

MG CORPORATION News

MG Corp's ranger program a "huge success"

MG Corporation's Land and Water ranger program has been hailed as a major success in providing an employment pathway for young Aboriginal men in the region over the past seven years.

The program, which wound-up earlier this month, was set up as the Weeds and Waterways ranger program in 2007 and funded by the Department of Water.

Aboriginal rangers worked on a casual basis, controlling weeds around local Aboriginal Community Living Areas (CLAs), protecting sacred sites and installing firebreaks to protect homes and community assets.

The rangers also undertook environmental protection works in conservation buffer zones attached to Ord Stage 2 farmland as well as undertaking fee for service work for a range of local clients.

MG Corporation Chairman Mr Desmond Hill said the Land and Water ranger group had played a key role in developing young Aboriginal people for the workforce.

"The program's been a huge success and something MG Corporation can be very proud of," he said.

"Dozens of young men have worked in the program and most have gone on to find alternative local employment in the East Kimberley.

"They developed their skills in a team environment while working on their traditional



Former MG Land and Water Rangers Norman Bradshaw, Gerrard Meeway and Andrew Bradshaw were among those who benefited from the program. (Picture: Wayne Quilliam)

Miriuwung and Gajerrong country and they've now branched out into the wider workforce."

Kimberley Agricultural Investments has employed former rangers on their current land clearing operations, and the last cohort of rangers have taken up work with MG Corporation's new business entity MG Building and Maintenance.

Changes to MG board

MG Corporation recently farewelled independent directors Ian Summers and Michelle Narustrang after they completed their two-year terms on the MG board.

Mr Summers and Ms Narustrang were employed as independent directors to provide advice, guidance and up-skilling for Miriuwung and Gajerrong people serving on the corporation's board.



MG Corporation Chairman Desmond Hill thanked Mr Summers and Ms Narustrang for their contributions.

“Ian and Michelle served on the board during a period which saw MG Corporation become a key player in driving Aboriginal employment and business outcomes during the construction phase of the Ord Stage 2 project.

“During that time they’ve both provided important guidance to our MG directors, passing on their vast experience and knowledge,” Mr Hill said.

MG Corporation now has a full complement of MG directors, with Chairman Desmond Hill and Deputy Chair Helen Gerrard joined by Ted Carlton, Edna O’Malley and Ted Hall Junior.

MG supports Barramundi Dreaming concert

MG Corporation has again thrown its support behind Kununurra’s Barramundi Dreaming concert with a \$5000 sponsorship donation. The annual concert showcases local and visiting Indigenous entertainers and has been expanded this year to also include cultural workshops in the lead up to the main event.

MG Corporation director Ted Carlton said Barramundi Dreaming was the East Kimberley’s premier Aboriginal entertainment showcase.

“It’s a great event and I’m proud to see MG Corporation is again on board as an event sponsor.

“Not only does the Barramundi Concert provide opportunities for local musicians to perform in front of a large audience, it also brings big Indigenous acts to town to inspire emerging talent in the East Kimberley.” Barramundi Dreaming workshops will be held in the lead-up to the main concert at the Kununurra Picture Gardens on May 10.

The main concert will feature bands Coloured Stone and Young Warriors in addition to performances by local artists.

One stop shop for MG job seekers



Landi Bradshaw is now based inside the East Kimberley Job Pathways office, assisting MG people find work. (Picture: Guy McLean)

MG Corporation has maintained its commitment to placing Miriuwung and Gajerrong (MG) jobseekers into the workforce with the creation of a new employment co-ordinator’s position within the East Kimberley Job Pathways office.

Through its MG Services division, which ceased operation at the end of last year, MG Corporation helped more than 200 Aboriginal jobseekers gain employment on stage 2 of the Ord-East Kimberley Expansion project between 2010 and 2013. Funding from LandCorp allowed for the creation of the new MG Employment Co-ordinator’s position, which has been filled by former MG Services employee Landi Bradshaw.

“Essentially, I’m here to provide all of the services which were available at the old MG Services office,” Ms Bradshaw said.

“That includes assisting jobseekers with the preparation of resumes and job applications and identifying suitable employment opportunities.” A key focus of Ms Bradshaw’s role is to assist MG and other Aboriginal workers who were employed on the Ord Stage 2 project.

“We provide support to former Ord Stage 2 workers, including those who have moved into, or are preparing to take up, fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) jobs on other major construction and resources projects in Western Australia or interstate.”

MG Corporation Chairman Des Hill said the new Employment Co-ordinator’s position was an important tool in ensuring employment outcomes arising from Ord Stage 2 are long-term. Landi is based at the East Kimberley Job Pathways office next door to Centrelink.