

Dear members, traditional owners and other interested people,

This is my third newsletter as the special administrator for Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (KAC). While I am in this role I'll send regular newsletters to let you know what I'm doing to help get your corporation back on track.

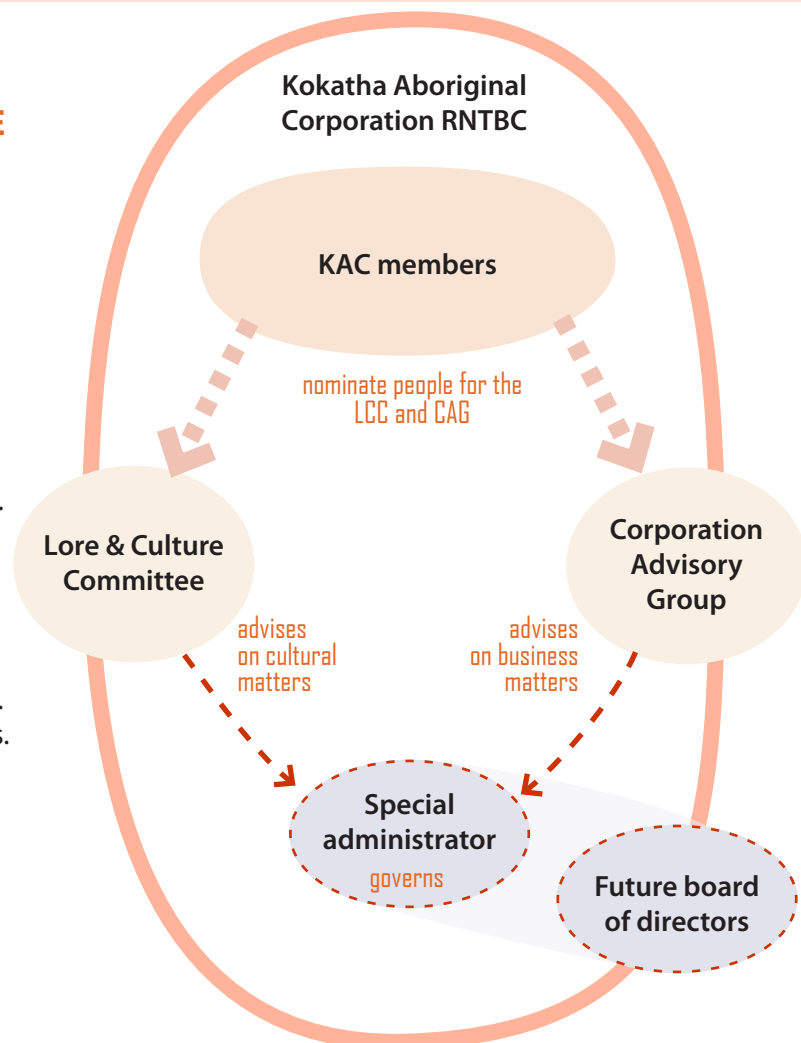
Since my last newsletter, a lot has been happening at the Kokatha office; we have several new projects

CORPORATION ADVISORY GROUP AND LORE & CULTURE COMMITTEE

In December 2019 KAC members had the opportunity to nominate their preferred representatives for the Corporation Advisory Group and the Lore & Culture Committee. My thanks to the members for voting; your contribution was highly valued and played a major part in identifying candidates. About 20 per cent of KAC members voted, resulting in 38 nominations for the advisory group and 33 nominations for the Lore & Culture Committee.

The **Corporation Advisory Group** is a temporary body that works with me on governance, business, financial and structural change in preparation to hand the corporation back to members at the end of the special administration. It is not a board and its members are not directors.

The purpose of the **Lore & Culture Committee** is to provide connection between Kokatha culture and the activity of the corporation. It advises the advisory group—and the future board of directors—on matters of lore and culture.



SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION STATUS

1

Take control of the assets, including land. Find out if the corporation can recover financially.

2

Restore good operational order.

3

Prepare the corporation for return to members' control as soon as possible.

For the CAG, KMSearch held informal telephone interviews with 21 individuals to discuss their interest and assess their suitability for these business-orientated positions.

On 21 January, the special administrator appointed 11 people to the CAG:

- Amanda Dempsey
- Daniel Ramm
- Tenna Franliw
- Jessica Reid
- Kahlia Gibson
- Sabrina Starkey
- Tanya Gill
- Tanya Swales
- Darryl Johnson
- Roger Thomas
- Elaine Moosha

Their first meeting as a group was on Thursday 23 January. Some candidates for non-member directors—independent people who will bring specialist skills to the board—also attended.

The initial CAG members were selected based on their skills and experience and their ability to contribute to discussions on the commercial oversight of the corporation's group of companies and trusts. Membership of the CAG is not fixed and may change as the special administration progresses.

The plan is for the Lore & Culture Committee to have a representative from each of the family groups. Following discussion at the initial CAG meeting, there will be a delay in the announcement of the Lore & Culture Committee membership while we consider and review some of the points raised.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of KAC's annual general meeting are now available from the office or from the corporation's website at kokatha.com.au.

KOKATHA COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Consultation with the Kokatha community regarding the future of the corporation is central to the special administration. Each month, I will meet with the newly-formed CAG so we can discuss and consider changes to the structure, leadership and corporate governance of the KAC group of entities.

We will also hold a community meeting for KAC members and other interested people in late March/early April. This will include information on progress and plans for the special administration, and give members and the community the opportunity to discuss and contribute.

We will advise on the date and venue for the community meeting soon.

KOKATHA GROUP OF ENTITIES

Over the years, the Kokatha group of entities has grown into a complex assortment of trusts, incorporated associations, companies under ASIC, two joint ventures and KAC itself under the CATSI Act. I have been exploring ways of simplifying this structure. The first step has been to remove all former directors from Kokatha Holdings Pty Ltd, Kokatha Mining Services Pty Ltd and Kokatha Pastoral Pty Ltd. I have appointed myself as the interim sole director of all of these companies. This has allowed me to focus on the introduction of standardised processes across all of these entities including:

- recruitment and other policies
- employment contracts
- oversight of work health and safety procedures
- operating budgets for all operations
- increased oversight of operations by Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation
- a new chart of accounts for all entities
- new financial performance reporting systems.

The removal of the former directors of these entities is part of the special administration process and in no way indicates any wrongdoing by former directors. I will next be looking into governance processes of Kokatha Martin Joint Venture Pty Ltd, Kokatha ACS Pty Ltd and the Kokatha People Native Title Compensation Pty Ltd.

KOKATHA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

All management staff position descriptions—and the organisation structure—have been reviewed. As needed, employment contracts have been updated to protect the interests of the employee and the corporation. As part of this process the title of general manager has been changed to chief executive officer (CEO). The role of the CEO is to lead the operation of each of the companies in the group and also to oversee trust support services and the processing of community assistance applications. This is a significant role. It is generally accepted that a general manager runs a major part of a corporation whereas a CEO leads and oversees all areas of business. The title of this position is now in line with standard corporate practice.

EXTENDING THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION

The special administration is progressing well but a significant amount of additional work is required in order to examine each of the entities in the group. Before the special administration is complete, and with input from the CAG, I will seek agreement on the structure of the group of entities, and recruit boards for each company in the group. I also hope the Lore & Culture Committee will have held its first meeting. The Registrar has agreed to my request to extend the special administration to Friday 26 June 2020.

KOKATHA MINING SERVICES EMPLOYMENT

Following the successful negotiation of two Kokatha Mining Services (KMS) contracts with OZ Minerals (OZM) at Carrapateena, KMS operations manager Chris Doon advertised six full-time jobs. After receiving 160 applications, he and a panel (including KAC employment and training coordinator, an independent business consultant and an OZM supervisor) followed the KAC recruitment policy—which gives qualified Kokatha people priority for jobs—to shortlist and interview and identify six outstanding candidates. Four are Kokatha people, one is a current Aboriginal KMS employee and one is a local.

Congratulations to KAC members:

- Luke Eyre
- Stanley Wingfield
- Vernon Warren
- Nigel Wilson

Due to the high number of excellent Kokatha candidates who were not placed, a KMS employment candidates pool has been established to support casual and full-time work as well as training programs. Many opportunities are emerging locally, and a number of people on this list have already been offered a role.



KOKATHA MINING SERVICES COURIER FOR LAB SAMPLES

The courier service contract commenced on 3 February 2020 to deliver samples from the Carrapateena mine site directly to the analysis laboratory, Bureau Veritas, in Whyalla. The service freights samples from the underground mining areas (geology samples) and processing plant operations samples (metallurgical samples) for a same-day delivery. This allows the technical departments of the Carrapateena mine to respond promptly to the results of those samples, optimising operations to maximise returns.

Two Kokatha people are employed full-time, on a rotating roster to provide this seven-days-a-week service. Stanley Wingfield and Nigel Wilson operate the Kokatha Mining Services courier truck and are enjoying the roles, making a good name for our corporation through providing good humour and excellent service.

GOOD GROWTH OF THE COMPENSATION FUND

Directors representing Kokatha People Native Title Compensation Pty Ltd, as Trustee for the Kokatha People Native Title Compensation Charitable Trust and the Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation, recently received the portfolio performance report for the last quarter of 2019.

The trust fund portfolio of investments beat all its benchmarks for the same period except for Australian shares. The portfolio has produced \$324,193 of income in the first six months of this financial year; which is on track to meet or exceed expectations. There was a further \$160,193 of capital growth (increased value of the investments) to 31 December 2019.

As at January 2020 the portfolio is valued at \$12,170,502, which brings the capital growth to \$667,032 for this financial year and reflects a very strong outcome in January 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PROHIBITS ENTRY TO WOOMERA

We have received a notice from the Department of Defence saying that it has suspended permission to enter and remain in the Woomera Prohibited Area. From time to time KAC received these notices for the information of all Kokatha people. We place them on the website and community noticeboard within 24 hours. Please check kokatha.com.au for this and other important community news.

TRAINING FOR OZ MINERALS EMPLOYMENT

Ten participants have graduated in December from a unique training program run by TAFE SA in conjunction with Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation and OZM. The nine-week course produces job-ready workers for the mining and civil sectors.

The graduates will receive a Certificate II in Mining, a White Card, and certificates authorising them to work at heights, operate a forklift and administer first aid.

The training program incorporated two four-day practical training components on-site with graduates now able to take advantage of employment opportunities at OZM and Downer.

The course was designed by TAFE SA in response to the needs of OZM to undertake the roles of process plant operators.

KAC employment and training coordinator, Jonathan Fatt-Clifton, said the corporation will continue to work closely with OZM and TAFE SA to provide rigorous and real-life training programs that set local Aboriginal people to succeed in these unique settings.

TAFE SA director Ms Marg Mibus also regards the program as extremely successful.

At the end of the course each graduate was interviewed by OZM HR for available positions, and undertook pre-employment screening. KAC's is supporting all graduates to transition into successful employment.

Participants each received a letter of congratulations from the Hon. Dan van Holst Pellekann MP, Member for Stuart and Minister for Energy and Mining in South Australia.

Congratulations:

- Luke Wingfield
- Dion Saunders
- Brian Brady
- Arthur Bromley
- Brodie Meyers
- Keisha Coleman
- Jaleel Stuart
- Klameisha Boland
- Andrew Peak Dadleh
- Hakeem Dodd



Following rigorous employment screening, including job-specific medicals the following Kokatha members have begun working for OZM. Congratulations to:

- Dion Saunders
- Luke Wingfield

Two other local Aboriginal participants are also due to start soon.

Jonathan Fatt-Clifton is working with the other graduates to match them to local opportunities for employment.

The following participants have been also been supported to successfully apply for apprenticeship via MEGT

Congratulations to:

- Jaleel Stuart (BHP apprenticeship)
- Jermaine Stuart (electrical apprenticeship)

If you have any questions about employment opportunities—including roles within KAC office team to be advertised in the first half of 2020—contact Jonathan Fatt-Clifton on 0447 569 803.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FUNDING —APPLY NOW

The next round of back-to-school funding by the Kokatha Charitable Trust has opened. As with previous years, the round will be open for applications from 28 January 2020 until 28 February 2020. Funding to a maximum of \$250 (including GST) per Junior Primary and Primary School child and \$500 (including GST) for Secondary school child for the 2020 school year may be provided for:

- school fees
- uniforms/school clothing including shoes
- books and stationery
- excursions
- contribution towards a laptop
- sporting activities will not be considered

Please note that there is a reduction in the maximum amount available to each child due to less Kokatha Charitable Trust funds being available to distribute.

Go to <https://kokatha.com.au/back-to-school-funding-applications-now-open/> for more information or call the Kokatha Charitable Trust line (08) 7078 8512 or (08) 8642 2068 or email trust@kokatha.com.au

NEW PASTORAL LAND MANAGER

After a rigorous recruitment process, KAC is pleased to announce the employment of Natalie Turner as the new Kokatha' pastoral land manager.

Nat has been involved in the pastoral industry most of her life. She grew up on Numery Station east of Alice Springs and was educated through School of the Air and then boarded at Wilderness School in Adelaide. She



went back to the bush after leaving school working on properties in NT, Qld, WA and SA. She then spent 14 years managing Ambalindum Station and contract mustering, and worked for the Centralian Land Management for six years managing land care and soil conservation projects on pastoral properties. Nat was then employed by Central Land Council over a 10-year period mostly in pastoral and feral animal areas. Before buying a small property in SA she spent three years managing Huckitta Station 280km North East of Alice Springs. She is passionate about the land and happiest working in the bush.

We are very happy Nat has now joined KAC to lead the delivery of our new Kokatha pastoral business plan with the support of Tony Freshwater from ILSC. She is currently also seeking some new employees to join her—a full-time station hand and cook/cleaner. More information about these positions is available from Jonathon Fatt-Clifton at training@kokatharntbc.com.au or 0439 279 449.

KAC also wish to acknowledge the efforts of Chris Van Woerkom, former pastoral project officer. We wish him all the best in the future.

We are very excited to report that Roxby Downs Station received 91mm of rain in the recent showers! If we can get some more rain it will make a real difference to the viability of bringing some cattle back onto some sections of property to help fund Back to Country activities in 2020.

FUNDING FOR WELLBEING

Thank you for your patience and feedback during our recent funding round for wellbeing. Unfortunately the budget of \$480,000 could not meet the demand for over \$1,000,000 worth of applications.

The trustees conducted a review of the applications on 18–19 November and agreed to factor into their selections a fair distribution across all family groups in the Kokatha community, and to prioritise:

- first-time applicants
- elders
- second-time applicants

The processing of applications was delayed due to the high number of applications and lack of available funds. Approximately 45 complete applications were held over for later review. Some 90 applicants were declined, however 20 of these applicants with valid applications perhaps would have been approved if additional funds were available. These have now been reconsidered.

The new Trustee, Trust Secretariat and CEO met in the new year and determined to provide a small amount of additional funding as a loan to the KCT from KAC to allow the round to be completed. All remaining applications have now been processed.

We regret the delays that have occurred and are committed to providing clear criteria and information regarding available funds prior to the commencement of all future funding rounds.

KOKATHA CHARITABLE TRUST FUNDS UPDATE

Funding for	Budget	Funds remaining
Funerals support	\$100,000	\$20,000
Health support	\$100,000	\$6,000

Updated forms for these funding supports can be found at kokatha.com.au/member-services/financial-support/

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES SPORTING CONTRIBUTION FUND

We aim to provide as much financial assistance to as many Kokatha people as possible. Previously, sporting teams could get sponsorship via stakeholder support but until now there was no established process and funding for individuals competing at a national or international level. The feedback we have received is this is often a barrier for elite athletes to participate.

There are no funds made available through the Kokatha Charitable Trust for us to distribute, however we were keen to find a solution so we have, in 2020, created a small fund that is independent of the Trusts to help those individuals selected for high-level sporting representation who are able to meet the criteria set for these special circumstances.

We are excited to be able to offer this contribution and we look forward to sharing with you success stories of some of these Kokatha people and their sporting achievements. We obviously wish them well!

For more information and contact details download the Criteria and Application Form at kokatha.com.au/special-circumstances-sporting-contribution-fund

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018–19

An annual report for July 2018 to June 2019 (including financial statements) has been compiled for the information of the Kokatha Community, stakeholders and ORIC. Copies were handed out to members at the December AGM and you can see a copy at kokatha.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/KAC01-Annual-Report-Web.pdf

If you would like a copy to be mailed out to you just give our office on (08) 8642 2068 a call and we will pop one in the post.

OFFICE EXPANSION

Due to the increase in KAC employees in 2019 with seven new positions (six of which have been filled by Kokatha people) we have relocated some of our staff to 15–23 Yon Street:

- Giac Consalvo, business development manager
- Jonathon Fatt-Clifton, employment and training coordinator
- Chris Doon, Kokatha mining services operations manager
- Kym Chamberlin, acting community support officer

In the first half of 2020 we will be looking to permanently fill a number of current and new roles in the KAC corporate office team. So if you are interested keep an eye on the website or even drop your resume to either office to be added to our Kokatha Job Ready Register.

MORE INFORMATION

See ORIC's fact sheet 'Special administrations: what members and directors need to know', and other fact sheets on corporate governance at oric.gov.au.

Many thanks, Peter

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Peter McQuoid

PDM Consultancy

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For more about special administrations
see oric.gov.au/special-admins
or call **1800 622 431** (not free from mobiles).