



# **GURRUMUL YUNUPINGU FOUNDATION**

## **2021 - 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

PO Box 36068 Winnellie NT 0821 • ABN: 25 163 166 283 • ACN: 163 166 2

# BUSINESS OVERVIEW

Business name: Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation (GYF)

Business structure: Australian Public Company

ABN: 25 163 166 283

ACN: 163 166 283

Business location: L1 66 Smith St Darwin 0800, PO Box 36068, Winnellie NT 0821

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

## Directors

Rob Collins appointed 2018

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 AND MISSION STATEMENTS

### Vision

The Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation's vision is to alleviate poverty, ill-health and substance abuse, disadvantage, lack of education and employment opportunities, bullying and youth suicide in remote communities.

### Mission

Our mission is to carry out and achieve our vision by engaging young people in remote communities in activities that build on their strengths, enable them to contribute to culturally vibrant and sustainable communities and give them hope for the future.

# 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 in what they are interested.
- 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

Despite thinking we were done with the COVID-19 years, the Foundation has continued to face difficulties in delivering existing and new programs to remote communities.

Remote communities in the Northern Territory were inaccessible until late May 2022. However, because the Foundation has such longstanding relationships, we were able to deliver Barunga Beats, our longest running sustainable program. The Foundation's website appeal for this initiative exceeded the target amount of \$15,000. This ensures the delivery of the program for at least the next two years.

Interest in the Foundation's programs remains high, particularly in the communities in which we have previously worked and developed trusting relationships. Many organisations within these communities are slowly emerging from a COVID fog and have expressed an interest in working collaboratively with the Foundation in the future.

We were encouraged by the participation of young people at the recent Barunga Festival. I know Gurrumul would have loved seeing the Yidaki competition which was judged by George Rurrumbu's son. Events like this are always popular but their importance and impact go way beyond just entertainment. They contain elements that reference role modelling, celebrating on country, and keeping culture strong.

Even though the Children's Song project has been delayed, the potential for this project to connect young families with elders is immense. We know that interest has been sustained over the quiet period and that belief in its importance and relevance is still there.

This year has provided more than our fair share of challenges. Things have moved slowly for some time. However, the Foundation is picking up the pace and moving in a positive direction.

I sometimes feel that Gurrumul still throws me the old curve ball to navigate and that is how it should be. We are looking forward to the future and feel we have a solid foundation on which to build.

Thank you to the many people who have continued to support the Foundation during this difficult time.

My thanks also to the Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation Board Directors for their tenacity and wise counsel.

**Mark Grose**  
**Chairperson**  
**Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation**  
**September 2022**

# PROJECT UPDATE

## Barunga Beats

Despite the difficulties surrounding the COVID-19 years 2020 to 2022, the Barunga Festival was able to be staged on 15 August 2022. This festival is a significant cultural event held annually in the Barunga community, on Jarwoyn Country. It attracts people from across the Northern Territory, interstate and overseas. Significantly, the audience and the artistic line-up includes large numbers of Aboriginal people from surrounding and culturally connected communities within the Northern Territory and across state and territory borders.

Barunga has always provided a culturally safe and welcoming venue for the showcasing of the Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation's projects. Unfortunately, this year there was only one project on offer from the Foundation, the heart-warming Barunga Beats. Barunga Beats is now in its seventh year and this year, entirely funded with public donations through the Foundation's website.

Barunga Beats grew out of a music program offered within the Barunga School. Following the initial success of the initiative, the Foundation became a partner with the school. This partnership introduced additional expertise and equipment which enabled the program to be extended to accommodate young people of the community, outside of the school population.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

Barunga Beats now runs the legendary disco at the festival, giving the young musicians an opportunity to strut their stuff and show off their not inconsiderable skills.

This year, five workshops were held in the community during the two weeks before the festival. There were 37 participants from years 7 to 12. In the older age group, young women outnumbered young men 8 to 4. This was particularly encouraging given previous years where girls and young women were reluctant to join up.

Skills and technical development covered in the workshops included:

- How to run a DJ set
- Selecting the playlist
- Audio routing.

On the final night, workshop participants were able to demonstrate their skills but essentially it was three of the young women who took charge and efficiently ran the disco.

Thank you to Clarence Playford who conducted the workshops and provided information in his comprehensive report.

## **Indigenous Children's Songs Project**

After a lengthy interruption to the Children's Songs project due to COVID-19 restrictions, the show is, once again, on the road.

Despite the inability to connect in person with the communities, there is still much interest in the initiative. Michael Hohnen recently travelled to Galiwin'ku in Northeast Arnhem Land where he spent time with a group of six older women, who have connections with the community preschool, coordinated by the preschool principal Meg. This was immediately following the COVID restrictions lifting, so understandably there was hesitancy, but there was also interest in giving recognition to this project.

The project has secured the involvement of Jill Nganjmirra, and the younger members of her family, which includes members of Wildflower Band, one of the only female bands in the Northern Territory. The band is very keen to collaborate on the Children's Songs initiative.

A linguist has contacted the project team and has offered support with the Kunwinjku songs. Up to 13 songs have been identified which, if produced in a similar style to The White Cockatoo song, could make an incredible children's album.

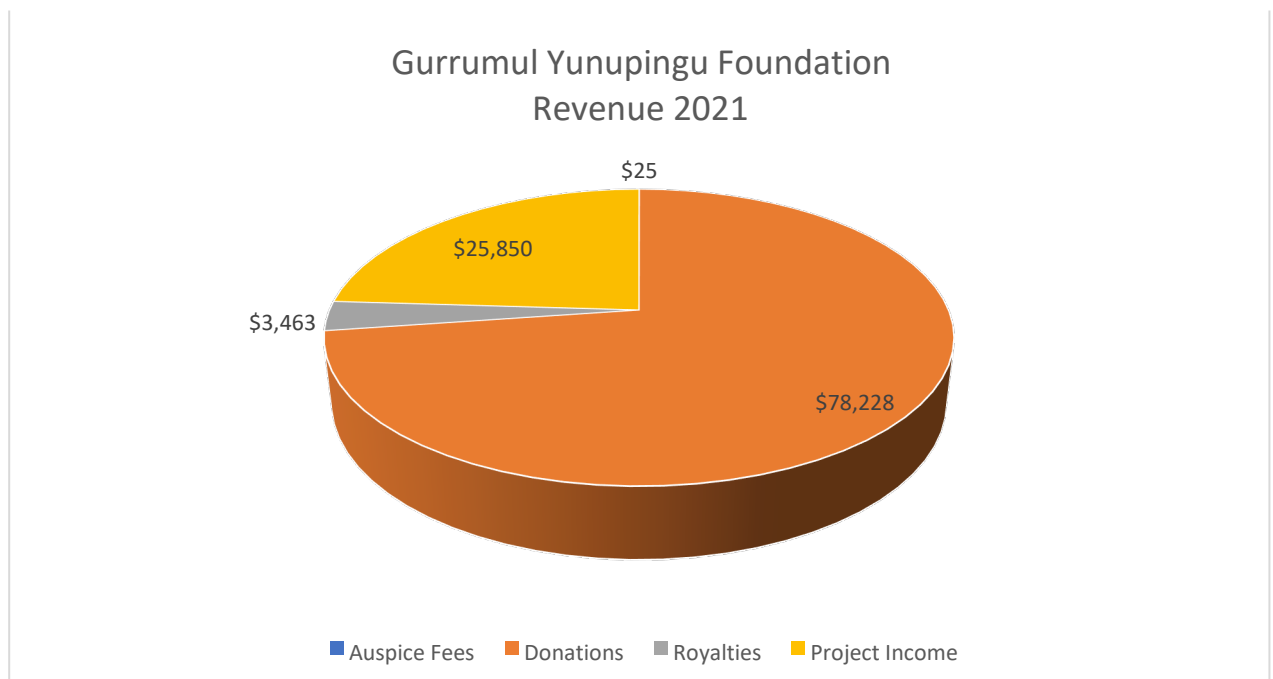
**Barbara Pitman**  
**Deputy Chairperson**  
**Gurumul Yunupingu Foundation**  
**September 2022**

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

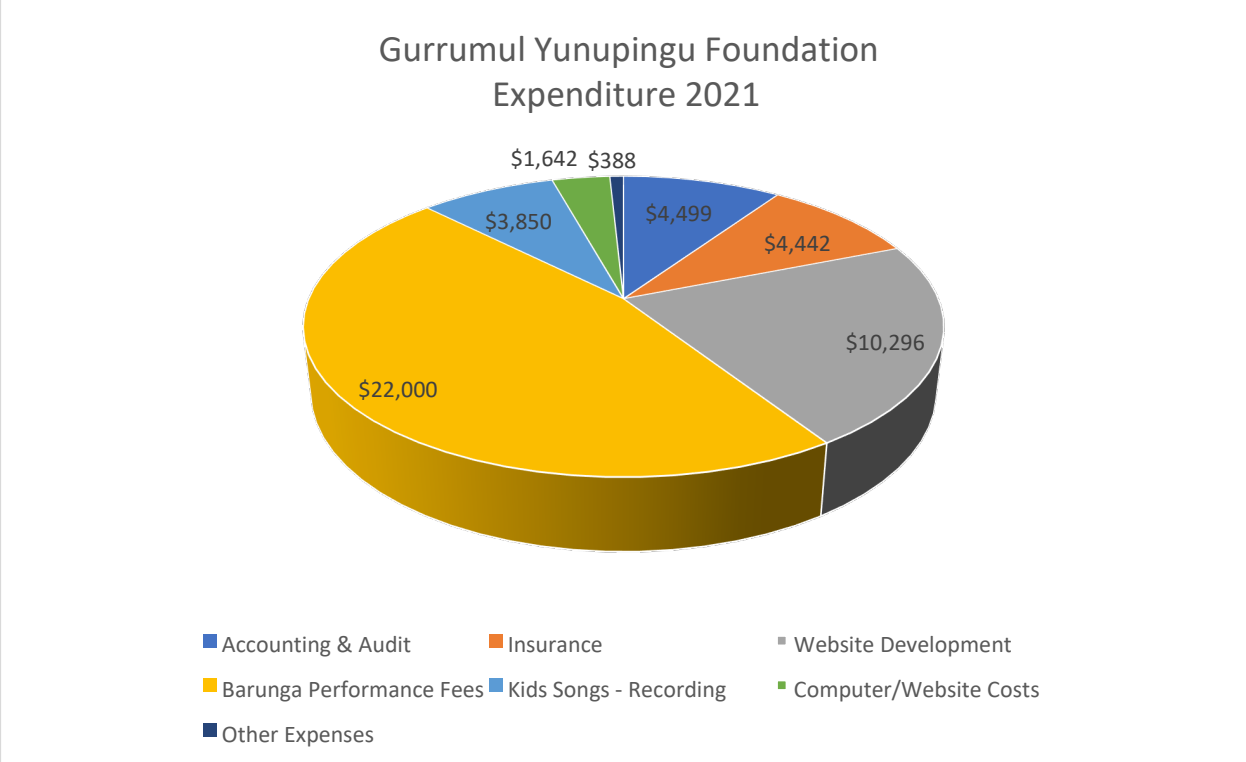
The Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation finished the 2021 financial year with a surplus of \$60,449 (2020 - \$24,371) increasing the net equity position to \$245,577 (2020 - \$185,128).

The Foundation's cash position at 31 December 2021 increased to \$294,968 (2020 - \$263,953) whilst liability for unexpended grants reduced to \$52,975 (2020 - \$78,825)

The Foundation's total revenue for the year was \$107,566 (2020 - \$49,061) and was made up as follows:



Operational expenditure for the Foundation increased marginally by 1.7%, excluding Barunga Festival costs of \$22,000, and was made up as follows:





# FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

The Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation finished the 2022 financial year with a surplus of \$26,714 (2021: \$24,371), increasing the net equity position to \$245,974 (2021: \$245,577).

The Foundation's cash position as at 31 December 2022 increased to \$321,682 (2021: \$294,968) and liability for unexpended grants increased to \$78,739 (2021: \$52,975).

Overall, the Foundation's total revenue for the year was \$46,289 (2021: \$107,566), which was 43% lower than the previous year.

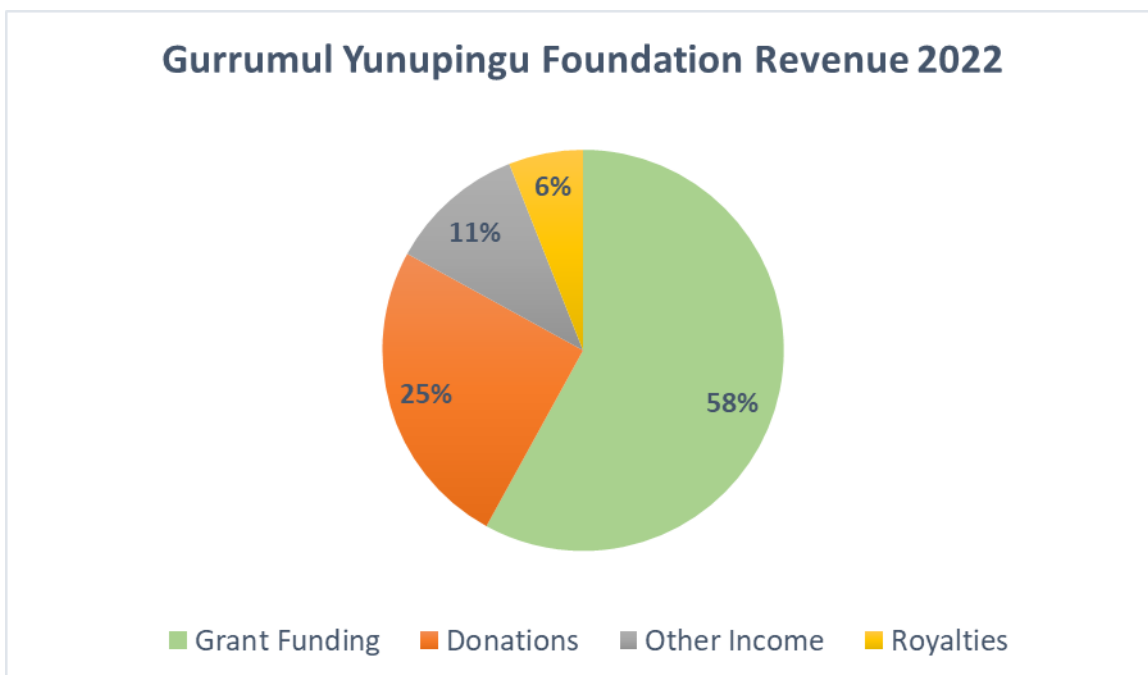
Much of this is attributed to fewer donations and grant funding applications for projects.

Applications for funding were limited as the Foundation has a project (Indigenous Children's Song) still to complete, and website donations in 2021 were sufficient to cover the Barunga Beats program for two years.

Royalties increased by 100%. This high increase is due to royalties not being attributed in 2021.

## Revenue

Grant funding received made up 58% of the total revenue, donations being 25%, other income was 11%, followed by royalties at 6%.



The Grant funding received this year was to support the Indigenous Children’s Song project, together with the unexpended grant funds carried forward totalling - \$78,739.

### Expenditure

Operational expenditure for the Foundation totalled: \$14,194, excluding Barunga Beats program costs of \$5, 934. This was a 33% decrease from the previous year (2021: \$22,000).

