

The cover features a large, textured yellow circle in the center, containing the title and subtitle. The background is a landscape with large, reddish-brown boulders in the foreground and sparse, dark trees against a soft, purple and pink sky. A decorative border of small, multi-colored dots runs along the bottom edge.

Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



CHAIR'S REPORT

This is the first annual report for the Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation, which comes at a really exciting moment in our journey towards establishing the Settlement and making it work for all Noongar people.

Our regional corporation has made a great deal of progress since our pre-incorporation meeting in August last year. Our first general meeting was held in Northam on Saturday 18 June 2022. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend and be part of this historic moment.

Our first cultural advice committee (CAC) was elected at the meeting, and they are progressing business regarding cultural matters.

We have now appointed our first expert directors, Tahnee Davies and Michelle Alexander, who we believe will bring great talent and expertise to our board. We are now focused on the final steps towards endorsement by the State and the Trustee.

At the time of writing this report, we are also about to appoint our first CEO, who will begin the work of hiring staff and finding office space, along with all the other necessary work to make our corporation run effectively.

The Noongar Boodja Trust has now received two of its annual payments, and the Noongar land estate has received its first parcels of land. We will continue to accept more land over the next few years, to be used for cultural, social and commercial projects. The resources of the Trust and the central services corporation will support our work on projects that will improve social and economic outcomes for Noongar people, including jobs, housing and support for cultural heritage.

As a corporation, we're committed to transparent communication with members so that we can all be empowered to participate in the work of our corporation and to contribute to its success.

Our website will contain all the formal documents you may need to refer to, and all the latest news and events information, especially through during the next few busy months.

The website also includes an online membership form, and we encourage you to make sure your friends and family join our corporation so that we have many voices contributing to the best possible outcomes for our people.

Find us online at ballardong.org.au.

We hope that you will continue to join us in all of our activities, because you will be part of the success of our regional corporation.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this journey to this point.

We are excited to continue the work of building a strong, sustainable and united Noongar Nation in 2023.

Murray Yarran
Ballardong Chair



PROGRESS UPDATE

PREINCORP MEETINGS

Our initial directors volunteered a huge amount of time and effort to bring our corporation to where it is today. Since our pre-incorporation meeting, the initial directors met regularly to work towards setting up the corporation.

Our initial directors were Barbara Bynder, David Collard, Kevin Fitzgerald and Murray Yarran.

During their terms, they successfully registered the corporation with ORIC, gained charitable status and an ABN, and registered our corporation's name. They also processed the first rounds of membership applications, member director elections and cultural advice committee nominations.

We greatly appreciate and value all the work our initial directors have done to get us to this point.

MEMBERSHIP

To date, we have 957 members joining the corporation. Applications for membership were made online via the SWALSC website, and through hardcopy forms.

Noongar people with family connections to the Ballardong region are encouraged to fill out the membership application form on our website to apply, at ballardong.org.au/join.

ELECTIONS

The Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation held two successful ballots this year, for our first member elected board and our cultural advice committee.

The member elected directors were chosen by postal ballot. The successful candidates were: Kevin Fitzgerald, Norman Pickett, Michael Blurton and Murray Yarran.



The board of directors will be responsible for the strategic and financial direction of the corporation.

The directors have appointed two expert directors, Tahnee Davies and Michelle Alexander, and are recruiting a CEO. They are also looking for a suitable office location in our region.

Members of our first cultural advice committee (CAC) were elected by secret ballot at the first general meeting. The CAC is made up of Elders who will consider matters relevant to culture, and make decisions to promote and protect cultural interests of the region.

The female members of the CAC are: Kathleen Mary Davis and Shirley Ruby Harris (term end 2025); Deborah Moody and Geraldine Metcalf Blurton (term end 2024); Marie Pryor and Muriel Pearl Collard (term end 2023).

The male members of the CAC are: Farley Garlett and Desmond Blurton (term end 2025); Roger Turvey and Murray Jones (term end 2024); Jarrod Hayden and Faron Winwood (term end 2023).

FIRST GENERAL MEETING

The Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation's first general meeting, held in Northam on Saturday 18 June 2022, was a great success.

After a Welcome to Country from Deborah Moody, the meeting was chaired by Kevin Fitzgerald and facilitated by Kooyar Wongi.

The outgoing initial directors were thanked for their hard work in setting up the corporation.

The first member elected directors began their terms at the close of the meeting, and are now busy on the next stages of gaining endorsement as the regional corporation, by both the Noongar Boodja Trust and the State.

In his report as interim board chair, Kevin Fitzgerald celebrated the historic occasion, and updated members on the journey so far.

"Thank you so much to every one of you who have joined us. The more members we have the more effective we will be in our efforts to build our a strong, sustainable, united Noongar Nation.

"The Southwest Native Title Settlement is a momentous part of our long history as Noongar people. As we all know, it has taken us many, many years for us to get to this point.

"It has taken our past Elders many more years, and some of them were not able to see this day. So, we honour them by continuing their work, to protect and respect our corporation and its potential.

"Now that regional corporations are ready to start work, we will start seeing the results of all of that time and effort."

INDUCTIONS AND MEETINGS

At the close of the first general meeting, the board of directors and the cultural advice committee took up their roles.

Prior to the general meeting, the directors took part in an information session, and then on Wednesday 20 July, they had their formal induction to the role.

The board of directors have met regularly since their election and will continue to meet monthly.

The cultural advice committee met for an induction session on Thursday 21 July, and will also meet monthly.

YOUR NEW BOARD

KEVIN FITZGERALD

Kevin works in a range cultural services to, for example providing Aboriginal input to a new building at Edith Cowan University. His vision is to secure a steady flow of employment training and support for education in Noongar language.

NORMAN PICKETT

Norman has nine years' experience with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, and a Diploma in Aboriginal Community Administration. He aims to be a strong voice for the people of Ballardong.

MICHAEL BLURTON

Michael has previously been the regional officer for SWALSC and also worked for the Noongar Land Council. He is passionate about improving life outcomes for all families, and to see Noongar children and families fulfil their ambition.

MURRAY YARRAN

Murray was a founding member and employee of the Noongar Land Council, an employee and chair of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation, and the first chair of Wangkininy ATSIC Regional Council.

TAHNEE DAVIES, EXPERT DIRECTOR

Tahnee has worked with many Aboriginal corporations to help build board governance, and as a lawyer at the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA. She enjoys spending time on Country and listening to the old people's stories.

MICHELLE ALEXANDER - EXPERT DIRECTOR

Michelle has 20 years' experience in the native title sector, including complex land access negotiations and cultural and heritage matters, and the legal, corporate and cultural governance requirements of CATSI Act Corporations.

YOUR CULTURAL ADVICE COMMITTEE

Each regional corporation has a cultural advice committee made up of Elders who consider matters relevant to culture, and make decisions to promote and protect our cultural interests.

Matters that may be decided by the committee include:

- Determining what cultural connection exists, or could exist, to support a piece of land being considered 'Cultural Lands' as part of the Noongar Boodja Trust.
- Determining those people who have most knowledge of relevant lands in order for surveys to be properly conducted.
- Determining how cultural knowledge should be recorded, and when and how it is shared with others.
- Determining how Noongar cultural protocols and practices should be acknowledged, valued, honoured and respected, including through welcome to country practices.

FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE BALLARDONG CAC:

KATHLEEN MARY DAVIS
SHIRLEY RUBY HARRIS
DEBORAH MOODY
GERALDINE METCALF BLURTON
MARIE PRYOR
MURIEL PEARL COLLARD

MALE MEMBERS OF THE BALLARDONG CAC:

FARLEY GARLETT
DESMOND BLURTON
ROGER TURVEY
MURRAY JONES
JARROD HAYDEN
FARON WINWOOD

LANDS UPDATE

THE NOONGAR LAND ESTATE

The State Government, via the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DLPH), have continued to offer land to the Noongar Boodja Trust (NBT) with year two lands now provided.

The NBT will consult with the cultural advice committee regarding acceptance of these lands. This consultation process is expected to commence in early 2023.

LAND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

SWALSC, as the central services corporation (CSC) has been working closely with an IT consultant to design the specifications for an online land management system.

This system will be available to us and each regional corporation to assist with scheduling of land management obligations, cost tracking, mapping of individual land parcels as well as Noongar cultural values, manage Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement processes, and provide advice regarding Noongar land access and the undertaking of Noongar customary activities.

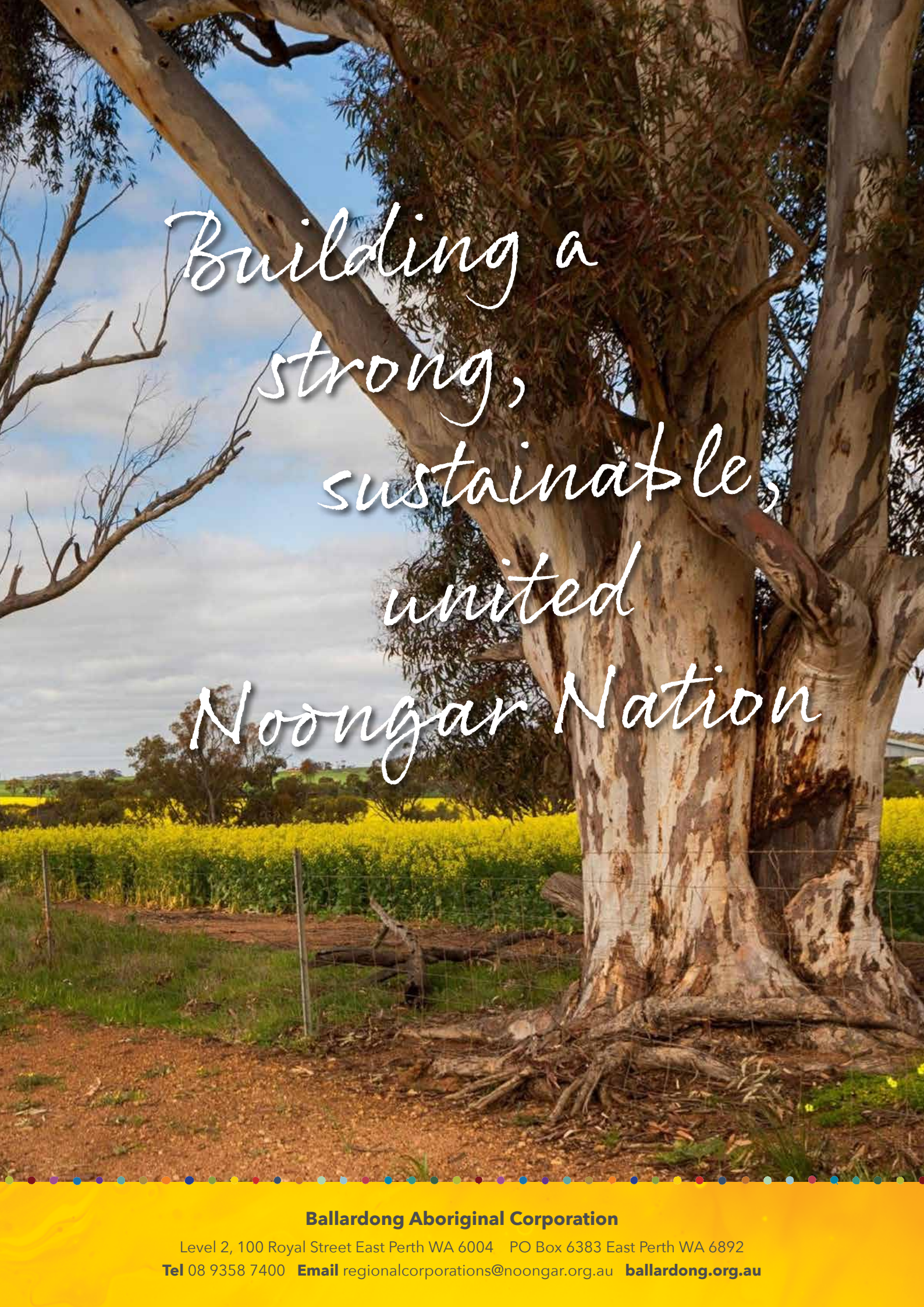
SWALSC will now seek quotes to build the land management system and expects to complete work before the end of 2022.

SWALSC LANDS SUPPORT

The SWALSC land unit is continuing to work with us to help meet our obligations under the South West Native Title Settlement (SWNTS).

This will include support around the establishment of the Cooperative and Joint Management Agreements and Committees with DBCA (Parks and Wildlife) to cooperatively manage all of the Conservation Estate; supporting and facilitating the selection, management and activation lands for Noongar social, economic and cultural purposes; and providing ongoing services and advice in regards to all SWNTS land matters including Noongar land access regimes, the protection of Noongar heritage and values and development of Noongar land management capacity.

For more information on the land matters contact SWALSC's lands coordinator, Justin McAllister, at justin.mcallister@noongar.org.au or on 9358 7400.



*Building a
strong,
sustainable,
united
Noongar Nation*

Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation

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