



## GURRUMUL YUNUPINGU FOUNDATION

### 2018-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

PO Box 36068 Winnellie NT 0821 • ABN: 25 163 166 283 • ACN: 163 166 283

## **BUSINESS OVERVIEW**

Business name: Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation (GYF)

Business structure: Australian Public Company

ABN: 25 163 166 283

ACN: 163 166 283

Business location: 11 Voyager St, Stuart Park, PO Box 36068, Winnellie NT 0821

Date established: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013

### **Directors**

Mark Grose (Chairperson and Public Officer) appointed 2013

Michael Hohnen appointed 2013

Barbara Pitman appointed 2013

Professor Fiona Stanley AC appointed 2014

Damian Trotter appointed 2015

### **Committee of Management**

Mark Grose (Chairperson) appointed 2013

Michael Hohnen appointed 2013

Barbara Pitman appointed 2013

## **SERVICES**

The Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation provides a single service – to identify, support and resource the development of arts and cultural programs that enable remote young Indigenous people to contribute to culturally vibrant and sustainable communities.

The programs are community designed and driven, targeting the natural talents of remote young Indigenous people. It is expected that there will be very high participation rates and ongoing demand.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

The Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation's vision is to create greater opportunities for remote young Indigenous people to realise their full potential, and contribute to culturally vibrant and sustainable communities.

## **ROLE**

The role of the Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation is to identify, support and resource the development of arts and cultural programs that enable remote young Indigenous people to contribute to vibrant and sustainable communities.

## KEY PRINCIPLES

The Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation believes that change can be achieved through adherence to key principles as points of difference from much current service delivery. All the Foundation programs must:

- Be community devised and driven, with long-term planning and longevity always the goal.
- Value the importance of community languages, the inherent cultural knowledge they embrace, and celebrate their use.
- Employ Indigenous artists and trainers, especially from the local communities involved in the program, alongside guest/visiting artists, specialists and trainers.
- Ensure that guest program leaders have appropriate cross-cultural awareness and knowledge, and the support of local language speakers on the ground.
- Build community capacity to continue activities, so skills remain in the community and ultimately lower the cost of delivery in remote locations. Goals and Objectives
- Find new approaches and solutions to the well documented, serious social effects of poverty, disadvantage, ill health, limited education and employment opportunities in remote Indigenous communities.
- Enable community involvement in the development of Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation funded programs, to determine what they want, and what they are interested in.
- Commit to long-term relationships and programs within communities, avoiding the one-off or 'fly-in fly-out' delivered outside local perspectives and needs.
- Ensure all Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation activities and programs are informed by the needs and aspirations of young Indigenous people and community leaders.
- Provide opportunities in areas where young Indigenous people might excel, and build on existing knowledge and capacities such as multi-media, IT, dance and music, arts and design, land care and conservation, cultural tourism as well as languages/interpreting (since most are multilingual).
- Compile evidence on social outcomes and benefits, collected from community networks, the wider community and service providers (e.g. local schools and health clinics).
- Provide evidence that young people are devising and initiating their own activities and engaging with community networks to secure their delivery by the Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation.

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The past few years have thrown up some significant challenges to the Foundation in delivering existing and new programs to remote communities.

Just as we were building momentum with Barunga Beats, The Children's Songs project and Mowanjum Festival workshops, Covid struck, and programs were cancelled for 2020.

The NT and WA governments restricted non-essential work and travel into remote communities which halted Barunga Beats, and the Mowanjum workshops. The Children's Songs project was re-configured so that we were able to work with remote community members who were living temporarily in Darwin.

Barunga Beats is back up and running and the program will be expanded to cover an additional 8 visits to the Barunga community over the next 18 months. The Children's Songs project is about to re-engage with the targeted remote communities of Galiwin'ku and Gunbalanya. Mowanjum culture and dance workshops for young people are not happening this year, due to the uncertainty around border closures.

The Foundation is emerging from an uncertain time in a better position than we expected. However, we should expect an altered working environment across the broader community sector. The following extract from a recent report refers to some of these changes.

*The COVID-19 Community Sector Impact Survey by Our Community, in partnership with Salesforce, which builds on previous findings from April 2020, surveyed 907 NFP representatives and 1,027 members of the public to examine the impact of the pandemic on the sector and what's needed to recover. It is one the biggest and most important surveys on the sector in the past few years. Key findings in the 40-page report include:*

- *Demand for not-for-profit services is up*
- *Volunteering has been severely disrupted with no signs of an early recovery*
- *Fundraising remains down, with some glimmers of hope*
- *A bounce-back in staffing should be expected*
- *Organisations are investing more in training and digital technology*
- *Not-for-profits are more optimistic now than they were 12 months ago*
- *There's greater community awareness of the work of not-for-profits*
- *Some groups have responded to the pandemic by diversifying revenue*
- *There is a renewed focus on governance and strategic planning*
- *Only 7% of groups see climate changes as a top challenge.*

*Yet there are opportunities flagged in the findings, as community awareness of the sectors work rises, and Australians indicate a willingness to help, with 37percent saying they will give more time and money in the year ahead.*

However, the Foundation's most pressing need is access to enough funding to build a sustainable operational base for the organisation.

We are looking forward to the future as we believe the most significant challenges presented by Covid 19 are behind us and we can concentrate our efforts on delivering an expanded program across remote communities.

Mark Grose

Chairperson

June 2021

## DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Over the last three years the world has changed in ways that none of us could have imagined. The Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation, like many other not for profit organisations, finds itself in unchartered territory. However, people's love for Gurrumul and his music is strong, and that is reflected in their continued support.

Despite the restrictions flowing from a global pandemic there has been a steady flow of donations, most of this through the website. The website is the Foundation's major communications tool and continues to attract significant traffic. It is kept in good working order with expert advice from Nico Liengme. Nico provided support and expertise during the developmental phase and continues to use his advanced design and IT skills to keep the site vibrant and relevant.

This is an opportunity to mention some of the other people who work quietly in the background to provide infrastructure and support for the day to day work of the Foundation. They have, all of them, been with us from the beginning

Paul Ryan of Arwana Design provides the Foundation's email service and troubleshoots across a range of areas, alerting the Foundation to issues of security, changes to legislation, ownership of domain name and dozens of other things we need to know about what goes on in cyberspace.

Michele Hughes is the Foundation's Finance Manager. Her hard work, diligence and forensic attention to detail is reflected in smooth, uneventful end of year financial audits.

Because health and safety has been paramount there has been little activity in the arts and cultural program development and delivery area. Travel restrictions, particularly to remote Indigenous communities has, until recently, prevented any face to face activity.

But there is movement at the station.

The Barunga Festival will be happening this year on June 11-13. Barunga has been the performance venue for many of the Foundation's programs and the Beats mob will once again be rocking the disco at the festival.

**Barunga Beats** is arguably the most successful program that the Foundation has supported and helped nurture to date. The program was initially the idea of Ben Andrews, the music teacher at the Barunga School. In 2015, a partnership was formed between the school and the Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation. The students are involved in musical activity throughout the school year, with the Foundation providing additional workshops leading up to the Barunga Festival. The skills of the young musicians are showcased during the disco, which is a huge draw card for locals and visitors.

Barunga Beats has been featured on the Foundation's website as a specific appeal and donations have exceeded the \$15,000 target. The \$19,000 donated so far will cover

workshop expenses for this group for the next two years. We will now shine the spotlight on Children's Songs and feature that as our main appeal.

**Children's Songs** is an exciting initiative in early stages of development. The purpose of the project is to research and record children's songs from a range of remote Indigenous communities. Michael Hohnen and Justine Clarke will be travelling to communities to speak to people about identifying songs, understanding their stories and significance, and gaining permission to record. The overall budget for the project is in excess of \$200,000. Only a fraction of this has been received to date, but enough for work to begin this year.

Finally, I want to thank our current Directors for your patience and understanding and ongoing support of the Foundation.

Barbara Pitman

Deputy Chairperson

June 2021

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

The Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation finished the 2020 financial year with a surplus of \$24,371. Increasing the net equity position to \$185,128.

Overall, the Foundation's total revenue for the year was \$66,813, which was 49% lower than the previous year, however much of this was attributed to less Grant Funding for Projects and COVID. Funding from Donations increased by 167% compared with previous year, however Royalties decreased substantially by 75%.

Donations received was 55% of the total revenue, with Grant funding being 34%, followed by royalties at 11%. The Grant funding received this year (2020) is to be used for Barunga Festival in 2021 which was cancelled due to COVID. Funding from prior years yet to be expended is to be used for the Children's songs project.

Operational Expenditure for the Foundation decreased by 32% whilst project expenditure was virtually none, due to COVID in the 2020 calendar year.

