



## **KAC Communique- September 2020**

*Below is the monthly communique of key KAC activities for the information of Kokatha people.  
In September 2020, this information includes:*

### **Special Administration concludes**

1. The Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, Selwyn Button, announced the end of the special administration of Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and its return to the members' control on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October
2. You can read more about the announcement, appointment of the new Board and media releases at our website [www.kokatha.com.au](http://www.kokatha.com.au)
3. The 2020 KAC Annual General Meeting is due to take place in February 2021 (date to be confirmed) and the date for a meeting of Kokatha Common Law Holders is also currently being considered by the Board.

### **Membership Review completed**

4. This review has finished after extensive consultation and legal advice and the processing of membership applications has recommenced.
5. KAC membership is open to all Kokatha Common Law Holders (KCLH). In accordance with the Kokatha Native Title Consent Determination, KCLH are people recognised by other Kokatha native title holders as, *nguraritja* for sites and places in the Determination Area by reason of one or more of the following:
  - a) He or she is one of the following named individuals (where living) or is descended either through birth or adoption from them: *Alma Allen, Arthur Baker, Hilda Captain, Susie Captain, Andrew Davis, Percy Davis, Stanley Davis, Ted Egan, Micky Fatt, Gladys Kite, Ted Larkins, Mick Reid, George Reid, William Smith, Dick Thomas, Edie Thomas, George Turner, Wild Mary, Eileen Wingfield*
  - b) He or she possesses an ancestral connection with the Determination Area, in that his or her parent or grandparent was born in that country, had a long term physical association with that country and/or possesses significant geographic and culturally confidential knowledge relating to the Determination Area;
  - c) He or she was born on the Determination Area (including, if the person was born in a hospital, the place where they would otherwise have been born);
  - d) He or she had a long-term physical association with the Determination Area and consequent knowledge of the country;
  - e) He or she possesses significant geographic and culturally-confidential knowledge relating to the Determination Area under Kokatha traditional law and custom.
6. These multiple pathways to KCLH/KAC membership approval are administered by the KAC Board. KAC directors have ultimate responsibility for admitting new members to the corporation, and there is now a clear pathway for assessing applications that have previously been considered problematic



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7. KAC membership applications will involve a three stage process, which has been written into the rule book:
  - I. In the first instance, membership applications are reviewed by the KAC board. Applicants passing that review are accepted as members.
  - II. Applicants not recognised by the board go to the Culture and Heritage Committee for considerations and recommendation back to the Board. Applicants passing this second review are accepted as members by the board.
  - III. Applicants unrecognised in the first two stages are given the opportunity to present their application at the next meeting of common law holders (CLHs). At that meeting the decision to accept or reject an application is final. There will be two CLHs meetings each year (Covid 19 permitting).
8. There are significant advantages to being a member of KAC and/or to being on the register of common law holders. All Kokatha people are encouraged to apply for registration, even if your application was previously declined.
9. KAC has also starting to create a register of common law holders. Kokatha people who prefer not to take up membership of KAC remain entitled to benefits as common law holders, including the right to attend and vote at meetings of common law holders. Having a register of common law holders will make it much easier for corporation staff to keep all Kokatha people advised of what is happening. Kokatha people wanting to be on the register should contact the KAC office:  
[admindsupport@kokatharntbc.com.au](mailto:admindsupport@kokatharntbc.com.au)

### COVID-19 related

**The POP program (Protecting our People)- facilitated by KAC, managed by MCM, partnering with Barngala and Kuyani communities**



10. We trialled our model of providing food kits to 10 Households (on average would have at least 5 people, often with couch hoppers daily)



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11. We have requested an extra 33% of weekly breakfast foods from The Salvation Army, as this will enable us to supply all 3 Communities every week.

12. Working with supportive local suppliers:

- a) Flavio Parnanzini of Emma's Deli
- b) Ash and Belynda Stroyan from Terry Gardiner's Meat and Smallgoods
- c) Margaret Wild of Crossroad's Meats
- d) Robin Sharp of Top O' The Gulf Marine
- e) Major Gaye Day of The Salvation Army



13. We assisted 104 people across all Communities (totalling 515 to date) benefiting from various initiatives, including:

- a) Provision of 7 days' worth of breakfasts to 20 people each week, as we continued on with The Salvation Army arrangement
- b) Provision of swags, bedding and other supplies to rough sleeper in great need across the Communities, by leveraging the excess stock we had from POP I
- c) This makes us 365 assisted people ahead of the initial (but not fixed) VRF key desired outcome of 150 people.

14. We have organised standardised kits, with Accounts established to streamline ordering, with:

- a) Big W (accommodation kits; and medical & hygiene kits)
- b) Emma's Deli (food kits - fruit and vegetables)
- c) Terry Gardiner's Meats and Smallgoods (whole sheep cut into various types of cuts, and sausages) –
- d) Crossroads Game Meats (diced kangaroo and, when available, kangaroo tails)
- e) Dew's Meats in Orroroo (diced kangaroo and, when available, kangaroo tails)

15. We also are in the final stages of setting up Accounts at service stations in Glendambo, Marla and Port Augusta, so it is much easier to support people returning to country when we are funding fuel. We already have an account set up with Shell Coober Pedy. Our VRF desired outcome was to assist 50 families return home. Given that the COVID-19 situation has changed and it is more likely that people will travel to Port





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Augusta in the Spring and Summer months as per non-COVID days, we have de-focused somewhat but kept \$10,000 funding aside.

16. We have identified a waitlist of 25 people for assistance.
17. Media exposure was extended to include the ABC Radio Upper North interview and planned visit to Port Augusta to make a report
18. Regularly attended the following key COVID-19 emergency response forums:
  - a) SA Police Far North Emergency Response Meeting – Vulnerable and Remote Communities, led by Superintendent Paul; Roberts on behalf of all stakeholders (over 80 people attend)
  - b) APY Lands Local Stores and Community Meeting, which has almost as many stakeholders as above and is the peak forum for The APY Lands COVID-19 response.

### Heritage Services

19. Heritage Services Management has developed a pre employment checklist for any Kokatha people wishing to join the Kokatha Heritage Services team. This form can be found at [www.kokatha.com.au](http://www.kokatha.com.au) or get in touch with Carly at the office or [traineemanager@kokatharntbc.com.au](mailto:traineemanager@kokatharntbc.com.au) or 0484 135 772. Once registered, applicants will be then offered onboarding to ensure they are ready to work
20. KHS team are currently engaged in survey and monitoring support at Roxby as part of the BHP Olympic Dam expansion activity
21. KAC has accepted legal advice that current 9B and NTMA requests from various mining companies must be tabled at a full KCLH meeting at a time when such a meeting can be safely convened. A meeting time in April is currently being considered for these and other items including Kokatha General Trust matters (advisory group elections, education scholarship policy approval)
22. The independent investigation of recent heritage damage claims made a Kokatha member regarding approved construction work is being facilitated by Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (Department of Premier and Cabinet) at the request of KAC. AAR have completed a review of their central archives against the claims. Independent Heritage Specialists, Ecology and Heritage Partners were also engaged to go into the field and provide a direct assessment. The final report draft is currently being collated and will be presented the KAC Board for their information and agreed action prior to any broader distribution





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### Finance

23. KAC financial services transitioned to RSM Australia on 1 September. This includes transition of 60% of our financial services in house by the KAC Administration team.
24. Our new Corporate Services Manager, Angela Nicholls started in 14th September. Angela is working with RSM, John Ramsey and her admin team to facilitate these transitions
25. The 2019-20 audit by Basso Newman is ongoing
26. RSM attended the last Board meeting and presented the monthly finance report, discussed future reporting preferences and confirmed the strong financial position of the corporation to the Board
27. The CSM is working with KAC unit managers to support their financial management responsibilities. This will assist their monthly reporting of budget variations which ensure all program areas are working in line with their Board approved budgets

### Kokatha Enterprises (trading as Kokatha Mining Services)

28. Working with OZ Minerals, KE has negotiated significant outcomes as part of the Western Access Road contract. These include immediate jobs, traineeships, apprenticeships with Exact, subcontracting agreements for KMS (including jobs and machinery hire) and a tertiary scholarship. All of these opportunities are for Kokatha people and will be managed by KAC. More information at [www.kokatha.com.au](http://www.kokatha.com.au) or get in touch with **Giac, Tania or Kym**. *And please make sure your name is on our Kokatha Common Law Holder Register! (which includes KAC members)*



29. KE have also negotiated excellent outcomes as part of the Carrapateena Waste Management Contract awarded to Cleanaway. These include driving and operations positions with on the job training, an Administration traineeship and a Mechanical apprenticeship plus priority status for all employment and subcontracting. More information about these opportunities coming!
30. Three new permanent KMS positions filled through the KAC recruitment policy. Craig Davis -Site Supervisor (new position) and Geoffery Warren- Grader Driver, Garth Dodd- Water Truck Driver, (previously employed casuals) are all due to start from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October.



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31. The KE/KP Board met for the first time on 10 September and was officially appointed at the end of the Special Administration. Directors appointed:

- Amanda Dempsey
- Aaron Thomas
- Kim Edwards
- Nina Starkey
- Nic Kentish (Independent)
- Deborah Di Natale (Independent)

32. Amanda Dempsey has also been appointed as the Kokatha Martin Joint Venture Director. This position must be filled by a KE Member Director

33. The Board is due to meet again at the end of October for Governance Training but will ordinarily convene quarterly

### **Kokatha Pastoral Company**

34. The new boundary fence is currently being constructed on the Coondambo boundary and a new line has been graded, allowing access to both sides. The southwestern boundary will commence once the terrain dries out from recent heavy rain.

35. Viron Wingfield was the successful applicant from our recent community Expression of Interest process and he started on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September as a station hand, assisting with property operations.



36. Due to excellent spring rain, Saltbush Ag is currently running 180 head of cows on agistment. Negotiations are under way to increase these numbers following further rains.

37. Station caretakers Steven Harrison and Patricia Miller have been working on renovations to the Roxby Downs homestead pergola, creating a lovely cool retreat for the hot summer months ahead.

38. Steve has also been cleaning the interiors & boarding up the houses and outbuildings on the station. This has made the structures more secure and impenetrable to wildlife.





## Employment and Training

39. Over 20 opportunities are currently being filled by KAC for Kokatha employment with Exact (See Kokatha Enterprises section)
40. Community information session about these opportunities is happening on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 15 Yon St, Port Augusta from 1pm. Lunch provided and assistance with applications too
41. Three panels were convened in September for new KMS employees following shortlisting. Only one Kokatha member applied and was appointed. Applications from Aboriginal candidates totalled 6 and all are being interviewed. None of these applicants have been shortlisted for the Site Supervisor position (one Aboriginal applicant applied but did not meet the criteria)
42. Six Kokatha applicants applied for the Kokatha Pastoral stationhand position. All were interviewed and two were offered paid trials. One accepted and started 24/9 (see Pastoral section)
43. Heritage Services team pre employment checklist now available for Kokatha people wishing to join this casual pool (see Heritage Services section)
44. The CEO and Employment and Training Advisor attended the Carrapateena Employment working group meeting in Adelaide
45. KAC is currently trialling short term additional Kokatha Administration/Data support through Kokatha Complete to assist with the high demand for KCLH job ready candidates being processed through our Kokatha job ready database. If you are not already on this database and want to be please contact Tania or Kym or go to <https://kokatha.com.au/kacs-employment-and-training-team-is-ready-to-meet-you/>



## 46. Celebrating Employment Success

We are so pleased to share the stories of Hakeem Dodd and Luke Wingfield, two recent graduates of OZM Indigenous pre-employment program with TAFE and KAC.

Hakeem and Luke were employed in a contract role when two permanent positions within the processing department were advertised. Both Hakeem and Luke applied and they interviewed as the best candidates for the roles. As a result of their success, Hakeem and Luke are now employed as processing technicians in permanent, full time roles at OZ Minerals.



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Hakeem says it has always been a dream of his to work in the mining industry and he is really enjoying his time at Carrapatena. He hopes to eventually move up in his department and get more experience in other areas of the business.

Luke has spent plenty of time at Carrapateena over the years, having worked as a field technician and doing heritage work before construction began. He says it was an awesome decision to join up to the pre-employment program and loves working with his current team.

### **Congratulation Hakeem and Luke!**

47. The growth in (Kokatha) employment with KAC to date can be seen below. This does not include the Kokatha Heritage Services Team casuals

KAC Employees	Feb 2019	Sept 2019	Sept 2020
Kokatha	2	3	13
Other Indigenous	2	2	6
Non Indigenous	4	5	6
Total	8	10	25

### **General Communications**

48. KAC has negotiated use of the artwork of the winners of the Carrapateena Kokatha Art competition for not for profit purposes such as promotion. As such 100% of any income generated will be provided directly to these amazing artists



**Sculpture by Kerry Moosha**





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49. **Carrapateena Storyboards**- this was a collaboration project between OZ Minerals, Kokatha and local Pastoralists. The aim is to give people an insight into the history of the land that Carrapateena sits on, the connection that Kokatha people have to this country and the history of the pastoral stations around the mine site. The original plan was for these boards to be on display at an observation deck overlooking the mine site for visitors to see any time they come to site. During the design process it was decided to duplicate the boards and install the second set in an area that sees a higher amount of foot traffic. These boards are now hanging near the admin building on site.



### Corporation Advisory Group (CAG)

The final meeting of the CAG with the Special Administrator took place on 1 October in Port Augusta.

The key issues and actions from the CAG/Board meeting were as follows:

50. Confirming changes to the Rule Book (summary at <https://kokatha.com.au/changes-to-kac-rule-book/> )
51. Membership review determination discussed (summarised on page 1- membership review completed)
52. Membership applications administered- 53 applications approved, 2 applications referred to the next Culture and Heritage Committee (CHC) meeting
53. The reason for rejecting (by the Board) or recommending rejection (by the CHC) of a membership application will be documented and advised prior to tabling at a meeting of KCLH
54. Raelene Webb QC (Independent Board member) agreed to attend the next CHC meeting and provide a briefing on the membership review determination and table the referred membership applications
55. All new Directors will go through an induction process which includes understanding of Item (f) of the Rule Book preamble
56. Management will design and implement a strategy to promote membership applications and the KCLH register, including writing to all unsuccessful membership applicants on file and invite them to reapply
57. CHC recommendations to the Board reviewed and responses provided to CHC Secretariat, including asking management to cost the impact on the KAC budget of increasing travel costs to CHC members
58. The costs of the Independent Chairperson requested by the CHC for their meetings are to be provided to the Board by management
59. Inclusion of an approved budget for the KE/KP Board in the KAC 2020-21 budget
60. Presentation of Risk matrix by management at next meeting
61. Development of Risk register by management within 3 months
62. Approval to purchase mobile defibrillators for KAC offices (2), pastoral property and heritage services team



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63. If a Kokatha Charitable Trust funeral support application is received by KAC for a person **not** currently on the KCLH register (Kokatha members and common law holders) the KCT Secretariate will email Directors and CHC members to identify the applicant
64. All new Directors will go through an induction process which includes understanding of Item (f) of the Rule Book preamble
65. The final draft report of the Independent investigation into heritage damage claims (see Heritage Services section) will be provided to Directors prior to any other distribution

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 30 October in Port Augusta. The first item of business on the agenda will be the voting of a Chair and Vice-Chair in accordance with the Rule Book (view at <https://kokatha.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/KAC-Rule-Book-08102020.pdf>)



Artists: Jasmine and Leah Brown