



March REPORT



March 2020 // PREPARED BY CLARE WOOD



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THIS TRIP SUPPORTED THE ACTIVATION OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S SPACE AT THE TRADE TRAINING CENTRE AND ENGAGED YOUNG WOMEN IN ENTERPRISE WORKSHOPS

Susannah and Clare visited Balgo to continue to support women with their microenterprise ideas.

In 2020 EPWA will work in partnership with the community to focus on supporting the women to set up a:

- Community Op Shop
- Experiment with Bush Products
- Explore ideas for activating the community economy like cafes and cooking.

Enterprise Activities

3rd - 10th March 2020

Community Op Shop

The women held their first "pop-up" Op Shop on Friday. It was a great success with over 35 customers visiting the pop-up Op Shop!

The women worked together during the week to sort the donations and price clothes. Gracie, Tossie and Dulcie decided to name the Op Shop, 'Piriwa', after a wattle seed plant. The women experimented with a design for the Op Shop sign and logo based on this plant and it's yellow flowers.

The profits made from the Op Shop will go back into the resources required to set up the Op Shop such as clothing racks.

We spoke about the collective business model for the Piriwa Op Shop and how it is a way for women to learn skills in retail and in business. The women plan to hold a pop up Op Shop each Friday and will talk with the Wirrimanu Corporation about finding a space in the community for the Op Shop.

Big thanks to Prue from Anglicare who transported the donated clothes for the Op Shop from the Red Cross in Kunuurra. We also plan for the Op Shop to be able to accept payments via eftpos in the future.



Community Op Shop - continued

The group spoke about the different items the community would need at an Op Shop. There were some great ideas to explore.

The women spoke about the need for access to low cost kitchen and homeware items, as well as clothes.

EPWA will work alongside the women to develop partnerships to supply and stock the Op Shop. Red Cross in Kununurra has already provided support.

EPWA are also supporting the women in learning how to manage finances and create business systems for the Op Shop.



Bush Products

Kathryn and Alison shared some of their bush medicine and plant knowledge with the women, exploring down the dam road to find plants to experiment in making bush soap with.

During the workshop the women learnt about pricing, developing logos and marketing.

Cindy led the bush soap activity and began to work on different logos for the bush soap.

The young women spoke of wanting bush medicine workshops with Tossie, Gracie and Sadie next trip.

We also spoke about the importance of protecting cultural and intellectual property.

The women have started to sell some bush soaps in the community and would love people's feedback to help with their market research!





Cooking

A lunch was held with the senior women who were taking a break from painting and who had come to check out the Trade Training Centre space on Monday.

The women cooked up a delicious lunch and spoke about the idea of a community cafe or takeaway and how this had previously run at the Trade Training Centre.

On Sunday some of the older and younger women went on a bush trip to relax and also share ideas of hopes for the future in tourism.

Thanks to Kathryn for cooking up the damper and roo tail!



Next Visit

Alana Hunt and Natasha Short were due to visit Balgo later this month, however, we understand the importance of protecting the health of community members and that non-essential travel has been stopped wisely by the Directors of Wirrimanu Corporation.

We will work with EKJP and the community to make a plan of how we can continue to provide support during this time.

We also look forward to continuing to work with everyone in the community to develop strong partnerships around enterprise development.

Thank you to EKJP who provided funding for the EPWA visit. Thank you to the Balgo community members, Wirrimanu Aboriginal Corporation, and everyone else who welcomed and supported EPWA across the visit to the community.



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