

CAPITALISING ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Proceedings of a five-day Aboriginal workshop and associated
cultural tours conducted in Broome, Western Australia
2-6 August 2004



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WORKSHOP STEERING COMMITTEE

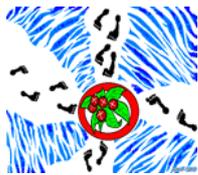
Dennis Batty, Terry (Koodah) Cornwall, Kathy Edgar, Louis Evans, Kelvin Flugge Wendy Smith, Rob Thomas, Kerry Worth, Jenna Zed.

WORKSHOP FACILITATOR

Joe Ross, Bunuba Community.

SPONSORS

Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation
WA Department of Education and Training
Curtin University (Centre for Sustainable Mine Lakes)
Djaringo Pty Ltd
Indigenous Land Corporation
Kullarri Employment
Lotteries West
WA Department of Industry and Resources (Office of Aboriginal Economic Development)



NIRRUMBUK ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



Australian Government

Indigenous Land Corporation



EDITORS

The Broome Workshop Proceedings were compiled by Wendy Smith, WA Department of Education and Professor Louis Evans, Curtin University and edited by Dennis Batty, Terry (Koodah) Cornwall, Kathy Edgar, Louis Evans, Kelvin Flugge Joe Ross, Wendy Smith, Rob Thomas, Kerry Worth, Jenna Zed and Melanie Boyd.

OVERVIEW

Description

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are conducting successful natural resource enterprises in a range of areas including tourism, bush foods and aquaculture, while others are seeking to develop an enterprise. This Proceedings describes the discussions and outcomes of a workshop on Indigenous natural resource enterprises held in Broome, Western Australia in August, 2004. The workshop pulled together Aboriginal people and professionals from across Western Australia and beyond, to focus on the significant issues impacting upon the future development of Aboriginal natural resource enterprises within the state of Western Australia.

The workshop was convened by a Steering Committee comprising representatives from Aboriginal organizations, Government agencies and research and advocacy groups (Appendix 1). Over sixty people, mostly Aboriginal, participated in the two-day workshop (Appendix 2). Following the formal workshop sessions, a three-day tour was conducted of Aboriginal enterprises on the Dampier Peninsula. The tour allowed participants to talk with Aboriginal entrepreneurs from the Kullarri region and share experiences and ideas with one another.

The workshop provided the opportunity for people to come together and share their knowledge and experience in natural resource enterprises. The workshop format of structured discussions and presentations around central themes followed by plenary and planning sessions allowed for informed debate from an Indigenous perspective on issues of central importance to the development of Aboriginal enterprises.

The vision for the workshop was:

Indigenous employment and enterprise through natural resources, science and traditional knowledge systems

Workshop sessions were held on four key topic areas:

1. Strategic planning for Aboriginal natural resource enterprise development;
2. Culturally appropriate education and training for traditional knowledge and Aboriginal natural resource enterprise development;
3. Legal protection for traditional knowledge of natural resources;
4. Role of agencies in the development of natural resource enterprises.

Attendees rotated between discussion groups on the four topics and key issues or comments made by each group were recorded and collated. These workshops were followed by a strategic planning session in which the major issues and comments were discussed and recommendations for future action formulated.

This Proceedings provides an overview of the event and details the recommendations that were made in the final plenary session.



Map of Dampier Peninsula shown the businesses toured.

Workshop aims and objectives

The aims of the workshop were to: 1) promote Indigenous employment and enterprise development through capitalising on natural resources, traditional knowledge and community based education, training and work programs; and 2) contribute to the overall goal of Indigenous people being engaged in owning and operating businesses based on traditional knowledge.

The workshop objectives were to:

- Showcase sustainable Western Australian Indigenous enterprises based on natural resources and traditional knowledge.
- Share knowledge and information on fostering Indigenous employment and enterprise initiatives based on the use and/or management of natural resources
- Facilitate a coordinated approach to education and training programs for Indigenous employment and enterprise development initiatives based on natural resources and traditional knowledge.

- Make recommendations for community based approaches to education and training for employment and enterprise in the natural resources area.
- Promote the establishment of working networks for Indigenous peoples engaged in natural resource enterprise and employment.
- Engage Community Development Employment Programs in training and enterprise development within the natural resources area.

Summaries of group discussions

Group 1: Strategic planning for Aboriginal natural resource enterprise development

There was overall support for establishing a self managed corporation to represent and promote Aboriginal Natural Resource Enterprise (ANRE) in Western Australia. The corporation should have a Board of Directors comprising members who are culturally appropriate, accountable to company shareholders and have appropriate knowledge and skills for the task ('must be the right people'). Legal, finance, policy development and 'success in obtaining grant funds would be essential knowledge and skill areas, some of which could be sourced through advisors.

The key roles of this group would be to:

- Promote, coordinate and represent Aboriginal natural resource enterprise development within Western Australia
- Develop a five year plan that identifies appropriate education and training approaches, protocols for protection of intellectual property, sound strategies for working with government and procedures/practices for sustainable business development.
- Seek funding from a range of sources to provide seed capital for new and existing Aboriginal natural resource enterprises
- Provide advice and assistance to Aboriginal people involved or seeking to become involved in natural resource enterprises
- Establish a communication network for Aboriginal natural resource enterprise (website, email contact group, list of funding opportunities)

Group 2: Culturally appropriate education and training for traditional knowledge and Aboriginal natural resource enterprise development

The key issues that emerged from the group discussions can be summarised as follows:

- Engage good teachers - Some trainers exhibit unacceptable attitudes
- Engage Aboriginal Elders in training - involve Aboriginal people in the training program
- Culturally appropriate assessments are required

- Flexibility in delivery is required - If you are working in Aboriginal education you need to be aware that everything is different for different groups
- There is a lack of recognition of Aboriginal knowledge and skills eg. Aboriginal health workers

Culturally appropriate strategies to address these key issues are:

- Hands on training and practical demonstrations are important in course delivery
- There should be more involvement of community Elders and other community members in curriculum development
- The community want ownership on who delivers the training - they want to vet the prospective trainers and decide whether they have the communication skills and appropriate attitude to conduct the training program

Group 3: Legal protection for traditional knowledge of natural resources

Workshop participants agreed that there was widespread concern among Aboriginal communities of the appropriation of Aboriginal knowledge and the lack of intellectual property protection. As a short term measure it was recommended that a greater awareness be promoted amongst Aboriginal people and other stakeholders about intellectual property rights for Aboriginal knowledge. In the long term the solution may lie in the endorsement by the Australian Government of the Model Law for the South Pacific that has been developed for protection of Aboriginal knowledge of South Pacific Islanders and is presently under consideration by the United Nations. This model law has yet to be considered by Australian Aboriginal people and their input should be sought.

Immediate steps that could be considered as follows:

- Registration of scientists and chemists who conduct research or consultancies with Aboriginal people in areas of relevance to intellectual property rights for Aboriginal knowledge
- Communities should consider whether they take the path of widely broadcasting their knowledge rather than keeping it secret - two different approaches to protecting knowledge
- A system of local community rangers, who should be elders and come from the local community, could be established to protect local Aboriginal knowledge assets (plants etc)
- Information about intellectual property right protection for Aboriginal knowledge should be widely disseminated

Group 4: Role of agencies in the development of natural resource enterprises

Workshop participants identified a number of key agencies as sources of funding and support for Aboriginal natural resource enterprise developments.

These were listed and discussed. Difficulties encountered in accessing funds were discussed and included:

- Bureaucratic processes ('getting a handle on government speak' and cross agency protocols; changing guidelines)
- Lack of continuity in government contacts (continual staff change over)
- The length of time between submission of the application and final approval

Some difficulties were also reported as occurring within Aboriginal organizations themselves including a lack of communication between different organizations, difficulties in fulfilling contractual arrangements and obligations.

There was an overall consensus view that there was a need for more human resources, improvements in relations between communities and agencies, longer funding periods, more legally identified positions (Section 50D) in government departments and the establishment of a community action or lobby group for Aboriginal Natural Resource Enterprise.

Outcomes

The major outcomes of the workshop were:

- An enhanced awareness of the scope and depth of Western Australian Aboriginal enterprises based on natural resources and traditional knowledge
- The establishment of a network support system to facilitate and stimulate knowledge exchange for sustainable Aboriginal enterprises.
- The stimulation of a number of Aboriginal enterprise development initiatives associated with natural resource management
- The identification of key issues relating to education and training of Aboriginal people for business and enterprise and the fostering of closer collaboration between the education and training sectors and Aboriginal communities
- The formation of the Aboriginal Natural Resource Enterprise (ANRE) industry organising committee to implement workshop recommendations

Benefits arising from the workshop

1. Social benefits

The workshop stimulated the desire for enterprise development by Indigenous groups and communities and, in so doing, will bring economic returns to the individuals and groups involved in any future enterprise. This economic return will contribute to an improvement in living standards and self esteem. The confidence in the family unit will be increased due to the sense of purpose that will flow from the enterprise development initiatives.

A second social benefit will derive from an improvement in the quality and delivery of education and training programs, arising from recommendations of the plenary sessions. A stronger involvement of Indigenous corporations, groups and individuals in the setting of curriculum, training methodologies and mode of training delivery was one of the major recommendations of the workshop. If implemented, this initiative will lead to a significant improvement in education and training for Indigenous people.

2. Economic benefits

The stimulation of enterprise development will lead to increased education, training and employment opportunities for Indigenous people and in so doing, improve economic returns to individuals, families and communities. The workshop provided valuable networking opportunities between Indigenous peoples and communities, government agencies (both state and federal) and enterprise and industry as well as valuable tools, support and follow up for individuals or groups wishing to establish an enterprise using traditional knowledge.

3. Cultural benefits

Attendees at the workshop are committed to assisting individuals and communities to develop and operate sustainable enterprises within mainstream Australian society without compromising their Aboriginality. The establishment of natural resource enterprises based on traditional knowledge will assist young Indigenous people in understanding and valuing their cultural heritage.

Participant comments

Some comments made by workshop participants were as follows:

"An event to be remembered because of the fact that it was the first time that Aboriginal people from all over WA came together for a common purpose and had achieved that aim without arguments"

"Many of us felt deeply honoured to be part of the Dampier Peninsula trip and to talk openly with local Aboriginal community members"

"Being able to see what is happening on the ground was special"

"We came with ideas, we are going away with inspiration"

"This has been an inspirational and milestone event"



GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Group 1: Strategic Planning for Aboriginal Natural Resource Enterprise Development

Workshop Group 1 considered the topic 'Strategic planning for Aboriginal Natural Resource Enterprise', using three broad topics to stimulate discussion: 1) What is our current situation; 2) Where do we want to be; and 3) How will we get there. Some discussion was held on whether the title should be 'Aboriginal Natural Resource Enterprise' or 'Aboriginal Natural Resource Enterprise'. The majority of the group appeared to prefer the word 'Aboriginal' to 'Aboriginal'.

What is our current situation?

A number of issues were raised by the four groups that discussed this topic. These included:

- Lack of representation ('no existing body that advises, plans, represents and promotes Aboriginal natural resource enterprise')
- Resource issues (lack of land; lack of money, particularly seed capital; not enough skilled people; difficulties in accessing commercial finance; lack of access to resources on crown land)
- Government agency issues (lack of stability and consistency within government agencies; ILC/ATSIS caveats; CALM laws and need for licenses; difficulties in getting support and commitment from government agencies)
- Attitude issues (negative feelings of 'being held back'; 'taking what is ours'; 'having to *prove yourself*'; 'agencies wanting to have *control*')
- Positive actions now occurring (eg. making plans; protecting current resources through cultivation)
- Natural resource enterprises already in existence (native flowers, nurseries (eg. Collie nursery), olives, community gardens and orchards; production of artefacts (eg. wood products), emu egg carving; cosmetics and Aboriginal medicine production and use (though concerns over IP, education and management); fish and yabby aquaculture; seed collection (mine site rehabilitation); SALDC land management/protection; eco/cultural tours; mineral water production; bush potatoes and blood onion cultivation.
- Research and Knowledge done directly under personal control (ie. correct protocols should be followed)
- Limited IP protection of Aboriginal knowledge
- Current training approaches and delivery modes are not culturally appropriate

Where do we want to be?

A number of suggestions and goals were identified during workshop discussions. These included:

- Industry lobby group with commercial representation
- Aim for self-sufficiency and sustainable enterprises
- Readily available seed funding for new enterprises
- Develop cooperative approaches, eg. marketing
- Resolve resource allocation and fund on-ground activities
- Purchase assets to provide an operational base
- Form community action groups; establish 6-8 aquaculture farms marketing products to Europe; establish joint commercial developments
- Set up supply chains with processing, distribution and value adding components
- Establish good communication strategies (websites, email lists, pamphlets, lists of funding sources)
- Establish a 'one-stop-shop' for dealing with government agencies
- Aboriginal people with university qualifications in natural resources; appropriate education and training ('train for employment, not just for training')
- Establish Aboriginal research centres, cultural centres; set up an Aboriginal Centre of Excellence
- Conduct R&D on new products
- Ensure that the enterprises and the IP for new product development or publications is owned by Aboriginal people
- Develop appropriate intellectual property rights protection for Aboriginal knowledge
- Ensure that there is an awareness of correct protocols

How will we get there?

Strategies for achieving the identified goals were developed by each of the four workshop groups. These were:

- Form a self-managed corporation to provide capital funding and development services and to represent Aboriginal natural resource enterprise. Ensure that there is regional representation and that the right people are involved with a diversity of skills (eg. legal, finance, policy), either through direct membership or as advisors. Involve the younger generation in the initiative and that there is good information flow and accountability.
- Source capital from a range of sources and establish a capital development fund (industry focus)

- The regionally based body should develop a five year strategic plan to cover 1) education and training; 2) business/funding; 3) Intellectual property; 4) Interaction with government
- Form an Aboriginal Research and Development Corporation
- Form a network to come together as one (dealing with government; 'speaking as one'; motivation; representation; promotion; education; handling legal and access issues)
- Conduct lobbying activities, particularly with respect to intellectual property rights
- Convene a follow-up workshop
- Submit funding applications that are tailored to needs of new enterprises
- Resolve access rights and resource rights issues (firewood; traditional and customary law)
- Improve education and training ('mix it up - outside, classroom, industry'; support young people; provide mentoring; introduce school based traineeships; review school syllabus and include bush food/medicine knowledge; improve teaching styles and pathways; train for employment)
- Seek out new land uses/options; develop enterprises around, for example, wildflowers, fishing, hunting, tourism, seed collection, storage and propagation (eg. paths at Chapman Valley including native plant propagation), bush medicines, cultural tourism (tours based on traditional knowledge and interpretation of Aboriginal history), mainstream farming operations, native plant cultivation (sandalwood, banksias), aquaculture (research needed into export markets and strategies for consistent supply)
- Ensure there are adequate resources, business planning, marketing studies, communication, networking and coordination, entrepreneurial skills, caveats, government agency coordination and IP protection
- Form agreements with mining companies
- Apply for NHT regional funds
- Strengthen culture with old people being with young people
- Involve young people in administrative support
- Improve communication and information dissemination (email group; contact list)
- Conduct an audit on what is already happening in Aboriginal natural resource enterprise in Western Australia ('who is doing what on the ground now')
- Promote awareness of value of Aboriginal knowledge (linked to recognition of ownership) at local, state and national levels and strengthen government legislation on IP rights over Aboriginal knowledge

- Seek legal advice on patents and ownership rights
- Ensure there are research protocols that protect local knowledge
- Establish MOUs with pharmaceutical companies, bioprospecting companies, research institutions, government agencies
- Develop links with university/research/educational/training institutions.

Group 2: Culturally appropriate education and training for traditional knowledge and natural resource enterprise development

Workshop Group 2 discussed issues and views on culturally appropriate approaches to education and training for natural resource enterprises based on Aboriginal knowledge. The issues discussed, and suggested approaches, were as follows:

Issues for consideration

- Course materials that are based on traditional knowledge should be owned by Aboriginal people and taught by Aboriginal People
- Action needs to be taken soon to document or transfer information & knowledge from elders whilst they are still alive
- Identifying appropriate people to conduct training programs is difficult
- Some trainers exhibit unacceptable attitudes - 'doing a favour by teaching the poor blackfellas'
- Some lecturers hide behind the jargon
- 'My people read the body language - some lecturers are uncomfortable teaching us'; need a professional and balanced approach
- 'Keep the attitude at home'
- Mode of assessment sometimes needs to be hands on. People who can't read or write, particularly elderly people, need a practical assessment
- Culturally appropriate assessments are required
- 'People drop out because of poor training'
- Need good communicators as trainers
- TAFEs should provide the appropriate facilities when they conduct courses with Aboriginal people
- What is culturally important in one area may not be appropriate in for another area. Everything is time and context bound. If you are working in Aboriginal education you need to be aware that everything is different for different groups
- The education system is a white education system - white standards are imposed on Aboriginal people
- There is a lack of recognition of Aboriginal knowledge and skills eg. Health workers who have culturally appropriate knowledge and skills but don't have the right qualification

Culturally appropriate strategies

- Aboriginal people learn better when the course material is delivered hands on - 'They need to walk the walk and talk the talk'
- Practical demonstrations are very important
- Elders should be involved in developing the curriculum for courses that relate to traditional knowledge

- RTO's need to be more flexible in their assessments for Aboriginal people-not so literacy based and more culturally appropriate
- Teaching in people's own country by example, is the best learning method eg, the aquaculture project in the SW
- Identify a training organisation that uses culturally appropriate training approaches
- The Elders should make decisions as to who is allowed to conduct the training courses
- Interview the proposed trainer prior to conducting the training session - this will ensure that training is only conducted by people who communicate well with Aboriginal people
- 'The course trainer should sit down with the people who have the knowledge and create the course. Then the people own the course. It is written our way and then the mob will stay there'
- TAFE is becoming more responsive. 'They are coming to the group and asking for advice on how to conduct courses'
- Do needs analysis as part of long term planning for training and employment
- Facilitators of training programs needs to go out and check out the resources on the ground before the course commences
- Communities could own their own RTOs; Aboriginal RTOs could share the same lecturers who have already been shown to have the right attitudes and skills

Training courses required

- Courses in horticulture, plant propagation, business management are required
- TAFE sector needed to link their programs to holistic economic outcomes to meet needs of individuals and community

Group 3: Legal protection for traditional knowledge of natural resources

Workshop Group 3 considered a range of issues of relevance to the legal protection for traditional knowledge and natural resource enterprise and made recommendations for approaches to be taken to achieve this legal protection. Issues raised, and suggested strategies for protection, were as follow:

Issues for consideration

The issues raised by the four groups that discussed this topic were:

- Need protection mechanisms for Aboriginal knowledge
- Mainstream education and training can break down traditional community fabric through the loss of Aboriginal knowledge
- The laws relating to equal opportunity in WA don't recognise Aboriginal customary lore. Australian legal system should recognise Aboriginal rights to traditional knowledge and lore.

Suggested strategies for protecting intellectual property

Strategies suggested by workshop participants were:

- Have to operate white way in the short term
- Copyright should be automatically assigned to authors
- Local community rangers to protect local environment (waterholes, plants etc)
- Copyright name and year and send a registered package of the work to yourself for added protection (keep envelope sealed)
- Be careful who you give your valuable knowledge to
- Model law (a *sui generis* law that has been developed for South Pacific nations) will be the long term goal for IP protection
- The model law will not be retrospective
- Use the UN to pressure Australian Government in enactment of model law
- Contracts are very important - memorandums of understanding do not provide good cover
- Patents are strongest form of protection but are expensive
- For unique processes that are grounded in Aboriginal knowledge the steps that should be taken are: 1) keep knowledge within community - if idea is positive then 2: apply for patent. Once patent and trade mark are in place, then 3) publicize product or process (film, paid advertisements etc)
- Strike in both forms: a) withhold knowledge; b) promote (model law) with establishment of local community Aboriginal rangers

Group 4: The role of agencies in development of natural resource enterprises

Workshop Group 4 considered the role of agencies in development of natural resource enterprises and sources of funding and assistance for Aboriginal groups or interests wishing to establish enterprises.

Agencies identified by workshop participants

A wide range of local and state government agencies, industry groups and philanthropic organizations were identified. These included:

- Australian Government agencies
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS); Area Consultative Committees (Regional Partnerships); Business Enterprise Centres; Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF); Department of Education, Science and Technology (DEST); Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR); Department of Community Development (Grants Register); Department of Health and Ageing; Healthways; Aboriginal Land Council (ILC); Natural Heritage Trust (NHT - Envirofund).
- Local and State Government agencies
Aboriginal Lands Trust; WA Department of Community Development; WA Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM); WA Department of Education and Training; WA Department of Environment (Water and Rivers Commission); WA Department of Health, WA Department of Industry and Resources (OAED); Forrest Products; Regional Development Commissions, TAFE Colleges
- Industry groups
Oil and gas companies, mining companies, other companies (eg. Bunnings)
- Philanthropic organisations
Lotteries West (cars, buses, machinery; workshop costs; business expenses)
- Aboriginal organisations
CDEP administering organizations; Kimberley Land Council; Kullarri Job Futures; Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation

Issues and comments

Workshop attendees displayed a sound awareness of the various funding agencies but emphasised the following difficulties encountered in accessing these funds:

- A lack of resources to prepare funding applications
- The different terminologies required when communicating with, or writing applications for, different agencies ('getting a handle on government speak')

- A need to understand cross agency protocols
- A lack of advance notice of funding opportunities, leading to lack of time to do adequate research
- The continual change over of staff within different agencies ('a new person just gets skilled up and they get shifted on')
- The length of time between submission of the application and final approval
- Changing guidelines
- Lack of cultural awareness by funding agencies
- Need for access to cultural sites

In addition, the view was expressed that some government funding agencies or bodies have a hidden agenda when working with Aboriginal communities.

Some difficulties were also reported as occurring within Aboriginal organizations themselves. These included

- Lack of communication within the Aboriginal organizations applying for funds
- Difficulties in fulfilling contract conditions, meeting milestones within specified periods and overall project management
- Communication difficulties (eg. can't download large files when in remote locations)

Various solutions to the problems described by workshop participants were suggested. There was an overall consensus view that there was a need for:

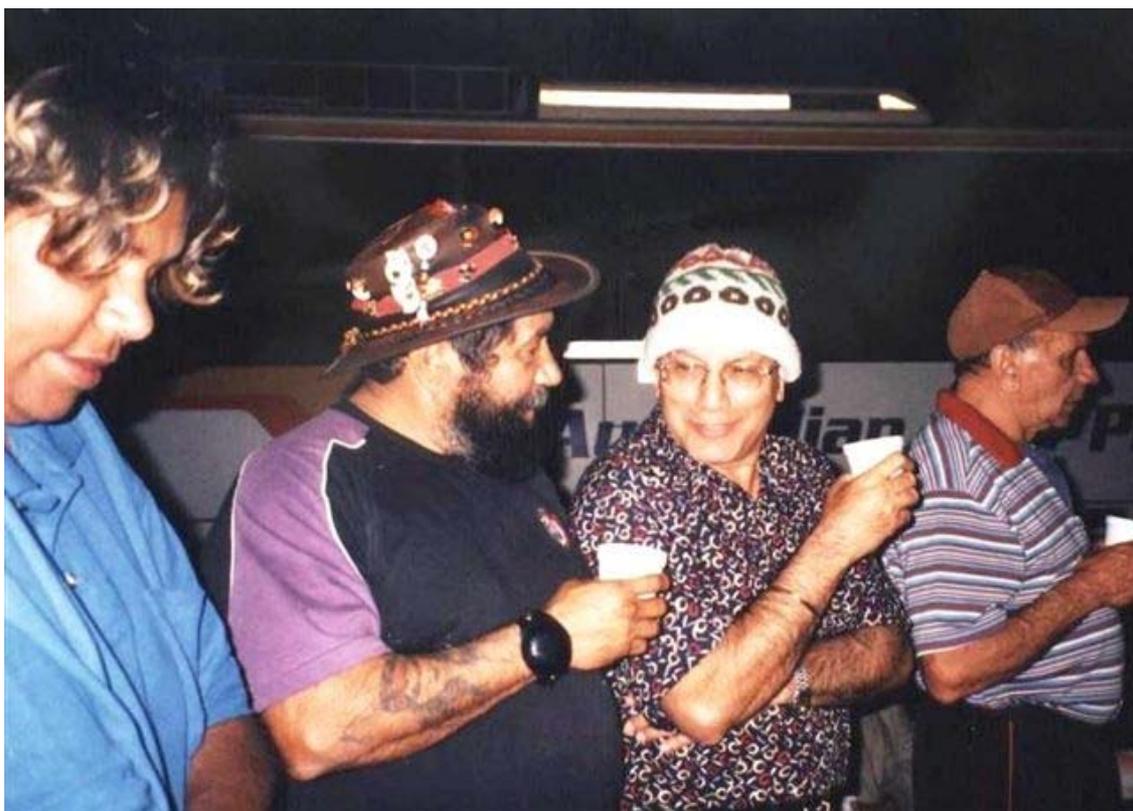
- More human resources within Aboriginal communities or groups to conduct research into funding opportunities and to write grant applications
- A local funding body that could assist with applying for funds to get projects off the group
- Improved relationships between communities and agencies
- A website for Aboriginal funding programs
- A community action or lobby group for Aboriginal Natural Resource Enterprise
- Funding periods to be extended for 3-5 years
- Application guidelines to be simplified ('KISS principle')
- More legally identified positions (Section 50D) in government departments

NATURAL RESOURCE ENTERPRISE AND MANAGEMENT TOUR

A tour of Aboriginal community and family enterprises on the Dampier Peninsula was held after the workshop in Broome. A group of approximately 30 workshop participants were transported to several different sites on the Peninsula including the Beagle Bay, Gudumul, Lombadina and Djarindjin Communities and Cape Leveque resort.

Discussions were held with Aboriginal tourist operators and community members.

The group camped out under the stars and talked well into the night. There were no formal records taken of discussions held during this event, although some videotaped interviews were conducted during the two-day trip. Comments from participants suggested that the opportunity to view and talk with Aboriginal people operating successful tourist enterprises was welcomed and provided an excellent learning environment for those wishing to develop similar ventures.



PLENARY SESSION SUMMARY

Introduction

The Workshop Facilitator, Joe Ross, commenced the session with an overview of the key issues and suggestions that had emerged from the two day meeting. He reviewed the various enterprises that Aboriginal people are presently developing - artworks, farming, tourism, pastoralism - and emphasised the need for an informed and professional approach to enterprise development and management. Mention was made of the likely contribution of government agencies to the facilitation of Aboriginal enterprise development, and the need for Aboriginal people to maintain a leadership role in this area. Whether enterprise development initiatives should be incorporated into existing mainstream government areas or developed independently was an important consideration.

Mr Ross informed the group that a major recommendation that appeared to have the support of all workshop participants was for the same group to re-convene in the South West in Feb/March 2005 to move the concept of developing Aboriginal natural resource enterprises forward. Discussions were then held on this and other issues arising from the two day workshop. A summary of these discussions is given below.

SW Workshop

The question of who was going to organise and plan the next workshop was discussed. One participant suggested that the Chair of the Broome Workshop organising committee, Wendy Smith, WA Department of Education and Training, be the convenor of the organising group. Another participant suggested that the organising committee should comprise the same group that convened the Broome Workshop. These suggestions did not meet with the approval of all participants, concerns being expressed as to the presence on the committee of non-aboriginal people and of government employees. It was agreed that a small group should be established to plan the SW Workshop and further discussions on the membership of this group were merged with those addressing the other major area of discussion - the need to establish a steering group for the advancement of Aboriginal natural resource enterprises (see below).

The proposed aims and objectives of the SW Workshop were discussed. It was suggested that the workshop could address the recommendations that had emerged from the Broome Workshop. The need to clearly identify the objectives of the workshop was emphasised as was the need to inform WA Aboriginal communities of the Broome Workshop outcomes and plans for the future. It was also suggested, following the discussions described below, that the SW Workshop could be used as a forum to discuss the proposed corporate Aboriginal entity established to promote and manage Aboriginal natural resource enterprise developments.

State Indigenous Natural Resource Enterprise Company

Doc Reynolds, Chair, Aboriginal Lands Trust, addressed the meeting and proposed the establishment of a State Indigenous Natural Resource Enterprise Company, analogous to the National Farmers Federation. The entity would be an Indigenous corporate body that looks after the affairs of Aboriginal people and provides a forum for their empowerment. It could provide a range of services to affiliated groups, act as a lobby group and assist in preparing grant applications. Doc Reynolds emphasised the need for people with a wide range of skills and expertise to participate in the initiative, either as members of the group or as consultants or observers. A key element of the proposal was that the entity would be a corporation, with an income stream, that could provide seed funding to Aboriginal people wanting to start up enterprises. Funding would be a major issue to be addressed.

Aboriginal Natural Resource Enterprise Steering Group

The discussions on the SW Workshop and the proposal to establish a corporate entity culminated in an agreement to form a small group of five people to take the initiative to the next stage. Participants agreed with a recommendation that the word 'Aboriginal' should be used instead of 'Indigenous'. The umbrella term 'Aboriginal Natural Resource Enterprise' (ANRE) was coined to encapsulate the underlying philosophy of the initiative. There was general agreement that all Broome Workshop participants, and other Aboriginal people and groups, should be informed of developments, perhaps through an email network.

Various views were expressed as to the membership of the ANRE steering group. A major point of difference concerned the presence of government representatives on the group. Advantages and disadvantages of including government representatives was discussed with some participants arguing strongly in favour of their inclusion and others against. It was finally decided that the steering group would comprise the following individuals: Doc Reynolds, Gail Beck, Steve Woods, Kelly Flugge and Jenna Zed. It was also agreed that Kathy Edgar, Wendy Smith, Joe Ross and Basil Thomas would act as observers to the group and provide advice and assistance. This group was charged with arranging for the reporting on the Broome workshop, organising the SW workshop and developing recommendations for future Aboriginal natural resource enterprise initiatives and activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

While a set of formal recommendations were not discussed and endorsed, the following recommendations summarise the key decisions that were agreed to during the Plenary Session:

1. The term Aboriginal Natural Resource Enterprise (ANRE) be used to badge initiatives aimed at engaging Aboriginal people in private enterprise relating to natural resource
2. A corporate entity be established to promote and manage the development of Aboriginal Natural Resource Enterprise in Western Australia
3. An email network be established to keep communities and other Aboriginal organisations informed of developments and initiatives
4. A workshop be conducted in the South West in early 2005 to inform Aboriginal people about natural resource enterprise opportunities and to further discuss the formation of a corporate entity to promote and manage ANRE



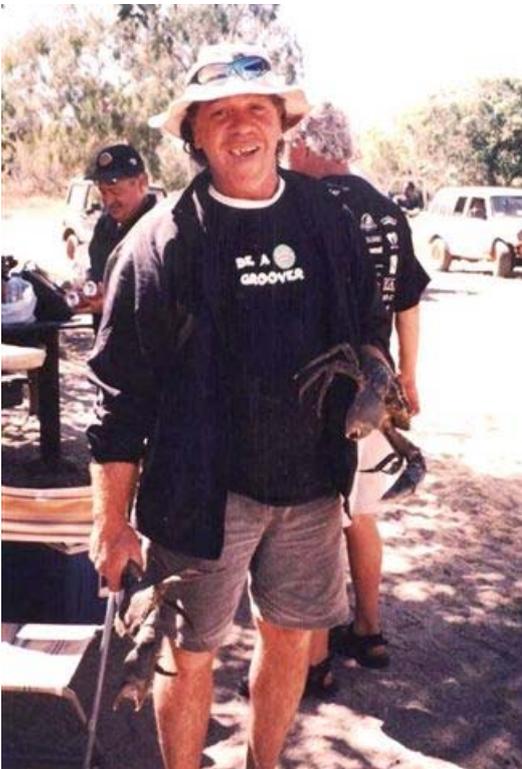
PICTURES FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TOUR



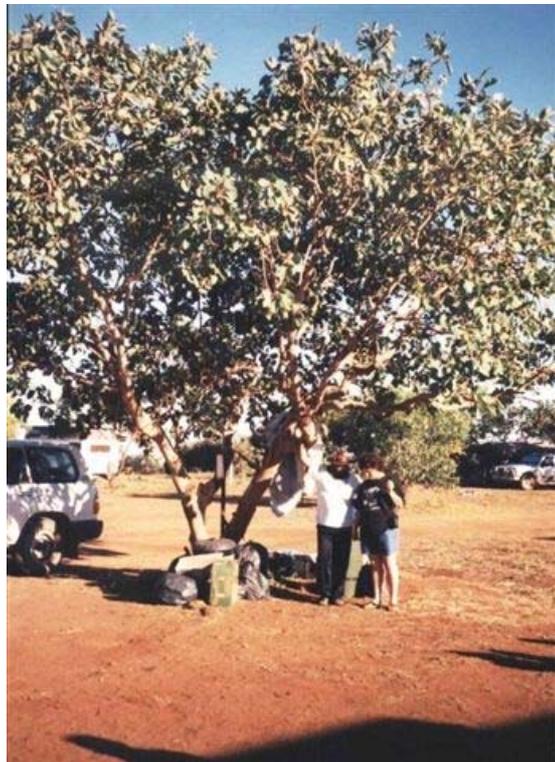
The Road to Beagle Bay



Display Tank Ardyaloon



Crabbing at Mundun's



Koodah Gail under the Gubinge Tree



One Arm Point



Loretta Alphonse at Gudumul