



GURRUMUL YUNUPINGU FOUNDATION

**2015 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 Indigenous young people to contribute to culturally vibrant and sustainable communities.

The programs are community designed and driven, targeting the natural talents of remote Indigenous young 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 Indigenous young 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 Indigenous young 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

- Finding 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.
- Enabling community involvement in the development of Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation funded programs to determine what they want, and what they are interested in.
- Commitment 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 Indigenous young 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 year 2015 has been another challenging one for the Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation, during which, Gurrumul's serious medical problems cast a large shadow. It was a stark reminder of how easily chronic health conditions could bring to an end his career as a performer, and the world's enjoyment of his magical voice. Fortunately, he is supported by good friends and professionals, who were prepared to speak out when it was clear that he needed a level of health care that was not being provided. It is a stark reminder of how vulnerable many Indigenous people are, living as they do with chronic disease, far from the delivery of essential health services.

We thank all of you who sent best wishes, who offered help, who spoke out, and who continue to support his Foundation.

The challenging environment in which we operated last year remains with us. The economic environment is still complex, the political environment is more highly charged and less stable and our social fabric is being tested as never before.

More important then, to continue to build the Foundation, as a legacy for Gurrumul and an instrument for development and change. The Foundation's donor base continues to grow and new partnerships with agencies including Sunrise Health and the Red Cross enabled us to develop and present a vibrant arts and cultural program in 2015.

The Foundation is still caught in the circular argument, which always comes back to a lack of operational funding. It is crucial that operational funding be secured in 2016. It is difficult to see how the Foundation can continue to operate if this is not secured.

It continues to be difficult to reach out to remote communities, with many of the government and funding agency programs linked to school attendance and employment. The Foundation's point of difference is that it seeks to engage with all young people, many of them already falling through the cracks and not qualifying for the targeted programs.

It is important to remember why we are doing this, particularly when the going is tough and we become preoccupied with the business side of things. Gurrumul wants us to find ways to identify and gather up those young Indigenous people in communities who need specific arts and cultural programs designed to amplify their creative talents. This is the gift we can give them, the opportunity to break out of a future based on other people's perceptions of their worth, to one based on their creative strengths and self-worth.

The Foundation was fortunate to secure the services of Gillian Harrison as the Acting Executive Officer during 2015. Her hard work, attention to donor stewardship and capacity to identify funding opportunities was fundamental to the Foundation's achievements during the year. I acknowledge the generous support of other directors of the board and our loyal pro-bono workers. Thank you for your efforts during 2015.

Mark T Grose

Chairman

August 2015

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

It was a privilege to act in the position of Executive Officer of the Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation from late May to November 2015 following the resignation of Penny Arrow. Penny's work along with the Board had laid the essential building blocks and systems for this new organisation so it has been very rewarding to support the growth of the Foundation's donor base, partnerships with philanthropic and government funders and delivery of valuable programs that involve and benefit Indigenous young people in remote communities.

The number of donors has steadily increased with development and updates of the Foundation's website, through distribution of e-newsletters to an increasing number of subscribers as well as posts on the Foundation's Facebook page. With all of these cross-linked to Gurrumul's own website and Facebook page the Foundation has brought in new interest in its programs and new subscribers from within his music fan base. The growth in income from donors is reflected in the 2015 financial figures.

The newsletter continues to be a strategic communication tool for the Foundation despite discontinuation of the PR company's contract due to lack of funding. The e-news is currently produced in-house with pro bono support. It highlights new initiatives, good news stories, program and project outcomes. These stories were also loaded on to our entry in Pro Bono's Guide to Giving, a valuable site for donors seeking charities that match their interests.

Much time was spent reviewing and amending donor and subscriber databases to verify and update contact details, include new additions and remove duplication. Where possible donors were engaged face to face and by phone as well as through Gurrumul's national 'Gospel Songs' tour where there were opportunities to meet or communicate with philanthropic supporters, extend our networks and promote the work of the Foundation. Several social media campaigns assisted fundraising efforts and sales of merchandise signed by Gurrumul have always been popular and brought results.

We were delighted by, and certainly appreciated, the special efforts of the NAIDOC Committee of the Dept. of Human Services in Darwin who identified Gurrumul's Foundation as their local charity of choice. Their fundraising project with workmates led to the best workplace giving donation we have received. They also kindly invited us to share their official NAIDOC lunch. A fine effort by DOHS and with Gurrumul away on tour his friend Fabian Kantilla from band B2M came with me to receive the cheque.

Of most importance of course are the projects that the Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation delivers to fulfil the vision of creating greater opportunities for remote Indigenous young people to realize their full potential and contribute to their communities. To this end there were several grants applied for, funding of past projects reported on and acquitted, and then hands-on management of successful projects delivered across the very busy months from mid-June to early November. Many of these projects gave us opportunities to bring in new partners, new funding and in-kind support.

The Foundation was again a partner with Barunga Festival which provided the highlight performances for our continuing project 'Barunga Beats' in collaboration with Barunga school, its music teacher Ben Andrews and students. James Mangohig for the Foundation has delivered this very popular and successful program of song writing, beat-making, rehearsing and performance since 2014 and the performances at Barunga are a Festival highlight for young people, particularly when their music heroes like B2M band members join them on stage and help out.

The Young Women's Self Esteem project, formerly with Katherine YMCA and showcasing at Barunga Festival, in 2015 extended to more specialized, longer term support for young women through new partner Sunrise Health Service Aboriginal Corporation which works in remote communities in the Katherine region. The purpose of the project is to engage Indigenous girls and young women in a culturally appropriate safe place to build confidence, skills and knowledge, to strengthen their cultural connections and commitment to a healthy and safe lifestyle. Social and emotional well-being camps had been organised in several remote area locations for young women and then everyone came together from many communities for a final women's gathering at the Katherine campus of Charles Darwin University. As well as elders and Aboriginal Health Workers, two musician/theatre facilitators worked with participants to explore important health and personal issues through playback theatre and song writing. Sunrise Health keeps in contact with participants in their remote community clinics and all involved called for continuation of projects like this to empower and inform more young women in remote areas.

We appreciate the wonderful work of Sunrise Health, the funding support of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation (Eldon and Anne Foote – Donor Advised Fund) and the Westpac Foundation and in-kind support from Spotlight stores for this valuable project. Gurrumul's home town of Galiwin'ku on Elcho Island was significantly destroyed by Cyclones Lam and Nathan in early 2015. Many lost their homes or had them seriously damaged and much infrastructure was wrecked. After people spending most of the year in difficult conditions, living in hot and humid tents on the sports oval, later in demountable buildings, the Foundation was committed to providing some positive activities for the community and young people in particular.

The Foundation partnered again with Miwatj Health's Ngalkanbuy Clinic to present the Galiwin'ku Healthy Lifestyle Festival with a week's program of health and wellbeing activities, a disco for young people and two Cyclone Recovery Concerts featuring a number of well-known bands from across NE Arnhem Land along with several emerging young bands and dance groups. This was the first chance in 2015 after hard times for families in the community to come together and enjoy their own music and culture. The concert plan, all directed and presented by local Festival leaders, changed focus and size over time to finally present the two big nights of concerts as a tribute to the late Dr Gumbula. He was a highly respected and well known Yolngu elder and musician from the pioneering Soft Sands Band and many musicians and bands from as far away as Numbulwar, Yirrkala, Milingimbi came to Galiwin'ku to perform and pay their respects.

A highlight in the lead up to the Festival was a program of hands-on training and professional mentoring for young people in music, technical skills and stage and event management. Funded by Red Cross this involved 19 young people, 7 of whom who did a great job working consistently in these roles for the disco, concerts and other events. They are now a valuable resource for the community for presentation of their own concerts in Galiwin'ku. Several young people stepped up to try taking over the MC roles, as well as considering Festival Committee membership and leadership into the future. The Galiwin'ku Healthy Lifestyle Festival has always been unique in that it is directed and presented for and by the community in Yolngu Matha with English rarely heard from the stage.

Funding from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal enabled us to bring a professional PA system and music equipment from Darwin and engage appropriate trainers along with local event trainee workers, Thanks also to Seaswift for providing free barge transport. The support and involvement of other organisations such as Arnhem Land Progress Association, Miwatj Health, East Arnhem Regional Council and RJCP program, local Police and Skinnyfish Music was very much appreciated and crucial to the Festival's success.

The Foundation's work is highly significant in filling gaps where few other organisations work with such community-driven and directed projects for young people over the long term, building and maintaining well-established relationships in remote areas as the basis for collaboration. With funding agencies and foundations interested in our work, interested in supporting such valuable projects, the ongoing struggle is to secure a stable financial base for management of the Foundation. Currently much work and expertise is provided pro bono by those committed to the vision of the Foundation but this cannot always be guaranteed and can never be totally satisfactory. The considerable generous support from Skinnyfish Music is crucial and must be acknowledged. However, the Foundation's potential is severely limited by the continual need to seek funding for staff so projects can be managed and

delivered efficiently, for the operations of the Foundation to be secure to allow the full extent and capacity of private sector support and funding for its work to be realised.

Gillian Harrison

Acting Executive Officer

Gurumul Yunupingu Foundation

August 2016



## ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAM

### Concerts at Galiwin'ku Healthy Lifestyle Festival



Two great concerts, and a disco, were held as the finale to the Galiwin'ku Healthy Lifestyle Festival on Elcho Island, Gurrumul's home, in early October. The Foundation was delighted to help make it happen and see a huge turnout of all ages. This was really the first chance for the community to come together and enjoy their music and culture since before the cyclones devastated the Island earlier in 2015.

The cyclones Lam/Nathan recovery concert changed focus and size over time to become two solid nights of concerts as a tribute to the late Dr Gumbula. He was a highly respected and well-known Yolngu elder and musician from the pioneering Soft Sands Band. Dr Gumbula was also a leading authority on major collections of material culture from Arnhem Land and had held senior research and advisory positions at both Sydney and Melbourne Universities.

The formal tribute commenced as the family of Dr Gumbula led a procession to the stage, followed by speeches, bungul (traditional dances) and a special performance of his most famous song 'Djiliwirri'.

Soft Sands had inspired a younger generation of famous musicians like Yothu Yindi, Warumpi lead singer GR Burarrwanga and Gurrumul. Though their numbers have diminished they performed at the concerts with other legendary contemporary music pioneers like Dick Munungu. Four Elcho bands joined others from North East Arnhem Land communities who travelled hundreds of kilometres to perform in tribute. Well-known groups like Yilila from Numbulwar, Wirrinnya from Milingimbi, musicians from Ramingining and the

younger Barra from Yirrkala all performed over two long nights. Djuki Mala (Chooky Dancers) along with many other young dance groups performed to mark their respect.

Both nights were programmed and directed by senior Galiwin'ku Festival Committee members and presented by local MCs in Yolngu Matha. For the first time some younger people stepped up to share the MC role, and others worked during the week with the production team.

Many thanks to the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation in partnership with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal for funding the concerts along with support from Red Cross, Miwatj Health, Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation and many other local organisations.









## Remote Young Women's Program



The Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation has partnered with the Sunrise Health Service Aboriginal Corporation in the Katherine region to work with young Indigenous women from remote communities. The program, funded by the Westpac Foundation and the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation (Eldon and Anne Foote – Donor Advised Fund) organised social and emotional well- being camps and then brought everyone together for a final community women's gathering. The purpose was to engage Indigenous girls and young women from remote communities. The program, funded by the Westpac Foundation and the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation (Eldon and Anne Foote – Donor Advised Fund)

organised social and emotional well-being camps and then brought everyone together for a final community women's gathering. The purpose was to engage Indigenous girls and young women in a safe culturally appropriate place to build confidence, skills and knowledge that strengthens their cultural connections and commitment to a healthy and safe lifestyle.











Katherine is 320 kilometers south of Darwin and the main service area for many remote communities. The camps were held in the remote communities of Ngukurr

(330 kilometers from Katherine), Minyerri (270 kilometers) and Bulman (315 kilometers) with some young women from Jilkminggan and Mataranka involved as well. Participants in all activities included young and older women to ensure cultural safety and respect.

There were information sessions on sexual health and safe behaviours and a strong focus on general health, nutrition and fitness. Specific information was provided on diabetes, other chronic diseases and the importance of regular check-ups. At the camps everyone enjoyed hunting and fishing, learning about the health benefits of bush food, and then cooking and eating together.

The final women's gathering in Katherine was held at the Charles Darwin University Rural Campus. Professional Indigenous musician and theatre worker Ally Mills and young professional musician/songwriter from Katherine Serina Pech facilitated workshops about self-awareness, confidence and assertive behaviour, dealing with peer pressure and risks of social media. In play back theatre sessions the young women further explored issues by playing out real situations and alternative ways of approaching them.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Gurumul Yunupingu Foundation Financial Report 2015

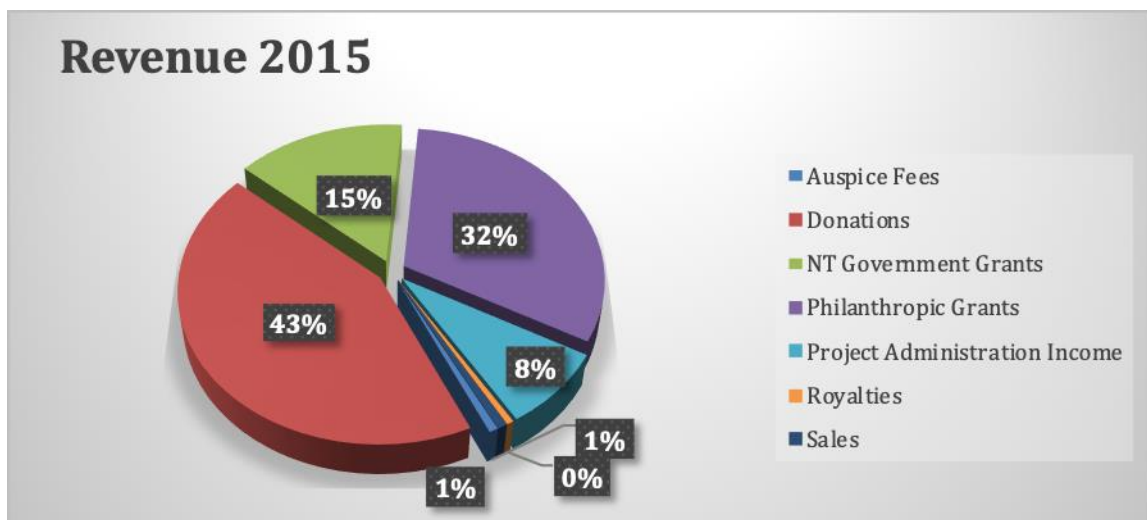
The Gurumul Yunupingu Foundation finished the year ending December 31 2015 with a net equity position of \$ 76,103.61. This balance is the net result of cash in the bank plus debtors, less liabilities.

The profit for the year for the foundation was \$8,047.63 which is significantly lower than the previous financial report however, it should be noted that the previous financial reporting period included in excess of 12 months (April 2013 to December 2014).

The total revenue for the Foundation for 2015 was \$134,218 which was down by 49%. This was mainly due to receiving the Australian Business Grant and sponsorships in the previous financial reporting period, however government funding from the Northern Territory Government and royalties also decreased.

Donations however, increased by 19.6% and was the dominant income stream for the year, being 43% of the total revenue received.

Wage costs were also lower than the previous reporting period mainly due to fewer projects undertaken. Also, to be noted, 100% of wage costs in the 2014 year were costed against projects including the Plus 1 project, compared with 40% being recouped through project administration in the 2015 financial year, resulting in 60% being expensed against operational costs.



## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

*Promote Gurrumul's vision, inspire and be inspired by remote indigenous young people, share in the excitement and celebrate success*

FOCUS AREAS	2014	2015	2016
Board Directors Community Advisory Network Members Donors Partnerships Programs Communications Human Resources Research Public Relations	Develop and implement systems that ensure good governance  Identify, engage with and recruit board directors, community reference group members, philanthropic and corporate donors and creative partners  Identify, support, and resource arts and cultural programs that embody the vision, role and key principles of the Foundation	Develop research partnerships and investigate areas that will advance the Foundation's vision  Increase the geographic scope of the Foundation's programs by developing creative partnerships where there are natural synergies  Strengthen the Foundation's operating base and expand its support network  Exploit technology to achieve exemplary communication with all stakeholders	Evaluate and review programs, adjust to achieve better outcomes for participants and renegotiate with funding partners  Review all policies, procedures and priorities and adjust to accommodate changed funding and partnership environments  Publish research findings

