



THE COMMUNIQUÉ

March 2021 Edition



Artwork by Shirley Williams

From the Chairperson



My name is Kahlia Gibson, I am a proud Kokatha, Narungga woman from Adelaide, South Australia, and I am the newly elected Chairperson of the Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation. I am also a mother of three boys, and I work full-time as a caseworker at the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement. My passion has always been to help improve outcomes for First Nations People. As a community representative, I strive to advocate for equity and equality in and amongst Aboriginal communities in areas such as justice, justice reinvestment, and child protection. As a proud young First Nations woman, I am committed to helping community and empowering future generations. I welcome the opportunity to learn, connect and serve and will continue to dedicate myself to improving all Kokatha people's lives. I am excited to bring a range of skills to the new KAC board and the wider community and help collectively ensure that KAC fulfils its purpose to help improve the lives of all Kokatha people.



Artwork by Tamika Reid

Kokatha man Daniel Ramm has recently been elected by the KAC board as Vice-Chairperson, and we are working closely together for the benefit of the whole Kokatha community. After completing his electrical apprenticeship, Daniel has worked for several companies across various industries, including working in the defence industry at ASC Shipbuilding, for a seven-year period. It was during this time he became involved in the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union. Firstly, as a member of the Union, and secondly, as a site delegate. Daniel's interest in being involved in the Union has grown over time, and he was elected to the State Council in 2015 as a representative of the shipbuilding industry. He has since become the Vice President of the State branch representing nearly 4000 nearly members at both a State and National level. He has participated in lobbying on behalf of our members at parliament on various issues important to our members and the Union.

"I have also represented the Union on the ACTU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee. I have been fortunate to learn and develop governance, management, and negotiation skills, and I feel I can put them into practical use to benefit our people. I am keen to offer my expertise in any way that can contribute to the Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation, and ultimately to improve outcomes for fellow Kokatha people." – Daniel Ramm.

My main focus as Chairperson for KAC, is to ensure that Culture and Heritage are at the forefront of all decisions and that community consultation is prioritised. I will aim to achieve this by working closely with the Culture and Heritage Manager Glen Wingfield and ensuring that I consult with community and my Elders. Additionally, I am committed to increasing the flow of information, communication and support between the Board, Corporation staff, the Kokatha and wider community and aim to achieve this by providing regular updates through this newsletter, SMS alerts and more community meetings. It is time to come together, and all play our part in improving the lives of Kokatha people.

I hope to see and hear from you soon.

BOARD NEWS

The KAC Board met on Friday 26th March in Adelaide to develop a draft Strategic Framework for community consultation

Directors plan to facilitate a series of community consultation sessions across the state (where significant numbers of members are registered) in April and May. Online meetings will also be scheduled.

These sessions aim to focus on:

- Feedback on the draft Strategic Framework to allow development of a clear but comprehensive community driven plan of the purpose, priorities and values of KAC as well as how success will be measured in the priority areas
- Overview of current structures, including trusts
- Feedback on future programs, services and supports
- Other questions
- Online and written feedback will also be sought

Details of the sessions and framework will be mailed out to all registered members and Common Law Holders as well as being distributed through our communication networks.



The KAC Board then met on Saturday 27th March. For the information of members, at this meeting the Directors agreed to:

- call a General Meeting of KAC members (at a Saturday date and venue to be confirmed by the Chair and Vice Chair) prior to the Kokatha Common Law Holder Meeting for the sole purpose of facilitating the confirmation of the Culture and Heritage Committee representatives for 2021, as per Schedule 5 of the KAC Rule Book
- ensure notice of these two meetings (to be held on the same day) is sent to all member and registered Common Law Holders at least 30 days before the confirmed date, as per KAC Rule Book 6.5 and 5.11.3
- share the costs with the Kokatha General Trust of providing some financial assistance for Kokatha Common Law Holders to attend the meeting/s at registration on the day
- approve a new KAC Behaviour Policy to be implemented in alignment with the updated Code of Conduct and KAC Rule Book, and to further strengthen the Boards commitment to ensuring KAC provides a safe workplace for all engaging with KAC, including at meetings, events and within online communications
- add a section to the meeting agenda for Community Matters – matters of concern raised by Kokatha people for the Board's attention. This will be promoted through KAC communication channels each month
- confirm in-principle support to a Native Title negotiation process developed in consultation with KAC legal panel members Jackson McDonald Lawyers for use as required to ensure broad community consultation on these matters, consultation with the Culture and Heritage Committee, effective negotiation teams, Board support for presentations to Kokatha Common Law Holders and appropriate time for them to consider decisions
- meet with the Culture and Heritage Committee as soon as possible after 2021 family representatives are confirmed
- instruct KAC legal panel members, Camatta Lempens Lawyers to write to the Commonwealth advising of KAC's decision to make an application pursuant to section 9 and section 10 of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (CTH) for the protection of Lake Torrens

- instruct management to draft an RNTBC RARB Principles Draft Policy for Board consideration. Once approved it by the Board, it will be sent to the State Aboriginal Heritage Committee to progress KAC's RARB status confirmation
- confirm in-principle support for the establishment of a Finance and Risk Sub-Committee and instruct management to provide further details on its proposed Terms of Reference
- approve 5 KAC membership applications and refer the remaining 3 to the Culture & Heritage Committee for recommendations, in accordance with Section 5 of the KAC Rule Book
- approval transfer of surplus funds in the current budget to other budget lines to support the issuing of invitations to support more Kokatha representatives to attend the AIATSIS Native Title Conference in Adelaide
- confirm in-principle support for the delivery of the Australian Institute of Company Directors customised Foundations of Directorship Indigenous Governance Course and instruct management to provide further details on cost (to be shared with OZ Minerals)



CEO UPDATE

The Kokatha Charitable Trust Back to School Round concluded on 28th February.



- KPNTCT provided \$100,000 for this support as no funds were available in the approved budget
- 238 applications were received and processed by the Trust Administration (KAC). This compares to 272 last year and 121 in 2019
- 98% of received applications were approved in accordance with the criteria set by the Trustee. This represents 233 successful applicants. This compares to 91% in 2020
- \$74,500 has been distributed to date of the \$76,000 applied for by KCLH. This compares to \$74,000 in 2020

The Kokatha Charitable Trust has also distributed \$65,000 to 65 (confirm) approved Kokatha cultural activities applicants to support confirmed 2021 men's business activities from the approved budget. This compares to the distribution of \$5,000 to 5 applicants in 2020.

Approximately 140 KAC members attended the delayed 2020 AGM on Friday 26th February in Port Augusta. Key outcomes included:

- the approval of KPNTCT funds for release to the KCT
- completion of the ORIC Special Administration exit session
- presentation of the 2020-21 financial reports
- confirmation of the 2021-22 Auditor

The Kokatha Enterprise/Kokatha Pastoral (KE/KP) Board met 1-3 March at Roxby Downs Station. Key outcomes included:

- approval of KAC Board protocol for use, including voting on Chairperson at next meeting
- approval of a new 4 year agistment agreement from 1 July
- Cultural Tour with Heritage Services Manager (HSM)
- instruction that the CEO to advise BHP that their written offer to fund refurbishment of Roxby Downs House should be restated as general refurbishment funds with the specific use to be determined by Directors
- Station Tour with Station Manager

Follow up meeting with BHP and KP Operations Manager, KP Director and HSM resulted in draft funding proposal for BHP funds to support KP operations 2021-25. KAC now awaiting final offer for Board consideration

Submission of two BHP Social Investment Applications:

- Joint application with Roxby Council to commission 4 pieces of Kokatha Artwork, hold a Kokatha Art Exhibition and Artist workshops in Roxby Downs
- Application to create funding program to support local and interstate sports participation of Kokatha children and adults

Meeting with KGT Trustee and Advisory Group (KGTAG) resulting in:

- Receipt of the Final OZM Education Scholarship Distribution Policy Draft
- Receipt of the BHP Distribution Policy
- Receipt of the KGTAG voting process developed by Perpetual for the KCLH meeting
- Receipt of Plain English explanations of the KGT agenda items for inclusion in the KCLH meeting notice information pack
- Receipt of KGT KCLH meeting agenda items and resolutions
- Negotiation of additional funds offer to support KCLH travel to meeting



Kokatha Enterprise Manager attended Southern Access Road Maintenance Contract Performance meeting with OZM Management. KMS exceeding of all KPI since the beginning of the contract confirmed. Contract outcomes and road quality improvements also noted.

KAC member successful at recruitment for a new Courier driver position as part of the Western Access Road (EXACT) sub contracting options

Planning meetings held with OZ Minerals and ISS to develop new Kokatha Enterprise options for the consideration of the Board

Planning meeting held with OZ Minerals HR to develop next level of strategies to support more Kokatha employment and training outcomes over the next 3-5 years

Employment of new Indigenous stationhand- Corey Jonas

Delivery of Cultural Tour at Roxby Station to University of Sydney students visiting Roxby Downs

Delivery of Heritage Workshop by Aboriginal Affairs to 17 Kokatha people as part of their training to participate in the work opportunities of the Kokatha Heritage Team

WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS



Interview with Jake Strangways - Kokatha Scholarship Awardee

KAC's Sarcha Taylor in her role as Website Support Officer recently caught up with Kokatha man Jake Strangways to discuss his recent success in securing a scholarship with OZ Minerals and Exact.

Thanks for the taking timeout of your busy studies Jake to have a yarn with Sarsha – and congratulation again!!

Jake Strangways has been awarded a tertiary scholarship that was created as part of the Western Access Road contract between Oz Minerals and Exact in 2020 and he recently had a yarn with me about how it is all going.

Jake is from Port Augusta and has successfully completed Year 12 and is gladly excited he took this great opportunity to currently study a Bachelor of Science at Flinders University Adelaide majoring in Environmental Geology and Cultural Anthropology,. Oceans and Estuaries, Oceans Processes and Remote sensing for all disciplines are the topics he is doing this semester for this year.

"The topics I did in SEM1 was Academic and professional communication, Earth and Environmental sciences, Environment and society and Nature of STEM. And in SEM2 in my first year was Marine sciences, Introduction into GIS, Mathematics Fundamentals A and From the Palaeolithic to Pompeii: An exploration of World Archaeology (Archaeology).

I am currently learning about the Environment and the Earth, the world Geology Earth science studying the ground, and how the two current works and the certain process's in the ocean up welling and down welling, and the Eco system works in sea life's benefit in the sea/ocean." Jake shares.

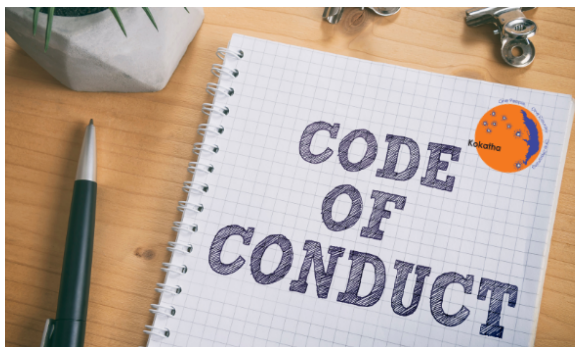
Jake also gets selective Electives studies in Archaeology that learns about the past history using mapping and analysis of the land and infrastructure.

Jake says its been challenging been away for so long from family and that he gets very homesick but would like to be confident and successfully complete his degree and be employed in the field he is currently studying and be more independent. He will complete his 3rd Year study in 2022

Well done Jake, keep up the hard work.



Updated KAC Code of Conduct



The KAC Board of Directors approved updates to the 2020 Code of Conduct at their last Board Meeting. The Code aligns the KAC Rule Book and the corporations legislated workplace and commercial requirements. It now provides more information and guidance on how it works in practice with a good meeting guide and case studies includes. Further case studies and supporting documentation will be added as required. A poster to display the Codes main points is also currently under development.

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to outline the standards of expected behaviour and the consequences of not meeting those standards. These standards are required to ensure all KAC members, directors, volunteers, employees and contractors can participate safely and harmoniously to achieve the KAC core themes. KAC values its members, clients, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors and believe theta people who are engaged by or interact with the organisation deserve to be treated professionally and with respect. Equally all staff and members have a right to a safe place of work

Cultural Warning: Please note this information relates to Aboriginal men's sites of cultural significance

Following ongoing consultation between the Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation (KAC) Board of Directors, KAC Culture and Heritage Committee (CHC) and KAC legal panel, KAC has formally advised the Commonwealth Government Minister for the Environment, The Hon. Sussan Ley MP, that a formal application for the urgent protection of Lake Torrens under Section 9 and Section 10 of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1994 (CTH) will be submitted.

This action follows comprehensive legal advice and consensus on taking decisive actions most likely to successfully prevent the desecration of the lake. It was noted that this Minister recently extended her emergency declaration to protect the site of a proposed go kart track at Mount Panorama/Wahluu in Bathurst for a further 30 days, while she consults on a more lasting declaration to protect Indigenous heritage. Her current declaration under 'section 9' of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection (ATSIHP) Act, preventing work on the site, remains in force, while consultation with stakeholders is undertaken on the terms of a potential 'section 10' declaration.

The KAC Board and CHC continue to strongly and unanimously oppose all mining related activities or any interferences on Lake Torrens and are deeply disappointed with the decision made by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Steven Marshall.



Have your say

Indigenous
Voice

Now is the time to have
your say on the Indigenous
Voice proposals.

Upcoming consultation sessions ▼

Port Augusta

The Barracks

6 Beauchamp Lane, Port Augusta

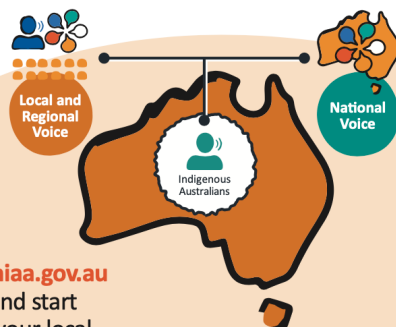
Thursday 22 April

9:30am – 12:30pm

1:30pm – 4:30pm

5:30pm – 7:30pm

- > Participants must register to attend.
- > Head to voice.niaa.gov.au to register and find out more.



Head to voice.niaa.gov.au
to learn more and start
a discussion in your local
community with family,
friends and colleagues.

#IndigenousVoice



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WITH ALL NEWS

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