

Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation

Annual General Meeting
November 22nd 2024



**Bunjum
Aboriginal
Corporation**

44 Tamar Street Ballina NSW 2478
(02) 6686 5644





Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation Annual Report 2023-2024 Chairperson's Report



As Chairperson of Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation and Entities. I present the Annual Report for 2023-2024 to the Members.

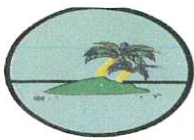
2023-2024 has been a year of consolidation to maintain our service supports to the Aboriginal Community within the principles of the Organisation's purpose, vision, values for Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation and Entities (Bunjum Social Housing and Bunjum Early Childhood and Family Services).

In this year we commenced the process of reviewing the Organisation's Strategic Plan to reflect on what we currently provide and what we should be doing to meet the Community needs. We have looked at how to strengthen Community needs, as well as filling any gaps for social support services. We provide and keep the focus on different innovative ways to expand and grow Bunjum within a changing socio-economic political and environmental climate.

Our Organisation main goal is to support and offer service to the Local Aboriginal Community. The current services we provide include Goori Gumaguy Blaggang mirr (Aboriginal Family Together) Early Intervention, Goori Youth, Changing Ways, Bundjalung Nyangbal Language Program, Us Mob Together Disability Support Program (when concluded at 30/6/2024), a specific Jarjum Bundjalung Language weekly program, Jarjum Bugal Childcare and Early Years Family Support 0-8 years.

We have continued to provide and maintain 23 social housing properties for Aboriginal families. Bunjum is 1/5th Owner of Budsoar Pty Ltd which is known as Koori Mail and through this investment we continue to receive dividends. We have maintained a sugar cane Share Farming Agreement that provides a small return from our Broadwater Farm. We also applied to NIAA to have the caveat removed on the Broadwater Farm property and were successful and are waiting on the finalisation of the transfer into our name.

As an Organisation, we have challenges ahead to maintain and expand our funded services, our social housing stock as well as address any rental arrears. We are looking to grow the business through focussing the best future for our Organisation and will be reviewing our Strategic Planning in the New Year to look for avenues where we can increase our



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footprint in Ballina and surrounds with Service and Support to our Community.

In closing, as the Chair, I would like to specially thank my fellow Board Members for their dedication and commitment toward the vision of this Organisation and extend appreciation to the Members for your support to our General Manager and to all the Bunjum Staff for the tireless work and efforts during 2024 in supporting positive outcomes for our Aboriginal Community. We look forward to a new successful year in 2025 for us all. Please stay safe and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

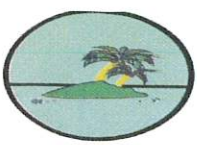
Yours in Unity,

Lawrence Roberts

Chairperson

Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation & Entities





Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation Annual Report 2023-2024 Message from the General Manager

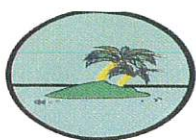


This has been an important year 2023-2024 for Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation & Entities. We have continued our commitment to our Aboriginal Community to ensure access to culturally appropriate services to meet their needs under an Aboriginal Cultural Lens within our service delivery footprint. We have worked in tangent with our Organisation's Purpose, Vision, Values and Aims embracing self-determination and empowerment principles.

We achieve our success this year, through the activities and programs Bunjum offered by the following funded services: Changing Ways (Family Violence) Program, 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 Program, targeting an early support program, 'Us Mob Together', a Northern Rivers Disability support inclusion program, an Early Years focus 'Ninganah No More' Bundjalung Language learning project in our JBCFC, Emergency Relief assistance program and Bundjalung Nyangbal Language revoicing project, and our 'Jarjum Bugal Nah' Child & Family Centre which provides an Early Learning Childcare Centre for Jarjums 0-5 years and support services for their families.

Bunjum has worked over the year continuing to build on our established relationships and partnerships with both Governments, at all levels, and other Non-Government Agencies. We have been fortunate to have some external Donators and Supporters, and we extend our appreciation for their support. All these avenues has helped us to maximise assistance to our clients and community, for access to a range of very critical support services for the following cohorts, Aboriginal jarjums & their families, Young People, Elders, Adult Community Members. Bunjum is now moving forward to increase and expand opportunities via promoting the valuable work within the Community service field. We do make real change for Aboriginal People of all cohorts through our Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

During this period, Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation applied to the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) to remove a caveat on the Organisations Property at Dungarubba Road, at Broadwater NSW and were successful. We currently have a functional cane farm that we have a share



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farm lease and continue to receive a return on this investment and know with the lifting of limitation of caveat will now open potential opportunities for this land parcel.

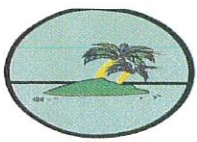
As an Aboriginal Organisation, Bunjum has shown great resilience to adapt to changes and challenges with both established and new Aboriginal and Mainstream services entering within our service footprint. The Board have commenced a process to consolidate, reflect and review the potential future growth as an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation in a competitive service support sphere.

The Bunjum Board have commenced a review of our current Bunjum Strategic Plan to embrace challenges and forge the course forward to build on and strengthen future growth opportunities with our existing assets. We looking to build capacity to maintain our status as Aboriginal Community Organisation that continues to be recognised in providing successful services to local Aboriginal Community to meet their service needs.

Bunjum is currently an approved registered Aboriginal Community Housing Provider (ACHP) with the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH). The registration as an approved NRSCH Provider in New South Wales continues to allow us to manage properties on behalf of Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) or Community Housing or apply for capital investment in housing. Bunjum have housing stock of 20 Properties own and 3 Properties we manage on behalf of NSW AHO.

As Bunjum is a Social Housing Provider we will continue our focus to address challenges associated as an Aboriginal Community Housing Provider in a difficult socio-economic climate. With the Board's guidance and Bunjum Property Managers, we have developed good relationships with Community Tenants. Accordingly, we facilitate regular Tenant yarn ups and newsletters to address any issues and seek Bunjum Tenant input to minimise risks with increasing cost living, rates and insurances make up around 60% of expenditure costs for Social Housing providers.

We have continued our Membership Alliances with Peak Aboriginal Bodies such as Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) for Early Years, ABSEC Family Support and Aboriginal Community Housing Industry Association NSW (ACHIA NSW). These Peak Aboriginal Organisations provide invaluable advocacy support and free access to training and resources, grant/funding assistance within their designated fields and regular virtual forums to keep Organisations such as Bunjum abreast of changes, seek feedback, advise of opportunities or enquire types of supports required to enable ACCO to maintain our capacity as Goori



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Providers of services. ACHIA has been exceptional helpful with the new NSW AHO Common Terms & Conditions (CTCs) Agreements for properties we manage on behalf of AHO to ensure ACHPs are not encumbered but have information as part of self-determination and empowerment principles.

Our Organisation and Entities have continued to maintain 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. We are focussed on the wellbeing of our hardworking staff and recognise that a successful organisation is built on a harmonious working environment for all.

The Organisation will strive to broaden its program base, in order to meet the rising costs of running the group. Strategic planning has also been undertaken during 2024 to see how the group may better service the community in the future.

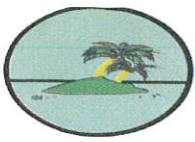
The Organisations focus in 2024-2025 under the guidance of Bunjum Board seek opportunities to strengthen and increase Bunjum's service provision as part of strategic direction within the Corporations vision, mission, aims and values.

As an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation, we will embrace challenges we face in proactively way and continue to provide our service support to the Goori Community under an Aboriginal Cultural Lens.

This report demonstrates, highlights and celebrates those successes 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.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Bunjum Board Members for your ongoing guidance, to Bunjum Staff for their commitment shown and Members for your support at Community yarn up meetings and for another successful year of achieving outcomes for our clients, jarjums, parents/carers, young people, Elders, tenants, Adults and community.
Yours in Unity,

General Manager



Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation Annual Report 2023-2024 Services and Events



Number of Jarjums, Young People, their Families, Elders and Community we provided family support services, family violence, training, cultural connection assistance and community engagement activities in 2023-2024.

2023-2024

3,983



Elders raise the flag following NAIDOC Walk in Ballina, 2023.



Man speaking at the NAIDOC event in Ballina.

