

# **Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation**

**Annual General Meeting  
23rd November 2023**



**Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation**



## **Message from the Chairperson- 2022/23**

Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation continues our focus in 2022-2023 to provide a range of support services to the Aboriginal Community to meet their needs in these challenging times of COVID, Post Floods and Economic climate.

As an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Bunjum manages a Social Housing and Aboriginal Early Childhood and Families Services Companies.

Bunjum is recognised as a well-established Organisation with track record in deliver Funded services to achieve positive outcomes for the Aboriginal Community and have had a boost to our Fund Support Services resources in 2023 as per our Financial Report to work forward in fulfilling the Organisations Vision.

Our Housing Properties effected by the floods and storm event are now repaired and all local Community Tenants living in these homes.

Bunjum's business investment in Share farm arrangement continues to provide income as well as dividends from Koori Mail.

A great achievement in 2023 for the Organisation is our mortgage on 44 Tamar premises has been paid and Bunjum owns this asset in prime location in Ballina township and it is completely renovated and fit-out since floods and is now a pleasing office/Community connection and services place for the staff, Community, and Visitors. Bunjum is now registered and accredited Housing Provider under the National Regulatory System Community Housing (NRSCH).

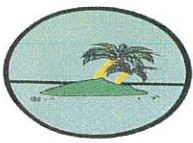
We continue to strive towards our service supports to Community in line with our vision statement.

Bunjum Board are an integral part of the Organisation and as Chair I appreciate their commitment and support during the year. Bunjum General Manager and all Bunjum Staff Team for your dedicated work in this year. On behalf of the Bunjum Board I like to thank the Members for your contributions and wish all a safe and happy Christmas.

Yours in Unity,

**Lawrence Roberts**  
**Chairperson**  
**Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation & Entities**





## **Our Purpose**

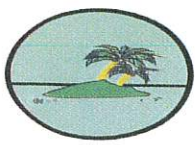
**Bunjum's Mission/Purpose is to ensure our Organisation Services and Supports our Community through Programs, Engagement and Partnerships**

## **Vision Statement**

**The Vision of Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation is to proactively aspire to rise above the inequalities of our Community by maintaining our Cultural identity and values through the provision of holistic, integrated services and programs, enabling and empowering local Aboriginal Community Members.**

## **Our History**

**Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation is an Aboriginal Controlled Organisation operating in Ballina on the North Coast of NSW. We have been operational for over 50 years and have supported and serviced the local Aboriginal Community in a variety of different ways always focusing on Cultural Identity and the empowerment of the local Aboriginal Community.**



## **Message from the General Manager 2022-23**

**In 2022-2023 Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation continued to work towards maintaining the purpose, vision, values, aims and objectives of the Corporation to carry on delivering current services, expanding opportunities by developing networks, partnerships, and relationships to support our Community Members in difficult times to meet their needs and invest in opportunities to grow and increase services and gaps.**

**All Bunjum Projects focus on delivery of services to Goori People within an Aboriginal Culturally Appropriate Lens that acknowledges the importance of walking alongside and *with the Goori Community in services provision that empowers jarjums, their families and Community towards meeting their needs.***

**We achieve this through activities and programs Bunjum offers by the following funded services Changing Ways (Family Violence) Program, Jarjum Bugal Nah Child & Family Centre provides early learning childcare centre for jarjums 0-5 years and support services for their families a Goori Youth project for Aboriginal Students at risk of disengagement in years 7-9 at 2 local public high schools, Goori Gumaguy Blaggang mirr Aboriginal Family Together targeted early support program, Us Mob Together a northern rivers Disability support inclusion support program, Emergency Relief assistance program and Bundjalung Nyangbal Language revoicing project.**

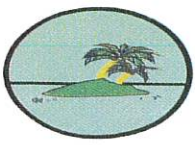
**Bunjum was successfully in accessing short term DCJ funding resources to continue on early assistance work to Community members affected by the devastating flood since March 2022 and maintain vital existing and establishing new partnerships and networks with organisation beyond funding resources to support the Aboriginal Community.**

All Bunjum 44 Team have continued to deliver service support from the Bunjum JBCFC Office at 10 Hayman Street West Ballina site.

**In late October we anticipate that the Bunjum will be able to return to 44 Tamar Office/Community Centre after the devastating floods and have a present back in central business district in Ballina. Bunjum applied for a grant from NSW AHO and were successful to assist the Organisation with the renovations to restore the 44 premises to a pleasant inviting environment that is Culturally safe for Community to access service provision, meet for a yarn, be connected to activities, training and use the facilities to gain greater awareness appropriate supports to meet life needs. Our Services who will return to 44 Office are Changing Ways Family Violence Program, Us Mob Together Disability Support Project, Goori Youth, Bundjalung Nyangbal Language Project and Main Administrative base Team.**

The Bunjum Service Teams who will remain at 10 Hayman St West Ballina after October are JBCFC, Early Year Support Worker, Goori Gumaguy Blaggang mirr (Aboriginal Family Together) (TEI) program and Community Connectors/Reception as well as Management Operations Coordination.

**Bunjum Social Housing properties who were also affected by the devastating floods/weather event have had been repairs to good standard from Bunjum application to NSW AHO for Flood**



## BUNJUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



grant and from insurance claims approved and now **most tenants are back in the houses and the remainder by early October.**

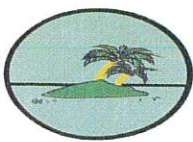
In March this year the **Bunjum Board commence progress of reviewing the Organisations Strategic Direction** which is an opportunity for the Board to revise Bunjum's ongoing Strategic Plan as we move forward and consider the Organisation's future. Focus will be on what does the Board see are the most important issues to work on for the future and as part of this process there will be chance for members and community input.

Bunjum is in the progress of applying for accreditation under the **National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH)** in New South Wales **to continue to manage properties on behalf of AHO or Community Housing or apply for capital investment in housing.** Bunjum was advised that we are schedule for commencing the **NRSCH process is to be on the 3 April 2023** and will be advised **of outcome of NRSCH registration August/September 2023.** As part of Bunjum of the NRSCH registration was a requirement change and to **insert a clause into our Rule Book specifically documenting requirements in the wind-up clause for properties that we manage as part of our Social Housing Portfolio.** A **Special Annual General Meeting of the Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation was held on 15th May 2023** to enact changes to Corporation Wind -up clause, this was approved by Members, and all documentation was forward to **ORIC for final approval of changes which was received and approved by them on 15 June 2023.**

**A great highlight and achievement in 2023** results from a decision by the Bunjum Board to purchase a premises in 44 Tamar Street Ballina and enter into mortgage loan with the ANZ Bank and to manage with solid governance to be in financially position to ensure the Organisation could maintain loan payments over a long period and **now have an asset in a prime central location of Ballina which has been fully paid in June 2023 and Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation own the property outright. Congratulation to the current Bunjum Board and those Board no longer with us for their vision of self-determination and empowerment for the Community for future growth.**

Bunjum is an inclusive **Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation with vast knowledge and experience of supporting the local Aboriginal Community through service and support programs.** A key element of **our unique service delivery is meeting Aboriginal Peoples' needs through an Aboriginal Cultural Lens and connectedness to our Community.** Bunjum's **capabilities extend to acknowledging and understanding the longer-term community priorities** and requirements, particularly regarding diverse needs of all members of the Goori Community. **We have demonstrated strong capacity to delivery and manage funded services and program with State and Federal programs that we have undertaken over past years.**

In 2023, we have **maintained and increased our funded services programs** in this difficult financial climate. Bunjum have received **longer term funding commitment and higher level of resources from DCJ for Bunjum Aboriginal Child & Family Centre** (known as Jarjum Bugal Nah Child & Family Centre) for 4 years with options of another 3 years upon a review on service delivery in line with ACFCs objectives. Many years of lobbying with SNAICC and other ACFCs and the incredible delivered by our early learning and family support Centres plus greater investment by governments at State and Federal levels is finally being recognised that quality learning childcare for Aboriginal jarjums is pathway forward for them into the future.



## BUNJUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation **continued to be an Organisations recognised in providing successful services to local Aboriginal Community** and maintained **current genuine partnerships with community groups, individuals, organisations, and businesses who provide resources and donations which assist us to work in continuing to lead and deliver services for change.** Bunjum is a Deductable Gift Recipient (DGR).

The cataphoric floods of February 2022 still had continued impacted on our Aboriginal Community and **ongoing post flood assistance was required, as well as COVID-19 virus circulating, cost living all brough challenges** which with small emergency relief program helped but **with the grateful donations received**, and with the valued developed relationships with GIVIT, Goods 360, Spell, Mullumbimby Neighbourhood, and Oz Harvest. **Bunjum was in a position to reach and assist those Community in need of support** in best possible way. **We acknowledge, respect, and appreciate these working service relationships.**

The Organisation and Entities have a **workforce of 40 Employees** including Management, Team Lead Coordinators/Supervisor, Administrative Team, Early Childhood Team, as well as Project Teams with Support workers to deliver Bunjum service support provisions.

In the General Manager role, **the focus in 2023-2024 will be to increase our capacity and capabilities, maintain current services, under the guidance of Bunjum Board** seek opportunities to strengthen and grow Bunjum's service provision as part of strategic direction within the Corporations vision, mission, aims and values.

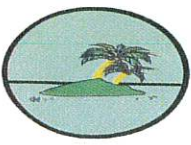
Despite the challenges the Organisation continue focus on providing our service support to the Goori Community under an Aboriginal Cultural Lens. **This report demonstrates and celebrates those successes.**

Bunjum as an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Vision and Purpose is for **Community Jarjums, Young People, to grow up strong in Cultural Identity, learn and be safe and happy, their Families and the Community be empowered in self and decisions affecting them.**

In concluding, I would like to **thank Bunjum Board of Directors, Members, Bunjum Staff, Accounting Team**, our service supporters, local organisations, businesses, corporate donators, and individuals who assisted Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation and look forward positively in 2023-2024.

Yours in Unity,

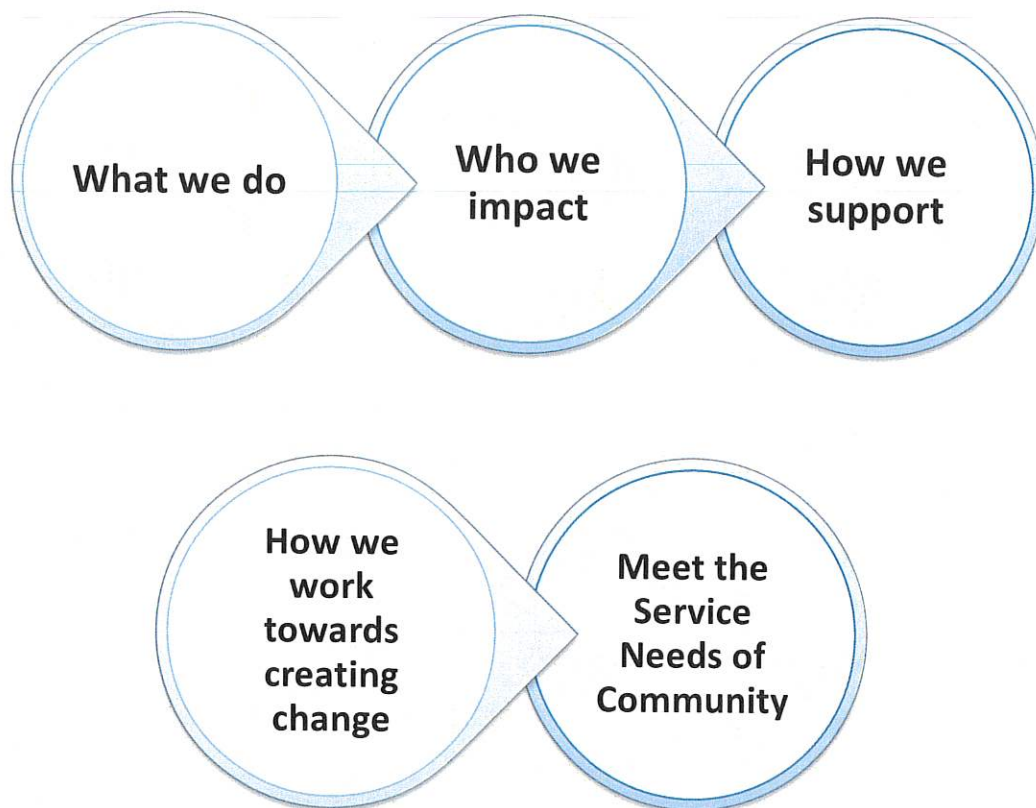
**Nita Roberts**  
General Manager



## **Our Service Impact**

As an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation our program and service provisions continue to highlight our obligations, strong commitment under our Aboriginal Cultural Framework to assist, support and empower the Goori Community to be active in all matters affecting them.

Bunjum will demonstrate by:



We provide programs activities and events that offer opportunities by: - changes in access – change in knowledge and awareness – change in skills – change in behaviour and attitudes – change in relationships – Culture and Connection – support of well-being – learning and skills - empowerment.