



AUGUST VISIT



AUGUST 2020 // PREPARED BY CLARE WOOD AND ALANA HUNT



18 - 25 August 2020

IT HAS BEEN GREAT TO VISIT BALGO - OUR FIRST VISIT SINCE COVID-19.

THE WOMEN WERE REALLY EXCITED TO CONTINUE WORK ON:

- *THE PIRIWA OP SHOP*
- *EXPERIMENT WITH BUSH PRODUCTS*
- *LEARN ABOUT BUSINESS*

Alana and Clare hosted workshops at the Trade Training Centre all week and lots of community members dropped in to see what was happening.

EPWA will return to Balgo in October to continue working with the community to focus on supporting the women to:

- Develop the Piriwa Op Shop
- Experiment with Bush Products
- Explore ideas for activating the community economy via small cafes and cooking.

Piriwa Op Shop

I'm very happy about this place, I feel good. I'm proud of this place. Helen Nagomara

Many women helped source and price the clothes and were excited to have lots of customers! The Piriwa Op Shop did a pop up market and the women learnt how to use the square card machine for purchases.

The profits from the Op Shop are all being saved to make the business strong and then will employ a local woman to manage the Op Shop.

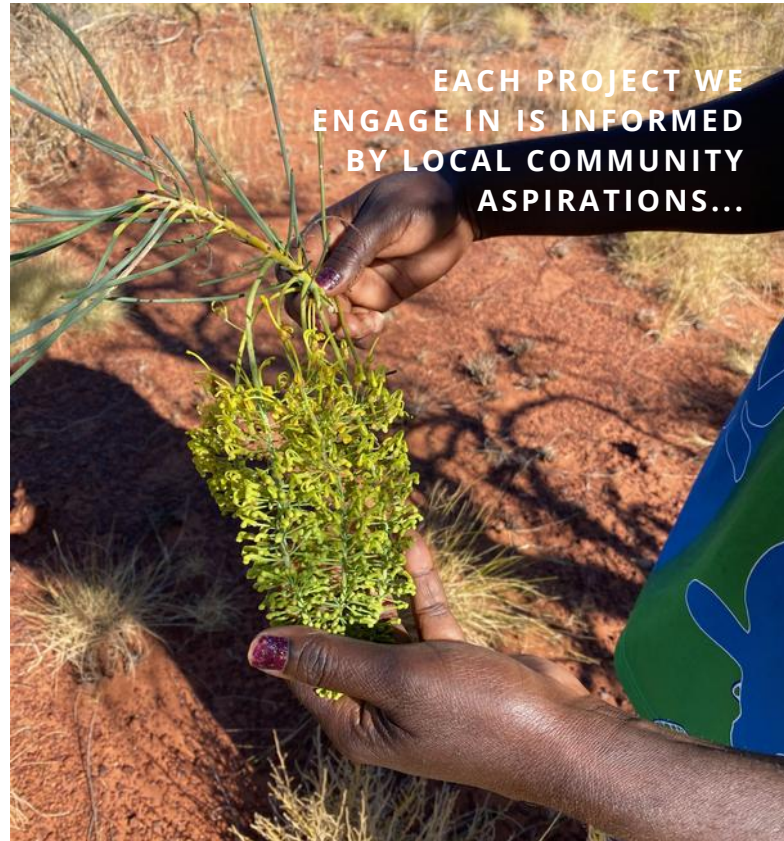
EPWA is also talking with EKJP and WAC to find a permanent space for the Piriwa Op Shop.



Experimentation and Research

Kathryn and Monica went bush to show Clare what the Piriwa tree looks like. Helen shared the story: *Piriwa is that wild honey that we get from this tree. It's sweet, and it's good for drinking, when you mix it in with the water. Good to drink. Long time ago out in the bush the old people, they used to collect piriwa and put it in the water, and they'd take it around with them. When they're hunting, they take it around, and when it's food time they drink it and share it with the family. I like that word. Piriwa is my favourite.*

Alana supported the women to explore designs and logos for the Piriwa Op Shop and products, screen printing the women's drawings on bags and labels, and also collected the bush Lemon Grass with Cathy.



Healthy Eating workshop with Boab Health

Gianni and Leah from Boab Health visited the shed one lunch time to provide a session on 'iron' and healthy eating.

One of the business ideas the women have is to cook and sell healthy food in the community. Everyone shared a healthy feed for lunch.

Kathryn said: *That was good. We never got told this when we were in school. It's good to learn about.*





Bush Products

The women also made bush lip balm and hair oil and were creatively exploring logos and packaging ideas for products.

We had fun experimenting with different ideas, bush plants and recipes.

Cathy and Kathleen also showed other young women how to make lip balm and hair oil, which is a really popular product for a local market.

We'll continue refining the bush products and the women can establish microenterprises with support.



East Kimberley Aboriginal Leaders & Women in Business 'Ngaringgas in Business' Forum

Next week women from Balgo are attending a women's business and leadership camp near Halls Creek, run by Natasha Short from Kimberley Birds. Holly from Kapululangu Women's Centre will be driving with the Balgo women.

We are really excited about the camp! Women are coming from all over the East Kimberley to share ideas and support one in their business dreams another to stay mentally healthy and well.

This will also be an opportunity for women from Balgo and Kalumburu who have both worked with EPWA in their respective communities to meet in person and share ideas, experiences and hopes.



Next Visit

EPWA's next trip is in mid-October for another intensive workshop week.

Thanks to EKJP for the funding to make this workshop possible and for the incredible staff support on the ground.

Thanks to Balgo community members who visited the Piriwa Op Shop and participated in the workshop activities.

If you want to know more about EPWA work in Balgo contact Clare on clare@epwa.org.au

Thank you to Wirrimanu Aboriginal Corporation and everyone else who welcomed and supported EPWA across the visit to the community.



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