Land Council has released its Corporate Plan 2026-2027, setting out the priorities that will guide our work over the next year and help shape a strong future for the Groote Archipelago. Developed with the vision of Traditional Owners at its centre, the Plan provides a roadmap for how we will continue to support communities as we prepare for a future beyond mining.

As the region looks toward new economic opportunities, the Corporate Plan focuses on ensuring that growth and decision-making remain aligned in Anindilyakwa culture, values, and leadership.

The Plan is built around the ALC's three-fold core purpose: protecting, maintaining and promoting Anindilyakwa culture; investing in the present to build a self-sufficient future; and creating pathways for youth to stand in both worlds.

To achieve these goals, the Plan has identified five key activity areas that will drive ALC's work.

Caring for Country

Through land and sea management plans, biosecurity plans and environmental monitoring, the ALC works to protect and manage the biodiversity and the cultural, functional and recreational values of the Anindilyakwa Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) and surrounding Sea Country. These efforts safeguard Country for future generations while supporting Traditional Owners.

Governance

The Corporate Plan outlines the ALC's commitment to maintaining strong governance systems and practices that support the ALC Board in representing Traditional Owners and delivering on their long-term vision for the Groote Archipelago.

As the Corporate Plan shows, these priorities are closely connected. Progress in one area supports outcomes in another, helping to create a future that is culturally and economically strong and led by Traditional Owners.

Preserving culture

Protecting Anindilyakwa culture remains central to everything the ALC does. Cultural heritage programs, language preservation, and the protection of sacred sites all help ensure that cultural and traditional knowledge continues to be celebrated, shared and passed on.

Monitoring mining and mine closure

With mine closure on the horizon, the ALC will continue to protect the interests of Traditional Owners and ensure the transition beyond mining leaves a positive legacy. This work focuses on protecting cultural, environmental and economic values while planning for long-term sustainability and new opportunities across the Groote Archipelago.

Economic and community development

Creating opportunities for Anindilyakwa people remains a major focus. The goal is to build a prosperous future where economic growth delivers lasting benefits for both current and future generations. This includes supporting Traditional Owner-led business development, strengthening employment pathways, improving housing outcomes, and investing in initiatives that help communities thrive.

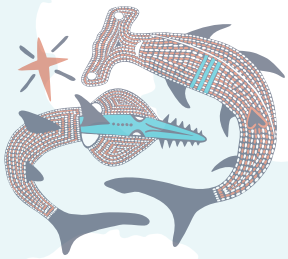
Read the ALC Corporate Plan 2026-27

to learn more about the priorities shaping the year ahead.

Get the Plan



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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