

# Martidja Banyjima Milli Milli

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## Doris Parker named runner-up in the RIRDC Rural Women's Awards

The RIRDC Rural Women's Award was instigated in 2000 with the objective of increasing women's capacity to contribute to primary industries and rural Australia, by providing them with the support and resources to further develop their skills and abilities. The Award supports women with a strong and positive vision for the future of Australian primary industries.

This year Doris Parker was named Runner-up in this important Award. Doris, her husband Trevor and their family have been managing Peedamulla station since 1997 where they undertook the huge task of repaying debts and improving infrastructure which had taken a toll from years of drought. In addition to this demanding role, Doris also works

as a customer service officer for the Department of Child Protection in Onslow.

Doris's vision is for Peedamulla to be a working cattle station which provides training for pastoral work and a nurturing environment with quarters for kids in trouble and people who need a safe refuge. Doris has an influential role as 'grandmother' of her community to steer children onto a path of higher expectations by exposing them to the wisdom of their elders. Doris wants her people to share her passion for the land and the stock it can carry.

Our congratulations to Doris for receiving such a significant acknowledgement of her contribution to rural Australia.

BELOW: Maitland Parker, Marji Hughes, Doris Parker, Trevor Parker at the RIRDC Rural Women's award ceremony.



Photo taken by Peter Maloney

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If you are interested in contributing, or have suggestions for articles, for the next *Milli Milli*, please contact the office.

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## Native Title and Future Acts 2008 Overview

The highlight of 2008 from a future act perspective was the conclusion of a mining agreement with Brockman Resources Ltd in September 2008. The agreement provided for a substantial upfront payment and set new benchmarks in terms of royalty payments and provisions dealing with contracting and environmental protection. While it is uncertain when the Brockman project will proceed, MIB have been paid upfront monies which should enable it to purchase other assets. In contrast negotiations with Rio Tinto and BHP have been slow and difficult during 2008 and are expected to continue in 2009.

On the native title front during 2008, MIB led preservation evidence in the Federal Court and participated in a connection report process with Dr Kingsley Palmer. A draft connection report is expected by the end of this year.

A draft connection report has now been received from Kingsley Palmer and a mediation process been commenced on the basis of the draft report in an attempt to resolve the overlap of the MIB and IB claims. *(Article provided by Christensen Vaughan)*

BELOW: Maitland Parker at Federal Court Hearing



BELOW: Slim Parker welcoming the Federal Court



BELOW: Weeli Wolli creek



## Hope Downs Mine Update

In 2008 MIB created a legal precedent by leading preservation evidence in respect of the Jundaru site at the Hope Downs Mine.

MIB gave powerful and compelling evidence to the Federal Court as to their cultural connection to Hope Downs and Jundaru. The evidence given was deeply moving and left a lasting impression on all present. The Judge who heard the evidence, Justice French, was subsequently appointed to be Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. He has referred to the taking of evidence in a recent paper, which was delivered to a national audience.

The evidence was recorded and can be used to preserve and protect MIB's ability to prove native title over Hope Downs.

*(Article provided by Christensen Vaughan)*



## Board Meeting

The MIB Board met on 3/12/08 in Newman. During this meeting the Board discussed a variety of issues such as

- Corporate Governance Training
- Homework House Project
- Production Payments
- Financial Statements
- Tax Issues
- Auski Roadhouse
- Beneficiary Payments

A Board Meeting date is expected to be set for March 09.

## Homework House Project

Recently the MIB board raised the issue of better servicing the educational needs of the MIB people, particularly the older community who may need numeracy and literacy support and the younger MIB school students who may need practical assistance with their homework.

Based on these identified needs, the Board has decided to develop a 'homework house' project. Yaran Business Services (YBS) a long standing service provider to the MIB community, has been given the responsibility of developing this initiative in conjunction with support from key local MIB people, education specialists and industry stakeholders. To date the project, headed by YBS General Manager, Mark Thyer, has created much interest, particularly from those community specialists who recognise the need for such a program and its obvious potential for the MIB people.

Given the nature of such an undertaking, the project is still in its early development stages as YBS continues to talk to industry, the community and other stakeholders to pull together the necessary support and evidence required to justify the financial aspects of the project and the necessary community commitment needed to make it a success.

If you would like to make comment or become involved in the Homework House project, please email Mark Thyer by [mark.thyer@internode.on.net](mailto:mark.thyer@internode.on.net).

*(Article provided by Mark Thyer, General Manager, Yaran Business Services)*

## Community Meeting



TOP: Community Meeting

A community meeting of the Martidja (Fortescue) Banyjima Peoples' was held in Youngaleena on Saturday 6 December 2008 with about 70-80 Martidja Banyjima people and family members in attendance.

This annual meeting was called to bring community members up to

date with regard to the MIB trust activities. Working Group Members and trust advisers provided reports regarding heritage, native title matters relating to the Palmer connection report process and the Federal Court hearing held on Martidja Banyjima country during 2008. Information in relation to the commercial and future act matters dealt with by the elected MIB Working Group and Legal Advisers during the previous 12 months was also provided.

Once again the Youngaleena Community and extended Banyjima family catered for this meeting in a very professional manner."

## Letter from Jayden

Below is a letter from Jayden White who has been a recipient of assistance from the Trust. You will see that Jayden is currently with the Australian Institute of Sport and at the end of February Jayden will be going to New Zealand to compete in two fights. Another wonderful example of what our MIB kids can achieve.



TOP: Jayden White

My name is Jayden White – 16 yrs old. My Mum and Dad are Paula White & Ben Jeakings, I also have two brothers and a sister named Benjamin, Julian and Tajare Jeakings.

I go to Forrestfield S.H.S, I am starting my last year at school. I'm hoping to graduate this year.

I enjoy hanging around my little brothers and specially my sister, who are also very annoying. I love playing sports and playing it with my mates, we always have a good time. The sports I play are Cricket and Boxing. I'm currently with the Australian Institute of Sports for Boxing and I'm going to New Zealand on February the 28th to have two fights.

My goals are to reach the next Olympics in 2012 and then turn professional.

My hobbies are...

- Fishing
- Cars
- Sports
- Clothes
- Movies

## Assistance Available

**All assistance provided is at the sole discretion of the Board and its delegates as per the trust deeds.**

The MIB Trust has been established to provide assistance to the Martidja Banyjima People. The trust office may provide assistance in the areas of education, lore and culture, funerals, community development, sports and recreation, economic development and emergency assistance.

Below is a list of the types of things **we might** be able to help you with:

- Emergency only Food Vouchers
- Emergency only Fuel Vouchers
- Help to get to a doctor, dentist or other medical appointments
- Medical expenses
- Help to get to a funeral
- School books and fees
- Boarding school fees and travel
- Computer equipment for education
- Employment/Education assistance
- Fees for sports participation
- Loans or grants to start a business, buy a business or help with your business
- Help to get to community meetings
- Help to record history and attend to cultural lore meetings

All applications must be received in writing. Application forms are available from the trust office or on the web site. The form must be faxed or emailed to the trust office for any application to be processed.

**Applications cannot be processed over the phone.**

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## Corporate Governance Training Programs

The MIB Board has decided to offer Corporate Governance Training to those MIB members who may be interested in becoming future Members of the MIB Board.

The MIB Corporate Governance training is designed to assist MIB people in understanding how the Trust Board works; and what is involved in being a Board Member.

The training will have three stages, with each stage encompassing a one day training program. This training links in with our Trainee Board Member program and will be designed to assist those MIB members who wish to be more involved in the decision making processes that surround the management of the MIB Trust.