



Antakirinja Matu-Yankunyjtjara Aboriginal Corporation Community Newsletter

July
2026

Chairperson's Statement

Wai Palya,

I am a proud Antakirinja Matu-Yankunyjtjara member and as the newly appointed chairperson I am honoured to introduce the third edition to the AMYAC newsletter.

The AMYAC leadership team has been working very hard to progress initiatives on your behalf. In line with AMYAC values and strategic plan I am passionate about uniting the community, improving AMYAC presence while protecting and progressing the rights of AMYAC members. I have a strong belief in the importance of communication, transparency and accountability that is guided by a high standard of governance, processes and structural framework that can always be improved upon to benefit AMYAC and members.

I want to thank the leadership team, Trust Advisory Council and the PBC directors for their dedication. Importantly thank you the members, for your patience and your continued trust. Together, we are aiming to build a legacy that honours our ancestors and importantly secures the future for our grandchildren.

Jonathon Fatt-Clifton, Chairperson - AMYAC Board and AMYAC Trust Advisory Council.



Vice Chairperson's Statement

I am a proud Matu-Yankunyjtjara woman, who was appointed as Vice Chairperson in February for AMYAC, and it's an honour to be the first female vice chairperson.

After 8 consecutive years on the board so far, starting in the under 35 category, it has been a new chapter for me as Vice Chair. It has been a new experience and I am appreciative of the support from the current Chairperson.

As a director and vice chair, it has always been my passion to find every opportunity that brings the best decision possible for our AMYAC community in Coober Pedy and support our members broader.

I would like to give acknowledgment to our current board, the Trust Advisory Committee, MPS Law and all of our members.

It is a big year for AMYAC, with lots of achievements, and lots of challenges, but with a lot of positive growth within our community, especially our first ever AMYAC NAIDOC week held by AMYAC this year, which was a big success.

We look forward to continuing to grow within our community with AMYAC led events that allow more members to be involved in and a part of.

Jess Smith, Vice Chairperson - AMYAC Board and AMYAC Trust Advisory Council.





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AMYAC Corporation

We welcome members to AMYAC's first newsletter of 2026.

In writing this newsletter, we look forward to finding new ways to share with members the good work the board has been doing since we met at our annual general meeting (AGM) in February.

We thank again the members for hearing from and speaking with us at our recent community meetings, including at our strategic planning sessions in Coober Pedy and Port Augusta on 23-25 June 2026, and our information sessions on the proposed direct benefits trust in Coober Pedy and Port Augusta on 4-5 July 2026.

Aside from meeting with members, the board has also been working hard to make sure that issues important to Antakirinja Matu-Yankunyjtjara people are being heard, including issues about keeping country healthy and providing reliable services to Coober Pedy. The board has been raising these issues with government agents, such as in meetings with the Deputy Premier, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Environment and Water, the District Council of Coober Pedy and the Woomera Prohibited Area office.

The board has also been talking with the people working and operating on our country, including with Peak Iron about implementing our new native title agreement for the Hawks Nest Mine site, and BHP about how we can make our relationship around Prominent Hill better.

You will hear further from us about the work we are doing when we meet again at our AGM in November. We will particularly talk with the members at the AGM about:

- **Strategic planning:** we will present a new 5-year strategic plan, based on the community feedback we received at the recent community sessions.
- **Rulebook review:** we will present proposed changes to our director rules to strengthen the board and our corporate governance.
- **AMYAC governance:** we will talk about how the AMYAC entities work together (including Amy Nominees and the AM-Y ICT), including improving how we talk to each other and manage our shared governance.

You will have heard from us about a native title meeting to talk about setting up the direct benefits trust. If you have not received the meeting notice, or have any questions, please contact MPS Law.



AMYAC Office Manager, Gwen Martin, provides opening address for NAIDOC week.



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AMYAC Office

Coober Pedy united for a vibrant NAIDOC Week celebrating culture and community.

Update from
William Watson,
Senior Admin
Office, AMYAC
Office

With AMYAC facilitating activities, residents and visitors gathered to share stories, build relationships and recognise local culture.

Monday opened with a ceremony at the District Council of Coober Pedy, where awards were presented to recognise achievements of local community members. Attendees then joined the NAIDOC March along the main street to the rotunda for a barbecue, conversation and celebration.

Tuesday's lively Quiz Night at the AMYAC Community Space attracted eight teams. Friendly competition, laughter and shared knowledge gave families, friends and visitors another chance to connect. The winning team included AMYAC Office staff and family members, as well as visiting MPS Law staff.

Wednesday's community luncheon brought people together for kangaroo tails and other food while yarning in a relaxed, welcoming setting. The gathering offered time to reconnect, exchange experiences and reflect on NAIDOC Week's meaning.

Friday's closing ceremony at the District Council of Coober Pedy rounded out the program, providing an opportunity to reflect on the celebrations and connections formed during the week.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to this memorable celebration of culture, pride and togetherness. The strong community participation made each event special and demonstrated the importance of coming together to listen, learn, celebrate and support one another.

The offices wishes to remind members that all applications for Cultural and Educational purposes are closed until **1 October 2026**.



Recipients of the 2026 NAIDOC week awards.



'The Randoms' 2026 NAIDOC week quiz night winners.



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Update from
Paula Stewart,
Trust Manager,
Perpetual
Trustees

AMYAC Trust

The Trust Advisory Council (TAC) met in Adelaide in April and May 2026 to discuss how the Trust is supporting members and to plan for the future. The Trust continues to help AM-YAC members through programs covering education, health, medical expenses, culture, funerals, support for Elders, and general wellbeing. The TAC have also listened to the Member's feedback and expanded the medical program so that members can access their funds for preventative health such as gym membership and other eligible allied health expenses such as mental health support/counselling, quit smoking, physio and chiropractic.

What has been happening?

The Executive Office transition is now complete, and the Trust appreciates the support and patience of AM-YAC Members throughout this period. The transition identified opportunities to improve processes and member support, which the TAC has been actively addressing. These improvements, together with the introduction of the AMS, have contributed to an increase in member applications and support payments, representing a positive outcome for the AM-YAC Trust.

More than 3,000 applications for assistance were processed last financial year. From the 1st January 2025- 30th June 2025, 1,129 applications for assistance were processed compared with 3,174 applications being processed from January 2026 – 30th June 2026. This is a very good outcome. The most popular programs were Education, Cultural Support and Medical Assistance. The Trust is also working with Fordham EO to improve service and reduce waiting times for members.

Headstones and Memorials: The TAC approved a plan to deal with older headstone and memorial applications that have built up over several years. Extra funding has been set aside to help clear this backlog.

Emergency Assistance: The Trust has approved the purchase of emergency vouchers and is developing better ways to support members who need urgent help outside normal business hours.

Education and Scholarships: The TAC reviewed scholarship funding and continues to push for increased support so educational opportunities remain available for current and future generations of AM-YAC members.

Financial Literacy and Governance: TAC members took part in training to improve their understanding of budgeting, investing, Trust finances and how member benefit programs are managed.



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AMYAC Trust

Supporting Young People: The Trust approved funding to help junior AM-YAC members participate in the 2026 Aboriginal Junior Netball Carnival, providing sporting and personal development opportunities.

Looking Ahead: The Trust is working on several new initiatives, including:

- A small business support program.
- Improvements to medical travel assistance.
- Digital payment card options for members.
- Stronger cooperation between the Trust and the AM-YAC Corporation to better support community needs.
- The TAC is also working with AM-YAC to explore what a future transition of Executive Office services to AM-YAC may look like, including opportunities to strengthen local capacity and enhance services for members.

Our Commitment

The Trust remains committed to protecting and growing Trust assets while continuing to support the health, education, culture and wellbeing of AM-YAC members, their families and future generations.





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AMY Nominees

Hello AMYAC Members,

Update from Lee
Emmett, General
Manager, AMY
Nominees

July has been a very busy but safe month for AMY Nominees.

Following the award of the BHP Prominent Hill Run of Mine contract, AMYNOMS has been expanding the team recruiting numerous roles to meet our contractual requirements.

AMYNOMS have successfully mobilised all personnel and equipment commencing the contract on the 1st of July and have been running day and night shift for 4 weeks onsite, working closely with Thiess, BHP and NPE.

We have also made some much-needed improvements to the running of the business, implementing a new payroll system, Integrated management system, and purchasing system to meet the expectation of our clients and business growth.

Our environmental team have recently completed a shredding campaign in the landfill and have reduced the backlog of material from the wet weather event earlier in the year. Our waste contract continues to have great results and consistent improvements.

The road maintenance contract has made some much-needed improvements to the site access road, and we continue the transition of works with Qube and BHP. We are working closely through the scope of works and hope to have a draft contract in the next 2 months.

Mabel Creek station has a new manager Connor Cosgrove, and the country is looking quite good after the rains in recent months. There are some minor upgrades to the homestead and fencing currently underway.

Macweld Cranes, a joint venture between AMY Nominees and Fleurieu Cranes, have successfully commenced works on the Hume link East project. There are currently 4 cranes in use: a 230 Ton, 2 x 150 ton and 1 60-ton crane supporting the assembly and erection of new transmission lines. The project is supported by 8 employees and 3 light vehicles.

The AMY Nominees Board and staff proudly attended the TACTIC conference in Pt Augusta this week.

There were many exhibitors, contractors, mining companies, and community support businesses showcasing their products and services. BHP spoke to the delegates about the continued and important partnership they have with AMY Nominees, a wholly owned subsidiary of the AMYAC corporation, and have awarded the Traditional owner business BHP's largest stand-alone contract in South Australia.



AMY Nominees Directors attending the TACTIC conference in Port Augusta.



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Upcoming Community Events

Community Authorisation Meeting

**Tuesday, 15th & Wednesday, 16th
September 2026**

Day 1: Native Title Authorisation
Meeting

Day 2: Community Meeting



The AMYAC board with Deputy
Premier Kyam Maher and Premier
Rhiannon Pearce during NAIDOC
week.



AMYAC Office staff at the NAIDOC week opening
celebration.



Raising of the flags at the opening ceremony.

AMYAC Staff Updates

AMYAC has recently hired several new positions within the AMYAC Office. The AMYAC Office now has 5 fulltime employees, 1 part-time employee and 5 casual employees.

Applications are currently being considered by the board for the AMYAC CEO.

AMYAC CONTACTS

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See you soon!

