

MG CORP NEWS

March 2016



Kirsty Mclean at the John Fawcett foundation in Indonesia

A successful year of study for MG Scholarship recipient— Kirsty Mclean

2015 was a very good year for Kirsty Mclean who returned to university to pursue her dream of becoming the very first Miriuwung Gajerrong doctor. Kirsty aims to complete her studies mid 2017, when she will graduate with her Bachelor of Science majoring in Anatomy and Human Biology and Psychological Science. Kirsty then plans to undertake a further 4 years of study to obtain her Medical Doctorate.

Kirsty achieved high distinctions for every unit in semester 1 2015 and distinctions for every unit in Semester 2. This is an outstanding achievement.

Kirsty thanks MG Corporation and its members for the scholarship saying “receiving the MG scholarship enables me to be able to travel to Perth and focus completely on my studies without having to worry about bills or getting a job and I believe it is the reason I have so much success in my studies”

Kirsty’s MG corporation tertiary study scholarship continues for 2016 where she will receive assistance for living expenses and study items.

Economy: - Creating our future:

“To Facilitate a vibrant local economy that enjoys sustainable business development and investment through a skilled and diverse workforce..”

MG Corp Annual report 2015

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State Government “Indigenous Land Use Agreement” (ILUA) —MG Corporation’s View

The MG Board of directors has taken the stance of not accepting the state governments proposal for a new Indigenous land use agreement which will affect all of the MG Native title determination area.

The ILUA the State is trying to force upon MG Corporation is for a 3 year term, MG Corporation has been advised of the following by its Legal team:

- No ILUA of this type should be considered until all the promises in the Ord Final Agreement have been fulfilled.
- Given the non-extinguishing nature of this proposed ILUA, serious and meaningful contemplation should be given to the fact that any agreement made by the TOs is not only binding on the whole of the MG people, but on the future generations of MG people, who will be left with few if any rights to speak for their country.
- Comparisons should be made with other non-extinguishing ILUAs in terms of what other PBCs have negotiated.
- Any PBC payments and/or funding to be provided in terms of this agreement, needs to be significant, substantial, and enduring for the long term benefit of future generations to come.
- There is no more bargaining power with this government proposal. MG people will have no power to achieve positive economic and social outcomes in the future.
- The state is seeking MG to transfer the responsibility for Heritage and mining negotiations to the state departments.

CFT Distributions

The Community Foundation Trust met on Monday 14th March, and have decided that there will be no distribution in April. The Investment portfolio currently managed by Macquarie Bank has not performed well enough.

In Summary the resolution made by the CFT states “CFT directors understand the desire of the MG people for a distribution of the income to Dawang groups. This year the volatility of the investment market with a downward swing has meant a very limited income with inadequate funds available in March to enable a distribution to Dawang groups.”

The CFT meet again in June where the investment portfolio and distributions will be discussed.

MG Corporation - New Finance Man- ager

Introducing Joanne Tan

Joanne (Jo) joined MG corporation in January. Originally from Melbourne, Joanne has worked for a number of Multi National Corporations in senior roles including KPMG and PricewaterhouseCooper and most recently ANZ Bank, based in Sydney where she was the “Senior Audit Manager”

Joanne has visited Kununurra a number of times over the years, and loves the scenery, life style and adventure of Kununurra and its surroundings. Jo has chosen to accept the role of Finance Manager here at MG. We welcome Jo to Kununurra and the MG community.



Joanne Tan

Corporate Re-structure in progress

The MG Board has been discussing for some time the need to streamline its corporate activities and reduce its administrative costs.

Jackson MacDonald lawyers were asked to consider a reform of the MG Group's current structure. The proposals made by Jackson McDonald were not accepted by the MG Board or the Dawang Council as they did not differ significantly from the current structure and seemed dictated by government preferences.

A second opinion was sought from another law firm with expertise in the area—Gilbert and Tobin (G+T).

Gilbert and Tobin was recommended to the MG Group by other lawyers who work in the not-for-profit sector. It has offices in Perth, Sydney and Melbourne. G+T has advised that the work required to undertake the corporate restructure will be performed in three phases:

Phase One: investigation and assessment of current structure;

Phase Two: setting a new structure, in consultation with the MG Group; and its members.

Phase Three: transitioning from the current structure to the new one.

Note: community meetings will be held during **Phase Two** for members to give their input on the Corporate Restructure.

MG Tertiary Scholarship recipient Jayla Davey Newry reports on 2015 studies.

Report by Jayla Davey— Newry

"Last semester was a complete eye opener in terms of work load. We hit a stage where the school decided we were developing enough as actors to throw a heavy work load at us but it was brilliant. I think high amounts of work is exactly what we need before we are thrown in the acting industry.

We did a range of classes from body movement to vocal training. I found it really hard to get out of my head, as I looked at acting work as a mental thing and completely forgetting the body, I also didn't understand how to merge book work and written assignments into the mix but the time off for the Christmas holiday gave it all time to settle in and make sense.

We worked with teachers such as Kevin Jackson (ex head of acting at NIDA for over 20 years) to Felix Williamson (The Great Gatsby, Black comedy) Both having completely different acting styles.

Kevin taught us Stanislavsky, which is using emotional memory and if you were in the characters shoes, where as Felix taught us practical aesthetics which is using a situation that resonates for you and just using that for a scene even if the scene is completely different.

My favourite character for the whole year that I played was Cecily Cardew from 'The importance of being earnest (1895)' by Oscar Wilde. She's a young socialite from the English country who falls in love with an inner city bachelor set in England in the 1890's. My favourite parts about the character were getting to dress up in a period gown, with bassinets and eating tea cakes. It was very far from myself which made becoming her so much fun.

Over all 2015 was difficult but I'm so excited to throw myself straight into 2016 brings"

Jayla's MG Corporation tertiary study scholarship continues in 2016, where she will receive assistance for living expenses and study items.

MG Contacts

MG corporate office acts on instruction from the Trust Directors regarding funds. If you have questions concerning the Trusts and the funds they administer, please contact the Chairperson or the directors directly.

Dawang Land Trust

Chairperson Carol Hapke 0459092403

Directors: Agnes Armstrong & Joan Simon

Independent director: - Yale Bolto

Community Foundation Trust

Chairperson: Helen Gerrard 0499012156

Directors: Dora Griffiths & Jennifer Wilson

Independent director: - Yale Bolto & Jeff Gooding

Your MG Corporate Contacts

Community Liaison Officers

Info / issues MG Community Living areas

Rhys Pert MG Office (08) 9166 4839

Edmond Cox MG Office (08) 9166 4801

MG Administration

Peter Brown MG Office (08) 9166 4801

MG Field Officers

Meetings / Notices / Pick ups

David (Hooky) Ward MG Office (08) 9166 4801

Meeting dates for 2016

Board Meeting

19th April 2016

17th May 2016

21st June 2016

Dawang Council Meeting

18th May 2016

CFT Meeting

20 June 2016

Opening hours

Monday to Friday

8am—4pm

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