



Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Under special administration

ICN 8297 | ABN 40 829 460 147

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NEWSLETTER

Issue 6, July 2020

Dear members and other interested people,

Our names are Jack James and Paula Smith and we are from Rodgers Reidy in Perth. On 11 November 2019, the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations appointed us special administrators of Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (Ngadju).

This is our final newsletter.

All newsletters we have issued are available on the public Register of Indigenous Corporations at oric.gov.au—use the 'Find a corporation' tool and search using 'Ngadju Native Title' or '8297' (the ICN). Then follow the link to 'documents'.

END OF SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION

The special administration will end on Friday 31 July 2020. At that time, control of Ngadju will return to members and their new board of directors.

ACTION	STATUS
1 Take control of the assets, including bank accounts; build a complete picture of issues and challenges; and establish a clear plan of action.	Complete
2 Restore good operational order.	Complete
3 Prepare the corporation for return to members' control.	Complete

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are pleased to announce that, following voting by members, we have appointed the following people as member directors. Their appointment will take effect on 31 July 2020.

For the first time, the board of Ngadju will include independent specialist directors. These two directors will complement the member directors and together they will form a skills-based board.

MEMBER DIRECTORS

- Hector Graham (Snr)
- Gaile Mallard
- Verna Newchurch
- James Schultz
- Pearl Scott

INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

- Maryanne Kelly
- Michael Allbrook

Independent specialist directors were selected following a comprehensive recruitment process.

Maryanne Kelly is a certified practising accountant and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Maryanne has over 15 years' experience in various mining companies. Initially she held financial roles before moving into operational roles such as general manager and operations manager. Maryanne is currently an independent director of Gelganyem Trust—for the Gija and Miriwung people who are traditional owners of the East Kimberley site of the Argyle diamond mine. Maryanne brings a wealth of operational and financial experience to the new board.

Michael Allbrook is a qualified lawyer and is currently senior lawyer and manager of the legal team at Central Desert Native Title Services. For eight years he has practised exclusively in the area of native title and Aboriginal heritage matters. Michael's experience has covered all aspects of native title including research, negotiation, litigation, compensation and future act matters. Michael is keen to use his skills and experience as an independent director of Ngadju to the benefit of the corporation and its members.

ELDERS ADVISORY GROUP

The new rule book provides for the formation of an elders advisory group, and in our last newsletter we requested nominations. We have now reviewed the nominations and eligibility criteria, and selected the following senior Ngadju people as elder advisors:

NAME	FAMILY GROUP
Betty Logan	Belang
Jennifer Woods	Dalgetty/Ray/Munroe
vacant	Donaldson
vacant	Flynn
John Graham	Graham
vacant	Jacobs
Stephen Rule	Rule
Les Schultz	Schultz
Valma Schultz	Wicker
Diane Clinch	Wilson/Nine

Under the new rule book, the board of directors will seek the advice of the elders advisory group in respect to certain matters—for example, membership. The elders advisory group cannot give directions to the board of directors.

NEW RULE BOOK

A full copy of the draft rule book was available on the ORIC and Ngadju websites.

We have listened to comments received and have now finalised the rule book and lodged it with ORIC for registration. The final rule book will be available on the ORIC and Ngadju websites.

PENDING MEMBERSHIPS

At the time of our appointment, many people had applied for membership. We did not process any of these applications because eligibility for membership, and the process for assessing applications, were both subject to review.

Now a new rule book is in place, including a new membership application form. All those awaiting the outcome of their membership application will need to reapply, and in assessing new applications, the board will follow the process set out in the new rule book. Prospective members must demonstrate that they have been on Country.

To those who have been waiting for their application to be processed, we apologise for the inconvenience. We trust you understand it is in the best interests of Ngadju.

STAFFING AT NGADJU

During the special administration, we restructured the staff to improve Ngadju's in-house skills and ability to undertake its role and functions. The changes will significantly reduce the corporation's reliance on external financial and legal advisers and consultants. The current staffing is as follows:

- Robert Klug—CEO
- David Graham—financial controller
- Michelle Alexander—native title and land access manager
- Katarina Bevk—native title and land access assistant
- Anna Taite—heritage manager
- Monique Dimer—membership and family lineage office
- Helen Rule—administration
- Jessica Rule—administration
- Yvonne Green—administration (Norseman)

THANK YOU

We wish to thank the advisory group, staff, Abbott trust services and stakeholders for their support and efforts during the special administration. We wish Ngadju, its new board, the elders advisory group and members the very best for the future.

POST-ADMINISTRATION

ORIC will monitor the governance and management of Ngadju after the special administration ends. The Registrar will write to the new board about this once the corporation is back in members' hands.

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATORS



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To find out more about special administrations visit oric.gov.au/special-admins or call 1800 622 431 (not free from mobiles)