



# The Story of the Goṇ-Däl Aboriginal Corporation ... a summary

This is a summary of the story about how we worked together  
to create the Goṇ-Däl Aboriginal Corporation.

Yolṇu Leaders: Gawura Wanambi, Yangipuy Wanambi, Davis Muwara, Watha Wunungṇmura,  
Mickey Wunungmurra, Peter Murkiltja Guyula, Burrumbirr Wunungmurra, Dhukaniny Wunungmura,  
Margie Lewis, Harry Wunungmurra, William Marrkula, Warṇgarrkṇa Ganambarr

Facilitators: Juli Cathcart and Trevor van Weeren

Supported by the Indigenous Governance and Leadership Development Project 2014

# The Indigenous Governance and Leadership Project

The NT Government has funded the Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University to do governance and leadership work in five NT communities including Gapuwiyak through the Indigenous Governance and Leadership Project (IGLDP) that aims to:

- Better understand Aboriginal and Western governance systems and arrangements
- Develop new ways of supporting and growing knowledge and skills in governance and leadership
- Find better ways for Aboriginal and Western

governance systems and arrangements to work together



Several people in Gapuwiyak were already thinking and talking about an Aboriginal Corporation. Some wanted to wake up the Nadjungay Homelands Resource Aboriginal Corporation while others felt it could be better to start a new corporation. As we talked more, some leaders saw it as an opportunity to “clean up our own backyards”, as well as an opportunity to determine a better future for their families, clans and community.

At a large open community meeting in May 2014 there was a very positive response to the IGLD project and to having a Corporation. A small working group of interested people formed and met several times to find the best road to making a corporation.

## Meeting: May 2014

On the 13 May the working group held a larger meeting. Twelve leaders attended: Peter Murkiltja Guyula, Gawura Wanambi, Burrumbirr Wununmurra, Watha Wununmurra, Yangipuy Wanambi, Dhukaniny Wununmurra. Margie Lewis, Mickey Wununmurra. Harry Wununmurra, William Marrkula, Davis Ganambarr, Wangarrkna Ganambarr as well as Trevor van Weeren and Juli Cathcart from NI, CDU and Francine Chinn (GEC).

During this meeting we explained what we had learnt about the process of establishing a new corporation and the steps we needed to take to get there. After three hours of rigorous discussion it was decided the best option was to leave the Nadjungay



Homeland Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation (NHRCAC) 'asleep' and to start a new Aboriginal Corporation that would have a different name, new vision and objectives. Everyone strongly stated the new corporation was for all the clans of Gapuwiyak and was an opportunity for clans to work together for their future.



## Workshop 1: 10-11 June 2014

### Workshop planning

In early June, Gawura, Juli and Trevor planned a workshop for the steering committee to be held 10 - 11 June. We developed workshop goals, a program and some resources.



The group decided the following people would be the Steering Committee Members for the corporation project.

- Ron Dhukaniny Wununmurra
- Gawura Wanambi
- William Matjipa Marrkula
- Mickey Dhambara Wununmurra
- Peter Murrkiltja Guyula
- Alfred Yangipuy Wanambi
- Dorothy Warngarrkna Ganambarr
- Davis Mowarra Marrawungu
- Harry Rranydjij Wununmurra
- Bruce Burrumbirr Wununmurra

We agreed to meet again in June to travel further down the road toward the establishment of a Corporation for Gapuwiyak.

### Workshop goals

- To be clear and happy about what we are doing
- To be clear about the process of developing a corporation
- To understand the meaning of keywords
- To build the Corporation on the strengths of Yolŋu culture and history of Gapuwiyak
- To draft the vision, principles/values, preamble, objectives and name of the new corporation
- To agree on next steps and a time line

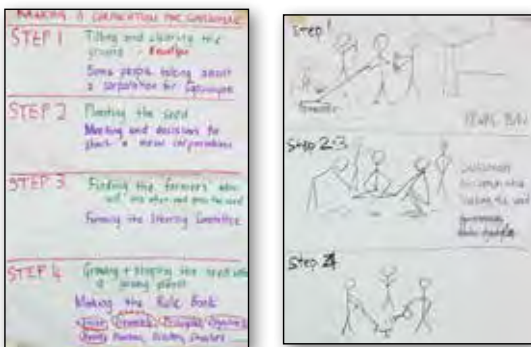
### Workshop Program

1. Review what we did last meeting
2. Introduce workshop program
3. Talk about process for developing the Rule Book
4. LOOKING BACK... Presentation about Baman'puy Dhäwu Gapuwiyakpuy (Gawura)
5. Draft Name, Vision, Preamble Principles, Objectives



## Step 4: Making the Rule Book

We started the workshop by reviewing our progress and the steps to for establishing a corporation. We decided we were up to Step 4: Making the Rule Book for the Corporation.



As well as developing the Rule Book, we wanted to look back to the very beginning of Gapuwiyak and share some of the stories about how and why Gapuwiyak was established.

We looked at videos that told the story of what people thought was important for their organisations, and at some of the lessons they had learned. This helped us to start thinking about establishing the Rule Book for a Gapuwiyak Corporation.

For the rest of the day we worked through the foundation and purposes for the Corporation.

We brainstormed Objectives, a Vision, a Preamble and Principles, for the new Corporation's Rule Book.

As we came across key words like transparency and accountability, we wrote their meanings onto a wall glossary.



## Baman'puy Dhāwu Gapuwiyakpuy

Gawura made a PowerPoint story about the history of Gapuwiyak based on a story written by Geoff Davey and we spent a long time talking about the how special the beginnings of Gapuwiyak were, and the vision and hard work of the founding people.

We had also been working with Gawura on ways of making Yolŋu Governance more visible. We shared this with the group on the second day.

At the end of the workshop we discussed our next steps.



### Making a Corporation for Gapuwiyak

**Step 1** Tilling and clearing the ground – Rewal'yun. Some people talking about a corporation.

**Step 2** Planting the Seed – Meeting and making a decision to start a new corporation.

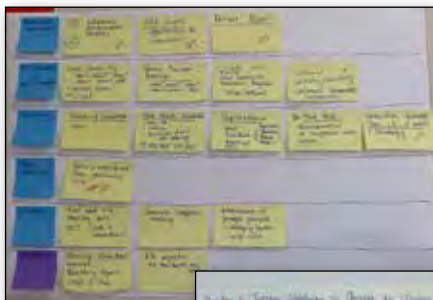
**Step 3** Finding the farmers who will look after and grow the seed. – Forming the Steering Committee

**Step 4** Growing and shaping the seed into a young plant – making the Rule book: Vision, Preamble, Principles, Objectives, Name, Members, Directors, Structure...



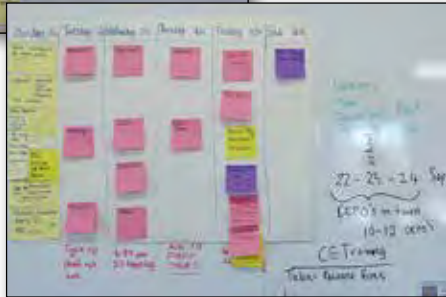
## Workshop 2: 9-15 August 2014

We began by reviewing our previous work, brainstorming what we needed to do onto sticky notes and organising them.



We decided to run a 5-day workshop to try to finish the rule book and booked the Court House.

Juli, Trevor and Gawura spent two days planning and preparing. We built a workshop program together and Juli showed how to draft the Objectives from the ideas brainstormed in the June workshop and modeled the writing process.



1. Brainstorm ideas (wall story)
2. Organise ideas (by cutting up the wall story)
3. Write the first draft
4. Edit the first draft
5. Type up second draft (by using a projector so everyone can see and participate)
6. Keep editing until everyone is happy

We displayed all the wall stories from the June Workshop on the Court Room walls, as well as the first draft of the Objectives.

The workshop commenced with a Steering Committee Meeting and BBQ on the Monday evening. We began by looking back – revisiting the June workshop using the wall stories and



workshop booklet. At this meeting the SC agreed that a core team (Gawura, Trevor and Juli) would keep drafting the rule book over the week in an 'open workshop', with SC members and other interested people freely joining the workshop whenever possible. This enabled people to continue their jobs, meet obligations and participate in the process.

Most times there were between 3 and 6 people working with us, with people coming in their lunch breaks, after work, for half and whole days.

Over the week 16 different people worked to finalise the name, objectives, vision, principles and preamble, write the rules for voting, members and directors and produce the Rule Book. As we worked followed the writing process - building wall stories first, then sharing and editing these and finally typing them onto the computer, which we projected so everyone could join in.

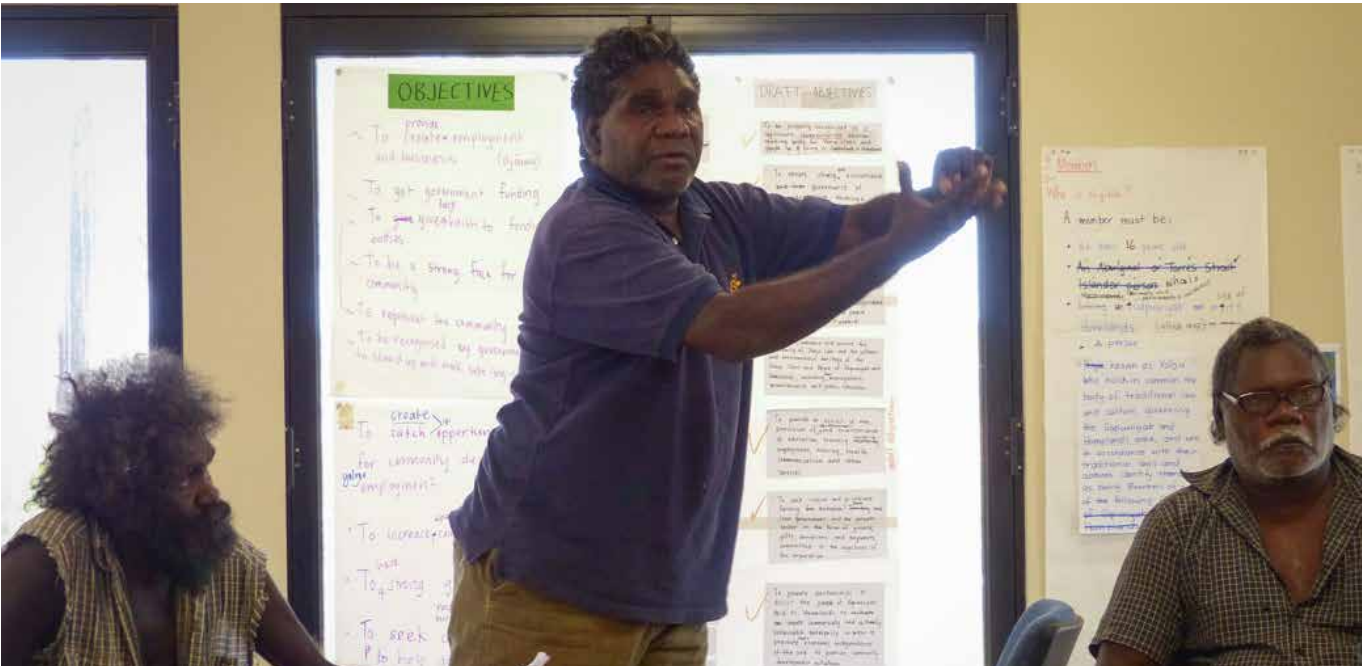
Particular care was taken in finding the right name for the corporation and permission from Elder and Leader, Mitjmitjun, son of Gon-Däl, was sought and given. We also had fun playing with different logo designs.

Two formal SC meetings and BBQ's were held on Wednesday and Friday evenings. On Wednesday we report on progress and got feedback on the drafted Rule Book. On Friday we held a General Meeting to sign up members, endorse the Rule Book, choose directors, complete the registration form and other documentation. This was done by the SC with meticulous care, rigorous dialogue and Yolju decision-making processes. Twenty people joined as inaugural members.

We received extremely positive feedback from the Yolju people we worked with about the open workshop, the wall stories and continually negotiated process. People likened it to Yolju ways of conducting high level business.

The workshop was also supported by the GEC and IEO, who dropped in regularly to observe and







By the end of this very successful workshop we had carefully worked through all the steps required to prepare and complete the Rule Book. The newly appointed Directors held an informal meeting the day after the General Meeting to collate all the documents into the final submission for registration that was then forwarded to ORIC

They also completed an Expression of Interest section 19 application to send to the NLC and reflected on the workshop.

Almost a month later the directors received confirmation from ORIC that the application for registration for the Goŋ-Ḍäl Aboriginal Corporation was successful.



*Members and Directors signing documents for the Goŋ-Däl Aboriginal Corporation*



## Workshop 3: 30 September - 4 October 2014

On 25 September Juli and Trevor traveled to Gapuwiyak to spend a week working with Goṅ Däl Directors to take the next steps for the Corporation. Because people are busy, and some were heading to ceremony, we decided to have a workshop session on Friday night (26 September 2014) to brainstorm ideas and plan for the following week.

### Making a list of things to do

We started by developing a list of things we want to look at and things we wanted to achieve in the next week.

- Election of two directors and appointment of an advisor to Board
- Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) application
- Appointment of Office Bearers
- Discuss Corporation Members
- Apply for an Australian Business Number
- Look at Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status and registration as a charity
- Start a Bank Account
- Make a Plan for the week
- Share the ALPA story
- Develop a Strategy plan & Business plan
- Follow up on the Expression of Interest (EOI) for Lot 172 with Northern Land Council (NLC)

- Keep an eye on Aboriginal Benefits Account grant opportunity
- Decide on a Logo
- Develop a one page Prospectus to share the story of Goṅ Däl
- Keep an eye on Philanthropic opportunities

### Brainstorm

We decided on a priority for the Agenda list. Everyone agreed we should start with sharing the ALPA story. Juli, Trevor and Yangipuy talked about what they had found out from ALPA during a tele conference and Micky (ALPA Board member) shared what he knew.

Juli started drawing a brainstorm with Goṅ Däl in the middle and opportunities around the outside. The drawing helped us see how Goṅ Däl, ALPA and other possible partners could work together. As people thought of other ideas,

Juli added these to the brainstorm. After working for an hour we had a good picture of some of the possibilities for Goṅ Däl.

We made another priority list of jobs to tackle in the next week.





We organised the brainstorm into short term, medium term and long term projects and chose what we thought would be the best ones to start with.

### Short Term

- s19 lease on Lot 172 to develop accomodation/office business, Joint Venture ALPA
- Application to ALPA Business Support Fund for Business Planning and Legal help
- Begin discussions with Miwatj Employment and Participation with aim to secure RJCP contract, Joint Venture ALPA

### Medium Term

- Mobile Store for Homelands ALPA
- Warehousing facility ALPA
- Cultural programs (Awareness, Schools)

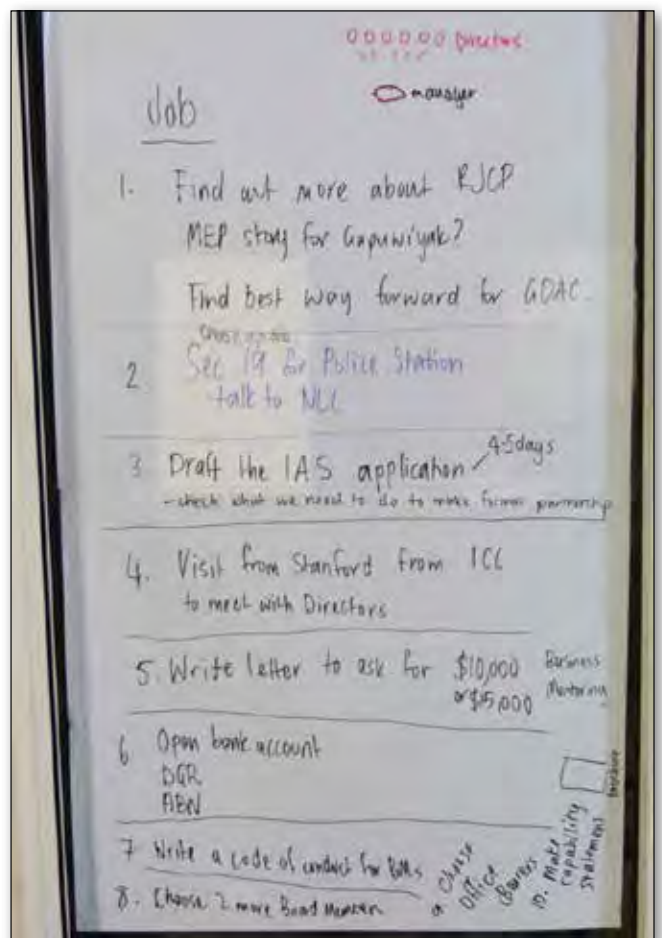
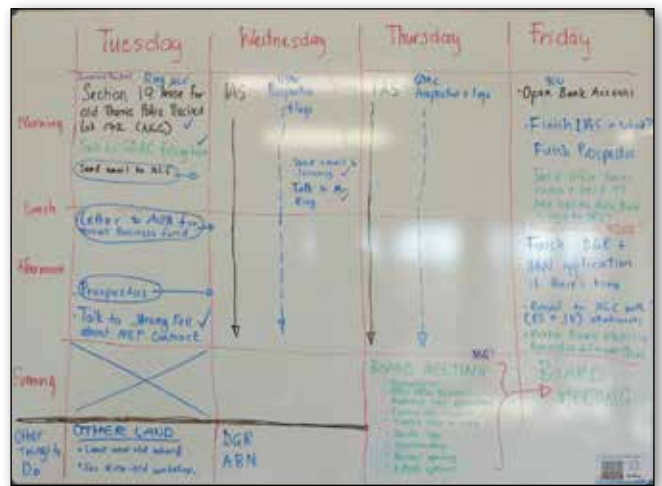
### Long Term

- Portable Sawmill
- Plantation
- Construction
- Road House
- Mechanical Workshop
- take over Arts Centre

- Volunteers Learning Centre
- Fly Tiwi Bookings (ALPA)
- Homeland Centre Services (Laynha)
- Night Patrol (Shire)
- Money Management (Shire)

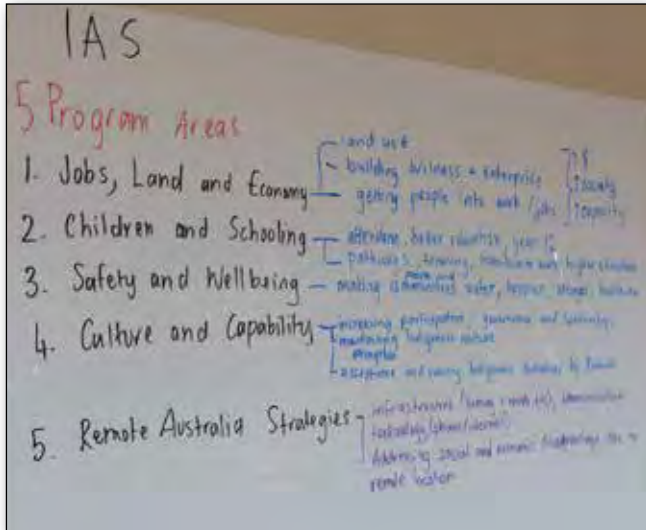
We moved to the Court House on the 30th September. We used this space for the rest of the week.

We started with a Workshop Calendar, we used this as the basis of our workshop program.



## The Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) application

The IAS application was the main focus for this workshop. The Australian Government has made some big changes to Indigenous affairs and we have only this visit to prepare an application. Juli introduced the IAS and explained how it worked and wrote down the 5 main Program Areas under which projects would be funded.

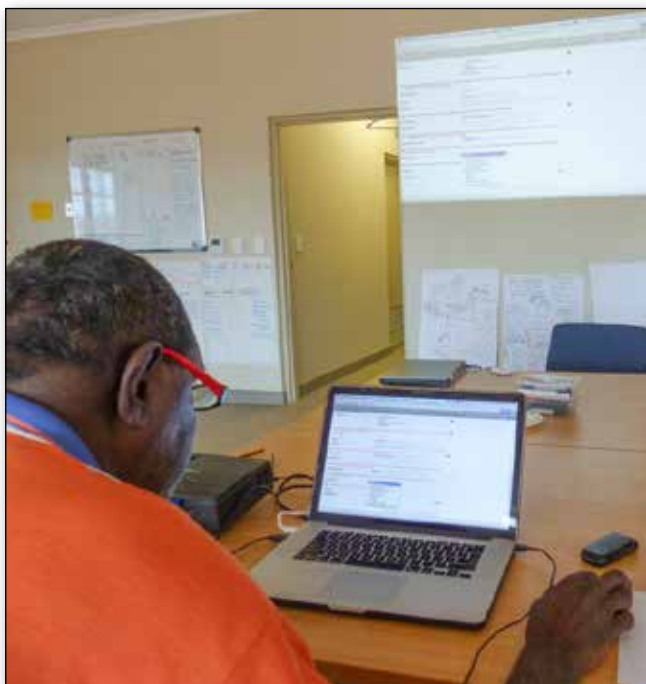


It was very hard work trying to understand the specialised language of Government.

Juli developed a planning template to make the process simpler to understand.

We did some brainstorming for three programs then mapped our results onto the template using sticky notes..





We chose to go with two of the programs and Juli took the completed templates and typed them into the application form.

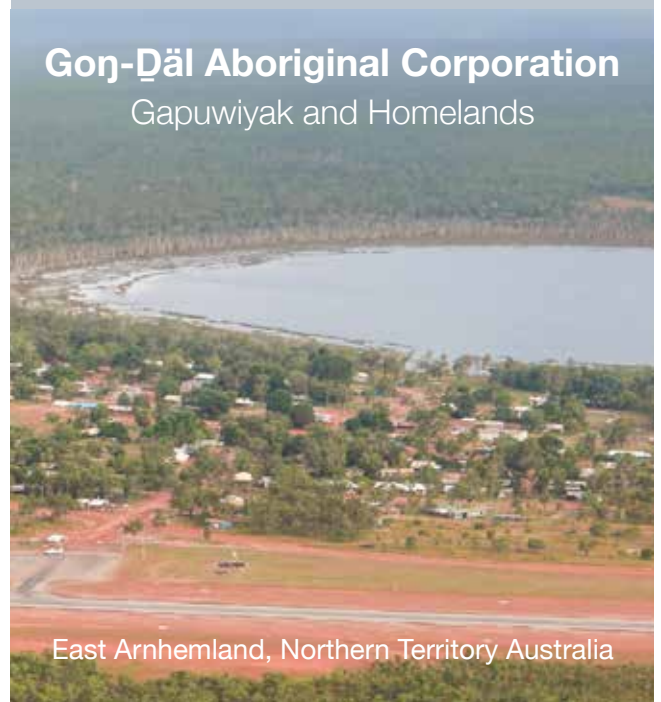
In the meantime we applied for an Australian Business Number and opened a Business account for the Corporation at the local branch of the Territory Credit Union. We also finalised the logo and created a prospectus for the corporation.

**OUR VISION** To provide and support local employment, enterprise development, services, education and training for all the Yolŋu clans and people living in Gapuwiyak and it's Homelands, so that we can work together to determine our own future, manage our own affairs and be self-sufficient.



## Goŋ-Däl Aboriginal Corporation

Gapuwiyak and Homelands



East Arnhemland, Northern Territory Australia

## Directors Meeting

On Saturday the 4 October four of the Directors met for the Inaugural Directors meeting. The agenda was:

1. Bank account and signatories
2. Election of Office Bearers
3. Discuss and approve IAS Application
4. Endorse GDAC Capability Statement
5. Approve letter to ALPA
6. Decide logo
7. Membership drive
8. Formal opening
9. Land options for GDAC
10. RJCP
11. Any other business

The first two agenda items were dealt with quickly.

The third item, to discuss and approve the IAS application, took several hours to work through. Juli projected the application and everyone read through it together to make sure they understood and were happy with everything. Then it was approved by the Directors who asked Juli and Trevor to finalise and submit it on their behalf.

The final agenda items were dealt with and the meeting was closed.

Goŋ-Däl Aboriginal Corporation Directors Meeting		
Minutes		
<b>Date:</b>	Saturday 4 October 2014	
<b>Venue:</b>	Room 4, Police Accommodation	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Gawura Wanambi, Jeffrey Bädul, Mickey Wunurŋmurra, Watha Wunurŋmurra Juli Cathcart (CDU), Trevor van Weeren (CDU)	
<b>Apologies:</b>		
<b>Agenda:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bank account and signatories</li> <li>2. Election of Office Bearers</li> <li>3. Discuss and approve IAS Application</li> <li>4. Endorse GDAC Capability Statement</li> <li>5. Approve letter to ALPA</li> <li>6. Decide logo</li> <li>7. Membership drive</li> <li>8. Formal opening</li> <li>9. Land options for GDAC</li> <li>10. RJCP</li> <li>11. AOB</li> </ol>	
<b>Meeting Chair:</b>	Gawura Wanambi	
<b>Minutes:</b>	Juli and Trevor scribed onto flip chart for the Board	
<b>Start time:</b>	11:00am	
<b>Closing time:</b>	3:30pm	
The Chair declared the meeting open at 11:00am		
Item	Discussion	Action
1. Bank account and signatories	Decided to open a TCU S25 (medium sized Business Account in Gapuwiyak. Gawura Wanambi and Bädul Dhagapaŋ are the signatories. <i>Moved: Mickey Wunurŋmurra</i> <i>Seconded: Watha Wunurŋmurra</i> <i>For: Gawura Wanambi, Jeffrey Bädul, Mickey Wunurŋmurra, Watha Wunurŋmurra</i> <i>Against: Nil</i> <i>Motion carried</i>	Gawura will follow up with TCU and finalise this on Monday 6 October 2014
2. Election of Office Bearers	Yangipuy is still in Nhulunbuy	Move this to the next Director's Meeting
GDAC Minutes – Directors' Meeting – 4 October 2014		
1		

