



Kimberley
JIYIGAS



MAY NEWSLETTER 2025



WE
EXIST
TO:

EMPOWER
MORE
WOMEN INTO
BUSINESS

PROMOTE
INDIGENOUS
CULTURE

AMPLIFY
INDIGENOUS
WOMEN'S
VOICES



Job Pathways

Kimberley Birds signed a contract with Job Pathways towards the end of last year to develop the Welcome to the Workforce website and its contents. This digital resource is designed to help Job Pathways work more effectively with their Indigenous clients and Kimberley Jobseekers. Now that the project is almost at completion, we will start the training of staff in late May. Using narration videos, activities, and stories - all combined on one platform - the information is brought to Indigenous audiences in a way that's relatable to their experiences of participation in the workforce. It allows Indigenous clients to be supported in a culturally appropriate manner while navigating the transition from welfare back into the workforce. How deadly! Gaining meaningful employment is part of independence and financial freedom so we support those goals!



CONNECTING GROWING THRIVING

In April, it was great to attend the Townsville Sisters in Business Event with Mitch Torres, which was hosted by Blaq Diamonds Women's Empowerment Managing Director Melisa Anderson. We had about 20 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women attend over a three-day timeframe. During that time, we were able to learn and share about all aspects relating to business. It was a great opportunity for us to support and encourage one another in our business aspirations, and our gathering provided a platform to build on further. Thanks to Good Return for sponsoring this fantastic gathering. You can see more photos and videos on Facebook camp, see one [HERE](#).

POWERED BY FUTURE WEAVERS, BLAQ DIAMONDS WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT PRESENTS:

SISTAS IN BUSINESS


BLAQ DIAMONDS
Women Empowerment

Gathering

**FUTURE
WEAVERS**

Join us in the most exciting and unforgettable Sistas in Business event on Nywaigi Country. "Empowering First Nations Women in Business - Connecting, Growing, Thriving"



Melisa Anderson,
Founder of BDWE



Natasha Short, Founder
of Kimberley Jiygas



Mitch Torres, Maganda
Makers Business Club

8TH - 10TH APRIL, 2025

Daily 8:30am - 9:00pm

MUTARNEE, BIG CRYSTAL CREEK

Nywaigi Country, north of
Townsville

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

INSPIRATIONAL
GUEST
SPEAKERS

BUSINESS
GROWTH &
LEADERSHIP
WORKSHOPS

CULTURAL
CONNECTION
& WELL-BEING

NETWORKING &
COLLABORATION

**LIMITED
SPACES!**

MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND:
MELISA@BLAQDIAMONDSWE.COM.AU

RSVP:
BY COB, FRIDAY 21ST MARCH,
2025



Visiting? Learn some local words ...



**50 WORDS TO LEARN & USE
DURING YOUR VISIT**

Only \$39

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE & PURCHASE

WWW.WELCOMETOHEKIMBERLEY.COM.AU




**"Don't let yesterday take up
too much of today."**

WILL ROGERS





VOTE WITH MOB IN MIND



This year, Kimberley Birds entered a partnership with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). The purpose of this work is to deliver more resources and information about the political system of Australia to Kimberley Indigenous audiences for the purpose of better engagement. Our work involves creating a Kimberley politics website that is filled with resources that make political education more palatable to mob (ideal for school students!).

Watch out for the release of a deadly new song, and also, we are about to create a mural with local artist, Molly Hunt soon to be started within the Kimberley - so watch out for it. We will also be hosting events that bring awareness of the political system to people across the Kimberley -if you want to be involved, contact us for more information. The purpose of these events is to help Indigenous voters grow in an understanding about what it means to enrol, to vote, their responsibilities once they are enrolled to vote, and WHY having your say matters.



RESOURCE FOR YOUR INDIGENOUS STAFF

GROWING STRONG IN THE WORKPLACE

As a separate product, but in synergy with the Welcome to the Workforce, Kimberley Birds created a brand new product called - Growing Strong in the Workforce, which is designed specifically for Indigenous staff already in the workplace. This vital resource gives Indigenous staff members the tailored support they need to understand the roles, rights, and responsibilities that come with their employment. The program utilises a narrator who presents essential information and knowledge that every employee needs to do well within their jobs. We know that this knowledge is sometimes lacking in our communities and that this resource gives foundational understanding to Indigenous employees about being in the workforce and what that requires. This product is now publicly available and can be purchased for \$149 per person at growingstrongintheworkforce.com.au.

Contact us if you think this might benefit your Indigenous workforce! Corporate packages are also available for organisations, at a discounted rate. This information can be facilitated as a Professional Development opportunity for your Indigenous staff.

GROWING STRONG IN THE WORKFORCE



Flipbook #1

Charting the Course -
Walking your work pathway

© Kimberley Birds. All rights reserved.



ARE YOU AN ABORIGINAL WOMAN IN BUSINESS AND LIVING IN THE KIMBERLEY?!

Maganda Makers continues to grow and meets monthly throughout the whole of the Kimberley regions via our club connectors and a team of women to support you in your business dreams. This includes our patron, Captain, Vice Captains, club connectors, ambassadors, advisors, and our admin coordinators - Karen and Candice - who are based in Perth. Plus through partnerships, we offer pro bono supports to help women who are members of the club - so sign up today, because it's free. We are all busy working together to bring support and resources to our 140 plus members across the Kimberley region and we are busy working towards our Lombindia camp, which is to be held on the 1st to the 4th of August. If you would like to attend this camp, you must be a registered Maganda Maker Business Club member. You will need to apply now to ensure that you are registered in time to join us and please be aware that an application does not guarantee you will be able to join us at the camp, as spaces are limited. Please check out our Maganda Makers website [HERE](#).



**APRIL MAGANDA MAKERS NEWSLETTER BELOW
SIGN UP NOW FOR FUTURE STORIES AT
MAGANDAMAKERS@GMAIL.COM**

Maganda Makers Annual Women's Camp - Lombadina 2025

Date: Friday, August 1 - Monday, August 4 2025

Who: Maganda Makers Club Members

Location: Lombadina Community, Dampier Peninsula





Maganda Makers

Empowering Kimberley Indigenous Women
to build wealth through Business

April 2025
Edition

East Kimberley - SugarBag Fund Rollout

THE SUGARBAG FUND IS COMING TO KUNUNURRA, WYNDHAM & HALLS CREEK IN MAY!

After a successful pilot in the West Kimberley, we're thrilled to announce that the **Sugarbag Fund**, part of the Tomorrow Fund initiative, is now making its way to the East Kimberley — landing in Kununurra, Wyndham, and Halls Creek with applications opening on **21 May 2025!**

This small but mighty funding opportunity offers \$250 to support club members with practical items that can make a big difference — from essential tools and supplies to equipment or services that help your business grow.

Here's what some of our West Kimberley recipients had to say:

"I'm incredibly grateful for the Sugarbag Fund that enabled me to purchase a Wi-Fi adapter. This investment is important as I set up my remote work environment — allowing me to reliably connect to online members, access essential work resources, and maintain consistent communications with my team through a stable internet connection. I will also be able to fully participate in other remote opportunities in remote areas, or outside the office. This will not only improve my work efficiency but also expand my access to the benefits of remote work, such as a flexible schedule and reduced commute time. Thank you, Maganda Makers Business Club and the Sugarbag Fund, for empowering me to strengthen my remote career."

"The funds were used to purchase a high-quality headset which has significantly improved my ability to participate in online meetings. As someone with a hearing impairment, this headset allows me to clearly hear everyone in meetings, making communication much easier....As a member of the Maganda Makers Business Club, I believe having access to small, quick-response funding for start-up businesses is incredibly valuable. The SugarBag model is a great example of how small grants can make a big difference"



"Thanks to the Sugarbag Fund, I was able to secure a six-month subscription to Adobe Creative Suite — an essential tool for developing my business. Receiving this grant has not only provided me with the opportunity but also the confidence to grow. I'm now more than halfway through my first fee-for-service project, and it's going really well."

To be eligible, make sure you're a registered club member, and attending a Yarning Circle and/or staying connected with your Club Connectors — we want you to be part of it!

Annual Maganda Makers Camp 2025!

Maganda Makers Annual Women's Camp 2025

EOI's close NEXT Friday, 9 May 2025!

Ladies, get ready—it's happening!

Dates: Friday, 1 August – Monday, 4 August 2025

Location: Lombadina Community, Dampier Peninsula

Who: Maganda Makers Registered Club Members

Submit your Expression of Interest here: [Expressions of Interest](#)

This is more than just a camp—it's a space to breathe, to build, to belong. Join us for inspirational workshops, cultural connections, and unforgettable moments with your Maganda Makers sisters, all on Country.



Maganda Makers
Annual Women's Camp - Lombadina 2025

Date: Friday, August 1 – Monday, August 4 2025

Who: Maganda Makers Club Members

Location: Lombadina Community, Dampier Peninsula





April Yarning Circles in the Kimberley's

April Yarning Circle – Kununurra

Kununurra's Yarning Circle brought the fun AND the heart!
Our Maganda Makers in Kununurra added a colourful twist this month, getting creative with Easter basket crafting while yarning all things business – and they had so much fun, they forgot to take photos! 🥰

The real magic was in the energy:

- 💛 Older women sharing stories, advice, and wisdom.
- 💛 Younger women soaking it all in and dreaming out loud.
- 💛 A true family feeling – pushing each other forward with love and laughter.

As Tanya, our wonderful Kununurra Club Connector said:

"I wish I could bottle the feeling and excitement at these meetings – I'd be rich! LOL.



April Yarning Circle - Broome

Our Broome club members gathered to check in, celebrate business wins, and uplift each other – even through the tough moments. ✨
From picking Affirmation Cards (created by amazing Club Connector, Monique Le Lievre 🍷) to exchanging advice about legal supports, dreaming bigger, and preparing for upcoming opportunities like the Women's Camp and grant applications – the room was buzzing with encouragement and empowerment. One of our club sisters shared a beautiful reminder:

"It's time for us as women to step out of the ration box – to stop holding back and start embracing our worth."

THIS is what Maganda Makers is all about:

Empowering Kimberley Indigenous women to build wealth, confidence, and strong connections through business and sisterhood.



April Yarning Circle - Halls Creek

Our Halls Creek club connector Lexie Trancollino ran not one but TWO Yarning Circles in Halls Creek this month - GO LEXIE! The first was a part of a Bush Medijene workshop where she was able to share her inspiring business journey. During Lexie's session, she was able to create a safe space for those in attendance - 18 deadly Kimberley indigenous women - to share about their own business stories and ideas. It sounded like it was a wonderful day. We also need to highlight one of our new club members - Theresa Darby, who stepped in to assist Lexie and build her confidence in the process – a beautiful moment of sisterhood in action.

The following weekend, Lexie held a Yarning Circle Breakfast, and had another 2 wonderful ladies attend. We love hearing about your businesses, what we can do to assist you as a club, and update you on what is coming up in the club. Keep it up Halls Creek!

- 💛 These monthly Yarning Circles are about building momentum, lifting each other higher, and making sure no woman walks her business journey alone.
- 💛 It's a space to grow, learn, share – and sometimes, to just be. Bring your mum, your sister, your cousin, your friend – it might just be the space they didn't know they needed.
- 💛 Are you already in business, or even just the seed of an idea?

There's a seat for you at the table. 🌱

✨ Do you have a win to share? We'd love to hear it!

Your story might just be the encouragement another sister needs.





Club Member Celebrations

BIG NEWS, MAGANDA MAKERS!

We are beyond excited to celebrate a huge milestone in the journey of Jalayimiya Swim — the incredible Brodie George has officially launched the Yimpiyimpi Core Collection! 🌈🌟

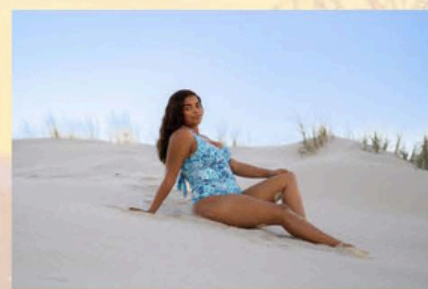
This collection of Jalayimiya Swim — a powerful blend of culture, strength, and vision, brought to life through Brodie's passion and purpose.

Brodie has also shared a few special words with us about what Jalayimiya Swim means to her — her story, her spirit, and her unstoppable drive.

Read Brodie's words and experience the Yimpiyimpi Core Collection!
Let's get behind our sister and celebrate this incredible launch!

A New Era for Jalayimiya Swim: Introducing the Core Collection

We're thrilled to announce the launch of the Yimpiyimpi Core Collection—a pivotal moment in the evolution of Jalayimiya Swim. Grounded in community feedback and cultural storytelling, this collection features our most loved, high-performing swimwear styles. Each piece is crafted from eco-conscious fabrics like Repreve® and ECONYL®, sculpted to support and move with every body, and designed with bold prints inspired by Walmajarri desert art.



After seasons of trial, reflection, and deep listening to our community, the Core Collection marks a return to what Jalayimiya Swim is all about - elevated swimwear that honours Country, culture, and confidence. This is more than a collection; it's a reimagined foundation for the future of our brand.

Photographer: Sarah Kemp, Align Your Divine Photography.

A Sneak Peak Behind the Scenes....



**Pictured: Yisah Bin Omar
Broome Assistant Club Connector**

Our wonderful club vice captain - Mitch Torres - has written an inspirational Maganda Makers Business Club manifesto. We have some deadly club members who are in the recording studio using their beautiful spoken voices, to be able to share this so it can be heard by all. Whilst we await the recording to be completed and released, we thought we would share what the purpose is of a manifesto.

A manifesto is a powerful statement of who we are, what we believe in, and the future we're determined to create. It is a declaration of our values, dreams, and purpose - a guide that reminds us why we do what we do. It calls us to stand together, speak our truth, and take action toward the change we want to see. A manifesto is more than words - it is a promise to ourselves and to each other to rise, to lead, and to make our vision real.

We hope you enjoyed this month's read

MEET OUR NEW GENERAL MANAGER



Hi, I'm Diana Henderson.

I'm a creative strategist and community builder who's passionate about helping people turn big ideas into real-world impact. Over the past decade, I've worked with everyone from grassroots changemakers to government departments—leading projects, building brands, and creating spaces (literal and digital) where people feel seen, supported, and empowered. I've spent years working alongside Aboriginal women and communities, offering support to design programs that are culturally grounded and genuinely useful. My background blends strategy, storytelling, art, and advocacy—and I bring all of that to the table in my new role as General Manager of Kimberley Jiyigas.

At the heart of everything I do is a belief that good ideas deserve beautiful execution—and that creativity, when used with care, can genuinely change lives. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to bring my skills into this space, and to continue learning from Natasha's strength, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to her people and her vision. This isn't just a role—it's a responsibility I will carry with care, curiosity, and a whole lot of heart.



gm@kimberleybirds.com.au



0423 174 791



FEMALE COMMUNITY LED SOLUTIONS

In March, at the Impact Summit in Sydney, there was an opportunity to speak as part of a panel discussion to share innovative ways we can invest in female community led solutions in our respective regions. I spoke about the work that Maganda Makers, Future Weavers, and Kimberly Birds, and how these programs support Aboriginal female leaders to achieve better outcomes that are desperately needed in our communities. For great outcomes, please identify and support Indigenous female leaders in your region!



EMPOWERING ABORIGINAL WOMEN GRANT RECIPIENTS



The Kimberley Birds Grants have now been awarded. This year we have been able to offer financial support to:

- **Monique Le Lievre**
- **Frances Hudson**
- **Tornino Torres**
- **Rowena Morgan**
- **Nadia Ward**

These ladies have all received either a \$500 or a \$1,000 dollar grant. These grants are for their own personal development and/or business development to support development of the women in our region. Congratulations ladies!!



OUR CLIENTS



FIND US ON



@KIMBERLEYBIRDS



@BIRDSATAFEATHERSHOPTOGETHER

CONTACT US ON



ADMIN@KIMBERLEYBIRDS.COM.AU



0409 156 756