

WKSAN News

Message from the chair

JEANICE KRAKOUER

Kaya,

I'm pleased to deliver our first WKSAN newsletter. In the six months since our first AGM, the Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation has been hard at work. We've been focused on establishing a solid foundation that will allow us to be a strong and effective voice for WKSAN people.

We are happy to have Lisa Smith as our inaugural CEO. Lisa comes to us with a lot of experience and previously built networks in the Wagyl Kaip region, and is a highly skilled leader who we are thrilled to have working with us.

She's been meeting with WKSAN people and organisations to build the strong relationships that we need to be an effective corporation. We are working together to develop strategies to help us maximise the benefits of the Settlement.

Lastly, I'm thrilled that we now have Justin McCallister on board as our lands manager. Together we have a great team to begin work on behalf of WKSAN people.

Listening to WKSAN people

We're committed to consulting with members. Thanks to everyone who responded to our WKSAN member survey about what you want from your regional

corporation. This was part of our ongoing commitment to listen and work together for our Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Nation.

The biggest theme was better living standards for our mob – with housing coming through over and over as our most urgent problem to solve.

Improving housing, education and economic opportunity for our people is at the heart of our board's strategic plan, which we are working on now. Those priorities will also be the foundation of all the programs and partnerships we will be implementing in the coming years.

You also told us that you expect regular, clear and honest communication about what we're doing and why — and I agree. This regional corporation is by and for members, so we all need to keep talking and working together to build our strong, unified nation.

The member survey is still on our website, so please continue to share your views, and let others know they can do so too.

If you have any questions, please email us at kaya@wagylkaip.org.au.

Let's keep talking.

Jeanice Krakouer
WKSAN Chair

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Message from the CEO

LISA SMITH

Kaya,

I began my 12-months as CEO of WKSAN regional corporation in March, to lead the operational set-up. My background is in enterprise and small business — I've previously run my own business consultancy, and most recently supported local small businesses as CEO of the Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

I'm excited to be back working in the WKSAN region, to build on the strong relationships that I've already established for the benefit of our regional corporation.

I was born in the UK and raised by my adoptive parents who were missionaries. For the first few decades of my life I didn't know my family or who I was, my ethnicity.

I was fortunate to eventually meet my biological family, and spend time connecting with my Jamaican culture, particularly on my paternal side.

This experience has given me an understanding of lost culture, and the importance of helping people reconnect with their families and their people.

As your inaugural CEO, my priority to create community connections so that the WKSAN regional corporation becomes a strong and sustainable voice for generations to come.

The South West Native Title Settlement offers so much possibility for Noongar people. My first few months as CEO have been very busy finding office space, building the team, and starting to get to know some of you.

I look forward to more conversations as we work together to build a strong corporation that will empower our community to take full advantage of the South West Native Title Settlement.

It's an honour to be part of this journey to support WKSAN people, and the Noongar Nation more broadly, in the self-determination of your future.

Lisa Smith
CEO



Mark Colbung, Deanna Eades, Wendy Williams, Daryl Eades, Averil Dean, David Williams, Iris Kaye Woods, Roni Gray-Forrest and Olivia Roberts with CEO Lisa Smith.

Did you know that these charitable trusts exist to funds provide support to Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar people?

WKSAN Aboriginal Charitable Trust Fund

WKSAN Charitable Trust exists to benefit members of the Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar agreement group. It is not run by our corporation, and you don't need to be a member of our corporation to apply.

The Charitable Trust has the following objectives:

- Relief of poverty;
- Relief of the needs arising from old age;
- Relief of sickness or distress;
- The advancement of education; and
- Other purposes beneficial to the community, including promotion and advancement of law and culture.

Two kinds of payments may be made to individuals:

- Elder payment: a one off payment of \$500 for people aged 60+ years of age.
- Funeral payment: \$2,000 per member, which is paid directly to an approved funeral home of applicant's choice.

The Trust also gives payments of \$11,000pa to six community centres in the WKSAN region, and there is a grant funding program to support services and activities on WKSAN country to support WKSAN people.

For more information email: communitytrusts@eqt.com.au or contact Equity trustees client relationship managers: Nic Merson (08) 6220 0506 and Luke Smith (08) 6220 0507.

wksncharitabletrust.com.au

WKSAN & Ravensthorpe Nickel Operations: Education, Health & Wellbeing fund

Funding is available under the Ravensthorpe Operations Agreement with First Quantum Minerals Limited to support Wagyl Kaip people with scholarships or grants for education, health & wellbeing.

Applications for this round of funding are open till Friday, 30 June 2023

For more information contact Graeme Minter, Noongar Development Officer on 0484 271 218 or graeme.minter@noongar.org.au

Find out more about both funds, or download application forms at wagylkaip.org.au



New payment into the Noongar Boodja Trust

Last month the state government made its third payment into the Noongar Boodja Trust. This is the third of twelve annual payments of \$50 million into the Future Fund and \$10 million into the Operations Fund.

These payments to the Noongar people are guaranteed for twelve years as part of the South West Native Title Settlement.

Payments will increase each year to keep up with inflation. The first payment of \$60 million was made in 2021, just after the Settlement took effect. A second payment of \$63 million was made last year, and this year's payment was \$68 million.

So what do these payments mean for us?

The payments are just one part of the Settlement, along with land, housing and other resources. The payments are made into two different funds, which are designed to provide both short-term and long-term financial sustainability to the Noongar Nation.

The Operations Fund will be used to support the work of the seven Noongar corporations for the first twelve years. This work includes social and economic programs, land management and advocacy on behalf of our people and community.

The Noongar Future Fund will remain untouched for these twelve years, giving it time to grow large enough to give our Noongar Nation with economic independence and sustainability, so that our work can continue long into the future.

The entire Noongar Boodja Trust, which includes these two funds, is protected by an 'independent trustee' for the first twelve years. The Noongar people appointed Perpetual as this independent trustee.

The Noongar Advisory Company (NAC) was created to provide important cultural context and understanding to Perpetual when it makes decisions about the Trust, so that Noongar views are always central to every decision that gets made.

Over these twelve years, Perpetual will transfer more and more responsibility to the NAC, preparing them to become the 'dedicated trustee', with full responsibility for the Trust. The NAC will then become the sole trustee for Noongar Boodja Trust, so that when it's used to provide social, cultural and economic benefits to the Noongar people for generations to come, all decisions will be completely in Noongar control.

Noongar Land Estate

The Noongar Land Estate (NLE) is an integral part of the work and the benefits of the South West Native Title Settlement. It's held by the Noongar Boodja Trust to provide opportunities for sustainable economic, social and cultural outcomes to the Noongar community.

It will initially hold up to 300,000 hectares of reserve or leasehold land and up to 20,000 hectares of freehold land across all of Noongar boodja. Places that land has been offered for consideration include Katanning, Albany, Wellstead, Gnowangerup, Kojunup, Walpole, Denmark, Jerramungup and Bremmer Bay.

Our cultural advice committee is now working with the Noongar Boodja Trust to select land for the land estate, a complicated process that will happen over the next three years. We will be holding information days in the second half of this year to explain the selection process and get your views about selection and future use.

Marine Park: DBCA has been working extensively with community representatives and stakeholders to enable delivery of a draft management plan for the proposed South Coast Marine Park. We thank them for their work getting the project to this stage. After a period for public comment on the draft plan, the park will be established early in 2024. One of the marine park's priorities will be protecting Noongar cultural and heritage values. The new park will have a Noongar name and be jointly managed by WКСN and DBCA, and as part of the joint management there will be some ranger jobs for WКСN people.

Cooperative Management Agreements: WКСN will soon begin cooperative management of the Conservation Estate (national parks, state forests, nature reserves and marine parks) with DBCA. A cooperative management committee with DBCA and our corporation will help us work together to: protect Noongar heritage and cultural values; ensure ongoing access to hunt, fish and camp; develop economic opportunities; promote Noongar employment within DBCA and identify areas to formally jointly manage.

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* will significantly change the way Noongar heritage sites and values are protected and managed in WA. The new laws will give Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar people more say in what Aboriginal heritage is and how to protect it. Our corporation will develop business plans and feasibility studies to determine whether to become the Local Area Cultural Heritage Service (LACHS). If we do become the LACHS for the WКСN Agreement Area, then the vast majority of Aboriginal heritage work will be undertaken by or under the direction of the corporation.

There will be lots of new announcements about land over the coming months, so stay tuned!

Share your ideas with us

The Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar regional corporation is ready to start its next phase of work, which will include hiring staff, developing strategies for social and economic programs to benefit the community, inspecting and accepting WКСN land into the Noongar Land Estate, and advocating on behalf of WКСN people and community.

It's important to us that our work reflects the priorities and needs of WКСN people, and we want to listen and learn from you.

What do you believe are the biggest challenges for Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar people, community and boodja? What is your vision for our regional corporation?

If you have any questions please email us directly at kaya@wagylkaip.org.au.

wagylkaip.org.au/share-your-ideas

2023 AGM

The WКСN AGM will be held in Kojunup on Saturday 18th November.

We currently have 1170 members, and we want to keep growing. If you or your family haven't joined yet please go to our website now, in time for the AGM.

wagylkaip.org.au/join



Members of the cultural advice committee discussing the land estate