



ARDS

Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Inc.

Annual Report

2009 - 2010

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Who we are and what we do

Through best practice capacity building and adult education, the team at ARDS is working to improve the health and well-being of people living in North East Arnhem Land and beyond.

Our award winning programs and resources are giving Indigenous people the opportunity to take control of their lives and fully understand the western health, legal and economic information that impacts on them.

ARDS works in the priority areas of:

- Health
- Law, Governance and Economics
- Social and support systems
Cultural Sustainability
- Language

ARDS multi-disciplinary team works with governments and communities in our region, bringing expertise gained from over 25 years of community development and cross cultural education.

At ARDS we are dedicated to using our expertise and solutions to help create a healthy and prosperous future for Indigenous Australians.



Where we work and what makes us different

ARDS develops and delivers programs and resources in partnership with communities, homelands and other service providers across North East Arnhem Land, Darwin and other parts of the Territory. With our main bases in Darwin and Nhulunbuy, we currently employ 20 staff.

Indigenous communities in rural and remote Australia have their own unique characteristics. That is why ARDS employs a professional team of linguists, translators, multimedia and adult education specialists, and experts in the fields of health, law, governance and economics, to develop targeted programs and resources.

Our work is guided by a set of principles, developed out of more than 25 years experience in Indigenous capacity building and adult education in the Northern Territory.

At ARDS we are using our unique approach to empower local people to improve the health and well-being of their own communities now and into the future.

Language. We work in people's first language. This is our most powerful tool for community development and education.

Worldview. People see the world in different ways. Adult education needs to start with what people are thinking about their world and what they want to know.

Two way Learning. We focus on the process. Empowering and effective adult education happens when every person is a learner and a teacher.



From the Chair

ARDS is very much a Yolŋu organization and has been for the 25 years of its life. There is Yolŋu involvement, true involvement, from the heart.

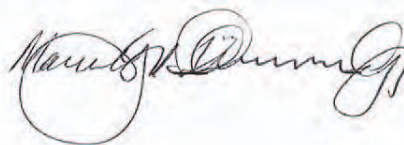
We have got only one life to live and we need to make it worth it so that we can make a difference to the people and places we come from. We are called to service our people, to encourage our people, with discovery education. The work we are doing at ARDS is not superficial. We are doing inside, deep work that really helps people. People can really understand this education, and do not just remain disorientated and confused. Yolŋu people are an asset, not a liability. We are an asset to the communities we come from and we have something to contribute to the wider society. This is how I feel.

Last year I was invited to take up the chairmanship of ARDS. At this time, to use a metaphor here, it was like there was a hole in the ship and it was struggling to stay afloat. But because of the faith of Yolŋu in ARDS, and the strong relationships, long time, respectful relationships, Yolŋu wanted the boat to remain afloat. ARDS was too precious to go under water, to stop its operations or its work. The Yolŋu board, with support from the subcommittee, was asked to keep things going. It has been a huge learning experience for us and for myself. For the Yolŋu people, I'm proud to say that we have remained afloat, and are looking to a bright future.

In the coming year we are looking forward to forming new partnerships with government and other funding bodies. ARDS will also be looking for ways to support other communities outside of North East Arnhem Land, especially in the area of health education. Earlier in the year ARDS took its microscope and germ theory education program to the APY Lands in South Australia which was a great success. Yolŋu radio is continuing to grow and there is a lot of interest in the building of the new Nhulunbuy studio and the opportunities this will bring for more Yolŋu employment, training and education.

There are many people I would like to thank for their hard work in the past year. My special thanks go to Richard Trudgen who resigned as our CEO in February this year after many years of dedicated service at ARDS. I want to say that his work with Yolŋu is highly respected and appreciated.

To all the ARDS staff and supporters of ARDS, I would like to thank you and encourage us all to continue to work together, as a team, so that ARDS can keep doing its important, empowering, capacity building work with Yolŋu people.



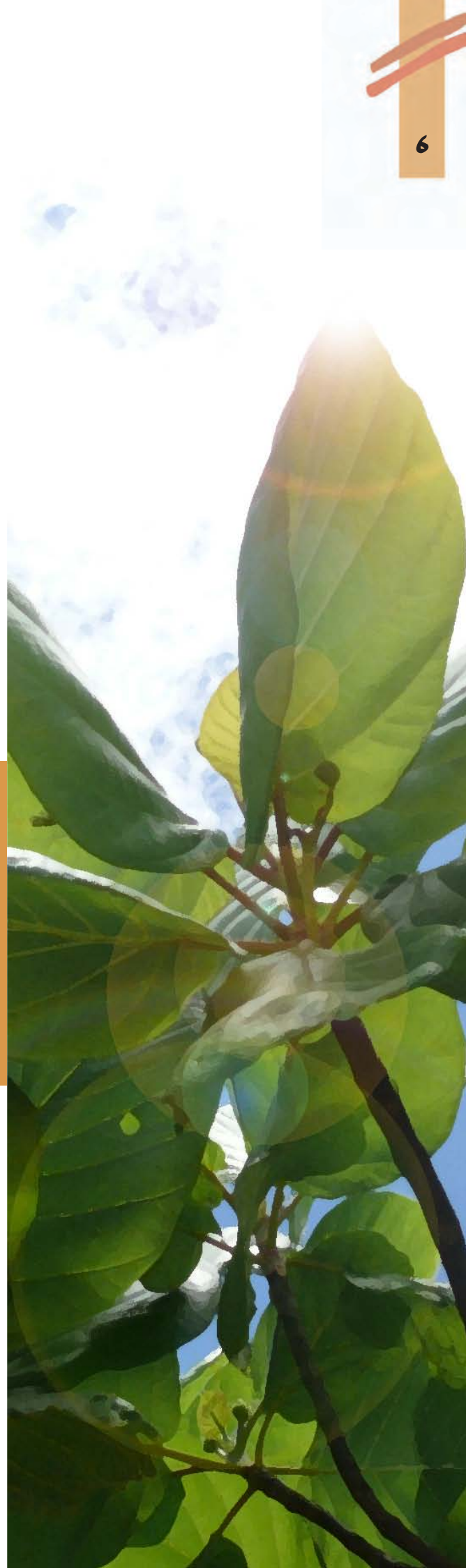
Maratja Dhamarrandji



“We are called to service our people, to encourage our people, with discovery education.

The work we are doing at ARDS is not superficial. We are doing inside, deep work that really helps people. People can really understand this education, and do not just remain disorientated and confused.”

- Maratja Dhamarrandji



From the Executive Team

This year has been a period of great challenges and at the same time, immense opportunities for ARDS. After over twenty five years of work with rural and remote communities, ARDS continues to show its resilience and commitment to its goals of capacity building and empowering Indigenous people.

With the hard work and dedication of the Management Committee, Board and staff, ARDS has come through a period of significant financial challenges. In late 2009 we were faced with the possibility of having to close down all of our services. ARDS Management Committee however showed great commitment and have worked hard to keep the organisation alive and viable - successfully.

In December last year, CEO Richard Trudgen, took some well deserved rest and long service leave. During this time the Management committee asked us, Mervyn Brown and Johanna Ward, to act as joint managers and to take what action was necessary to keep the organisation operational.

The ARDS Management Committee have asked that we formally thank Peter Jones, Stuart MczMillan, Steve Moore and Rev Dr Djiŋiyiŋi Gondarra for their wisdom and support over the last months. Under the direction of the Management and Sub Committees, a number of steps were taken to ensure ARDS would continue operations; including restricting operations to core business, negotiating with funders to reinstate suspended funding agreements, temporarily closing the Nhulunbuy Office and sadly, reducing the number of staff through redundancies and natural attrition.

As a result of these initiatives ARDS final position is considerably better than was anticipated earlier in the year. The changes resulted in additional funding being received and a release of funds previously being withheld. ARDS is now much more aware of the need for strong financial management and is endeavouring to secure better funding levels for a long term future.

The Management Committee has given ARDS a very clear direction to focus on improving the Yolŋu Radio service in to the immediate future. Much progress has been made in a short amount of time. Bryan MacDonald has returned to ARDS to work on the network, upgrade the system and focus on building relationships between the listeners and the radio service. In the last few months, Ban'thula and Māpuru have been added to the network with all major communities and 11 homelands being provided with radio maintenance and repair work.

In 2009 ARDS received funding from Aboriginal Benefits Account to construct a new office and radio studio in Nhulunbuy and the project is now on track to be completed by 2011. With so much potential for the employment and training of Yolŋu, the ARDS team is working hard to secure further resources to make the office fully operational.

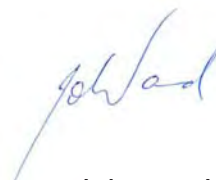
In February 2010, Richard Trudgen, our long standing CEO made the decision to resign. Richard continues to pursue his passion for community development and social justice through his company Why Warriors. The Management Committee is deeply grateful to Richard for his vision and commitment to

the development of ARDS and his significant contribution to the advancement and support of Yolŋu people.

To everyone who has been involved with ARDS this year, we extend our gratitude, thanks and respect. Because of their support, ARDS continues to be an outstanding organisation, true to its values and goals.



Mervyn Brown



Johanna Ward



“To everyone who has been involved with ARDS this year, we extend our gratitude, thanks and respect.”

- Mervyn Brown and Jo Ward

Talking with ARDS staff



“It was hard before, because Yolŋu didn’t understand the Western worldview. But it’s lucky, it’s good that ARDS was established for Yolŋu.”

Yurranydjil Dhurrkay and Wängarr Dhamarrandji

Translators and ARDS educators Yurranydjil Dhurrkay and Sandra Wängarr are passionate about using discovery education to make sure that Yolŋu get the health information they want and need.

“It was hard before, because Yolŋu didn’t understand the Western worldview,” says Yurranydjil. “But it’s lucky, it’s good that ARDS was established for Yolŋu. First Balanda began to learn Yolŋu Matha, and now we can all talk and interact together. Balanda and Yolŋu can understand the important things. Otherwise, your worldview is hidden, and we will lose our Yolŋu worldview. They need to come together and understand each other.”

Working through language is key to the success of ARDS education, and is what makes our programs and resources unique. For Yurranydjil Dhurrkay, a highly skilled translator, this is one of the most enjoyable parts of the job.

“I like working through the English words. You reveal the English words to us. At first we don’t know these words but you give us the meaning. Then we see the meaning from our Yolŋu worldview and perspective and together we can find the match between the words, and

the meanings. In this way we can understand all the different English words from the important parts of the story.”

Team work is everything in this process.

“If Yolŋu tried to work alone it wouldn’t work, so when we get here we see the words, we study and we do this work all together” says Wängarr. “We work as a team, so our work is spot on. We come together to learn. We teach you and you teach us. Then we can teach all Yolŋu, through stories, on radio or DVD, we help to educate others. Balanda and Yolŋu, working together to create understanding.”

Working with ARDS Yurranydjil and Wängarr have had the opportunity to build their health knowledge and share it with their family and community. Wängarr feels strongly that being able to learn and to help other Yolŋu is important.

“It’s really great to learn and be able to help other Yolŋu from the community. I do this work so that I can really understand, especially about diseases. We see these things, and it is very new for us. Very new and very helpful.”

“The common things in our communities now are diabetes and other chronic diseases. But Yolŋu find it hard to approach the clinic or doctor. For example, there are a lot of Yolŋu with breathing illnesses, such as asthma, but it’s hard for them to find out what to do - how to get relief from that illness.”

“Yolŋu might not go to the clinic or doctor, but once he has learned from ARDS, who have explained to the community and made the information clear, then that Yolŋu will go straight to the clinic. This is a really big help for the community. This information benefits us, our health, the health of Yolŋu. And that helps all of us - Balanda and Yolŋu.”



Overview of Health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' life expectancy is 10 years less than other Australians. High rates of chronic and infectious diseases show us that a lot more needs to be done to close the health gap. Most western biomedical concepts and English words have never been translated into Indigenous languages. At ARDS we develop programs and resources that bridge this communication gap so that information can be accessed and used by the people who need it most.



ARDS Health Team receiving the NT Administrator's Medal for Primary Health Care

ARDS education gives Yolŋu people the tools they need to understand mainstream health information and services, and take back control of their own lives.

Highlights

- *ARDS Health team awarded the prestigious NT Administrator's Medal for Primary Health Care*
- *The history making Dictionary of Anatomy: Dhäruk Mala ga Mayali' Rumbalpu published online. Secured funding from ALPA and NBC Consultants to print hard copies.*
- *Produced DVD 'Circulation and Our Heart: Homelands Health Workers' Training Manual' as part of ARDS training program with Laynhapuy community health workers.*
- *Successful pilot project of ARDS Microscope and Germs workshops conducted as part of a waste management project in APY Lands in South Australia*
- *ARDS health team collaborated with the Environmental Health Unit NT Department of Health and Families to run our Microscope and Germs workshops during Healthy Skin Week at Ramingining*
- *Released second editions of Peritoneal Dialysis Tube Story: PD-puy Rakiwuy Dhäwu DVD and Scabies Story: Scabies-puy Dhäwu DVD*
- *Welcomed Educator Yasunori Hayashi to our health team.*

Projects

Laynhapuy Homelands Health Worker Training funded by Laynhapuy Homelands Association

ARDS health team worked with Laynhapuy homelands health workers in three homelands holding workshops on the germ theory of disease, ear health, and cancer.

Laynhapuy Health Training Manual for Aboriginal Health Workers and Interpreters funded by Laynhapuy Homelands Association

Our work in the homelands led to the production of the DVD 'Circulation and Our Heart'. This unique resource explains the concept of circulation and the action of the heart including valves.

Sexual Health funded by Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

26 workshops on sexual health were held in Milingimbi, Ramingining, Galiwin'ku, Yirrkala, Laynhapuy homelands and Darwin. This program, run by ARDS for over ten years, uses microscopes to teach people about the microscopic world of germs and viruses. This is the best way to start talking about sexual health. From these workshops we recorded 21 audio education programs for broadcast on Yolŋu Radio and the ARDS website.

Sexual Health Radio Programs funded by I & G (Australian government)

Our health team recorded three in-depth audio education programs about sexually transmissible infections gonorrhoea, chlamydia and syphilis, common in Indigenous communities. This was part of a national sexual health radio campaign-Indigenous communities sexual health communications program.

RDH Patient Educator Service funded by Department of Health and Families

Concluded the highly successful Patient Educator Service for Yolŋu at RDH. ARDS hopes the service will be considered for funding that will allow the development of its full potential in the near future.

Communities for Children Funded by Anglicare NT

ARDS health team worked with Yolŋu parents and grandparents in Galiwin'ku and Darwin to research and develop audio education programs on Coke and soft drinks, and domestic hygiene.

APY Lands Germ Theory Project funded by Zero waste SA

This project was an opportunity for ARDS to trial its successful Microscope and Germs Workshops in the Central desert region. Over 100 people in Kalka and Pipalyatjara participated in the workshops. A formal evaluation showed excellent outcomes and the project is being considered for further funding from the SA government.

Scabies and Strongyloides Treatment funded by Menzies School of Health Research

ARDS Health educators collaborated with Menzies to deliver the community education component of the Ivermectin treatment trials, which aim to eradicate Strongyloides from Galiwin'ku.

Conferences and ARDS Professional Development Seminars

- Dr Alyssa Vass and Alice Mitchell RM/ RN presented plenary “ Community Health Literacy: Effective Indigenous Health Promotion” at the Annual Chronic Disease Network Conference, 2009.
- Series of professional development seminars run for Australia Hearing on effective ear health education strategies for Indigenous clients.
- Professional development presentation on health literacy and health communication in cross-cultural multi-lingual environments for Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy departments at Royal Darwin Hospital and Darwin Private Hospital.

Looking Ahead

Next year is going to be an exciting one for the ARDS health team as we continue to work across a number of projects dealing with chronic and infectious diseases. We're looking forward to:

- Launching and promoting use of the print edition of ARDS Dictionary of Anatomy: Dhäruk Mala ga Mayali' Rumbalpu.
- Initiating research and development of education programs and resources on the topic of cancer in response to a large number of requests from Yolŋu.
- Presenting at the Annual Chronic Disease Network Conference 2010 on the theme of Health Literacy and being a Keynote speaker at the National University Rural Health Conference, in Alice Springs.
- Recruiting and training new educators to increase our capacity to deliver services
- Seeking new and creative partnerships to extend the reach of our work both in Arnhem Land and Indigenous communities in other regions.

Dr Alyssa Vass Senior Health Educator

Alyssa Vass is a medical doctor with a difference. Having worked on health and community development projects in Africa and India and after completing a Masters of International and Community Development, Alyssa was drawn to the Northern Territory to explore what development and social justice might mean in her own backyard. Her work as a Senior Health Educator at ARDS has given her plenty to explore and a lot to discover.

“I really love doing this work. I think my favourite part is learning Djambarrpuyŋu, one of the Yolŋu languages. At ARDS all educators are required to learn the language. I find it fascinating because it’s a bridge into a whole different way of understanding the world. I can see now that it is the best way to build relationships, to participate in peoples lives and learn about their world and their culture.”

“I also really love the process ARDS uses for education. Getting to sit down and properly dialogue with a group of people in a way that means everybody is learning, everybody is coming to new understandings about health or whatever it is we are discussing. I find this way of working very intellectually challenging. It’s so satisfying to see everybody walk away from a session feeling excited and that they have learnt something that’s hopefully going to help in all of our lives.”

Working across cultures and languages can be challenging, even exhausting sometimes, but Alyssa believes this has taught her one of the most valuable lessons of all.

“Working in a cross cultural, cross language environment is really hard, but one of the things that has taught me is that Yolŋu are constantly working in a cross cultural environment every time they interact with the non-indigenous world, so its a real eye opener, a real insight into how hard it is for Yolŋu in so many aspects of their lives.”

Talking with ARDS staff



“ I think that if communities, families and individuals feel more empowered about their health and their interactions with western health care systems, we really begin to see the difference in health outcomes.”

“The methodology that ARDS uses is a very empowering process and contributes to that health empowerment in a significant way. It’s exciting to hear Yolŋu say after an ARDS workshop or listening to Yolŋu radio, that they feel confident to go to the clinic, or talk to their family, or that they now understand their medications. Even the confidence to say, ‘Well I know now that I need to do these traditional activities or use these traditional medicines to look after this or that aspect of my health.’ I think that this need for real health empowerment is the place that ARDS health work has the biggest potential to impact on and help Yolŋu people.”

Law, Governance and Economics

ARDS aims to remove the communications barriers to Yolŋu participation in mainstream legal, governance and economic services and systems. Our team is passionate about giving Indigenous people access to information that addresses their specific needs and questions.

Highlights

- *Comprehensive information about the East Arnhem Liquor Permit System delivered to Yolŋu through a series of audio education programs played on Yolŋu Radio.*
- *Research continued on language and cross cultural perspectives on economic concepts of 'owing' and 'social responsibility'.*



Projects

Legal audio Education Programs

funded by the Department of Justice

ARDS legal team created 26 new audio education programs on the East Arnhem Liquor Permit system. Broadcast on Yolŋu radio and uploaded to the ARDS website.

Family Violence Audio Education

funded by Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

5 new audio education programs on Mandatory reporting in the Northern Territory and 3 programs on child abuse created for Yolŋu Radio and posted on ARDS website.

Community Support for Yolŋu Radio

funded by Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

This project allows ARDS to respond immediately to the current issues and questions of Yolŋu. The year has been a great success with audio education programs produced on diverse topics including the Federal Stimulus Package, Emissions Trading Scheme, the Blue Mud Bay and Sea Rights case and Police powers.

Communities for Children

funded partly by Anglicare NT through the Communities for Children Initiative.

Communities for Children is funded by the Australian Government under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy

We produced 4 exciting new audio education programs researching the foundation economic concepts including 'owing' and 'social responsibility'. The team also created and broadcast 6 programs on cockroaches and domestic hygiene, in response to questions from Yolŋu about pest control.

Looking Ahead

In the year ahead, ARDS will be seeking new and continuing partnerships with Government and other organisations to extend the work of our team in these important areas. We will be making more programs on both East Arnhem Liquor Permit system and family violence. In response to questions from Yolŋu members, the team will be commencing research and development of programs and resources that address legal and economic issues around employment.

Social and Support Systems

Health and wellbeing is about getting the right support. ARDS' programs and resources build on the strengths of Indigenous families and kinship support systems and give them the tools to understand and access external services.

Highlights

- *Our case workers supported 105 Indigenous clients from remote communities living in the Darwin region to understand and access essential support services.*
- *Welcomed Shirlene Arlov as a case worker to the Family Resource Centre*



Projects

Family Resource centre Department of Health and Families

The Family Resource Centre supports Yolŋu individuals and families in the Darwin area to engage with a range of services. Our case workers help clients deal with issues such as housing, social security benefits, primary health care and the court system.

Looking Ahead

ARDS is pleased to report that it has secured funding from the Department of Health and Families for the Family Resource Centre for a further three years. The team is committed to improving its ability to respond to the diverse needs of clients, and working with other providers to empower clients and their families.



Cultural Sustainability

Indigenous knowledge is the foundation for a strong future. At ARDS we aim to support the development, transmission and preservation of Yolŋu knowledge systems.



Highlights

- *45 new songs and 6 new traditional stories broadcast on Yolŋu Radio and added to the Strong Traditions library.*
- *Welcomed Yasunori Hayashi as project manager of Strong Traditions, Strong New Ways.*

Projects

Strong Traditions Strong New Ways

Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

This project records, distributes and broadcasts traditional stories, song cycles and proverbs from various Yolŋu clan groups in North East Arnhem Land. Recordings made by Yolŋu elders in communities and homelands reinforces the role of elders as teachers of younger generations.

Looking Ahead

The Strong Traditions New Ways project is developing in new and responsive ways with plans to move into the area of recording family histories in the coming year. In partnership with clan elders, our team are also reviewing ARDS archive of songs and stories to make improvements to radio scheduling of traditional song cycles and stories.

Talking with ARDS staff

Joy Bulkanhawuy

With a background in health work and teaching Yolŋu Matha, Joy Bulkanhawuy brings to ARDS a wealth of experience and a real passion for helping her people.

Bulkanhawuy began her working life at Galiwin'ku clinic and after moving to Darwin, taught Yolŋu languages at Sanderson high school. Raising 13 children kept her busy enough! After meeting Alice Mitchell, nurse, midwife and health educator, Joy was introduced to the work of ARDS.

"I met Bulanydjan - Alice - and she spoke to me and said 'Galikali we want you to work with us.' She'd visit my house in Palmerston or we'd go and sit in the park to do some recording work. That was about four years ago. Then Bulanydjan said, 'You should come and work at the ARDS office, in Winnellie.' So I went to see if I was interested, to see what other things they do here at ARDS."

"The first work ARDS was offering me was reception work. I was answering the phones. Then there was other work coming in. Wämut, Richard, asked if I'd do some work on the radio. At first I didn't want Yolŋu to hear my voice through the radio! But I practiced and started learning this work that we do through Yolŋu language. Like this I started learning how to record my voice and I became very interested in this radio work. It's very good and now I want to do it all the time."



"This is how ARDS works, to give them education so that they can prevent diseases before anyone has to go to hospital for treatment. And it's very good."

Joy Bulkanhawuy (continued)

“At the same time because there were health educators, nurses and some doctors working here at ARDS, I myself began looking at my own health problems. I wanted to get ideas and learn from them about how to control my own health. So that part I was very interested in. So then I got into this work.”

As well as health education work, Bulkanhawuy is a key team member of the Darwin based Family Resource Centre.

“My job in family services is sometimes about going to the hospital. We sit with a doctor and get the story for Yolŋu patients. Many times people, old or young, are too shy to talk to a doctor and find out their own story. And sometimes doctors use medical words with Yolŋu people who don't know those big words.”

“Sometimes we have to follow up people when people are tied up with their birth certificates and ID's photo ID's because now, every work, every bank, air north, Centrelink, they need 100 points of ID before they can do anything for Yolŋu people. So we help them with that. This is my work.”

ARDS uses a team interpreting approach where ever possible. Joy feels strongly that this is the best model for working across cultures and languages.

“I always need someone to be with me when I do this work, so that we can both work together with Yolŋu patients. Team interpreting. Its the best way, when Yolŋu people are using Family Services, to have a Yolŋu and Balanda.”

“It is the best way, because sometimes I don't understand these big medical words or legal words, so Balanda will be there to explain. And sometimes I'll have to explain to Balanda about Yolŋu words so that Balanda and Yolŋu working can understand one another and connect into this Yolŋu person that we are dealing with.”

“I feel this work of mine is good, to help my own people and its very good, my feelings about this. I really want to help them to get them onto a good path. ARDS helps Yolŋu very much, in many ways. This is what I've heard Yolŋu say because they know that the work ARDS does helps them. Educators go and see Yolŋu, sit with them. “

“I remember a couple of years back, there was this Yolŋu who had very bad scabies. I and one of the other health educators, we went to the house and talked to the family. That educator talked about hygiene, how to look after the house, children, but so that they really knew about it for themselves. She told it through language. And this is why it's good to have educators teaching Yolŋu people how to look after themselves, so that they don't have to go to the hospital. This is how ARDS works, to give them education so that they can prevent diseases before anyone has to go to hospital for treatment. And it's very good.”

Language

Language is at the heart of effective capacity building and education. It is the bridge that can link two peoples and two worlds. ARDS programs and resources work between English and Yolŋu languages to make real communication possible. Our linguists work across all projects to support the development of high quality resources that people can understand.

Highlights

- *We completed the Dictionary of Anatomy: Dhäruk Mala ga Mayali' Rumbalpuy and found funding to respond to the demand for print edition*
- *Published Further Studies in Djambarrpuyŋu Audio CD*



Projects

Audio for Further Studies in Djambarrpuyŋu

Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Due to the success of the Further Studies in Djambarrpuyŋu booklet, ARDS has produced an accompanying audio resource. The most commonly spoken language in North East Arnhem Land, learners of Djambarrpuyŋu can now listen to this CD along with the Further Studies in Djambarrpuyŋu booklet.

Gurrŋay Matha Revitalisation

Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Gurrŋay matha is the academic, technical and conceptual language of the Yolŋu clan groups. It holds in it the best terminology for instruction and teaching in the areas of health, law, economics and governance. This project aims to record Gurrŋay Matha, to promote its use in teaching and learning now and in future generations.

English to Yolŋu Matha dictionaries

Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

ARDS this year completed the history making Dictionary of Anatomy: Dhäruk Mala ga Mayali' Rumbalpu. Several years in the making, this dictionary contains over 200 descriptive anatomical entries including everything from DNA to tear ducts. The dictionary has been published online, with further funding secured to respond to the demand for a print version.

Printing of Dictionary of Anatomy

ALPA and NBC Consultants

ALPA and NBC Consultants have generously provided funding for the much needed printing of Dictionary of Anatomy: Dhäruk Mala ga Mayali' Rumbalpu.

Dhangu-Djangu Language Revitalisation

Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Work has continued on documenting endangered Yolŋu languages including Warramiri, Wangurri, Gälpu, Golumala and ŋaymil. After five years of dedicated work, Warramiri, Wangurri and Gälpu now have about 1000 terms each and are being prepared for two-way electronic dictionaries. Stories and songs in these languages have also been recorded for broadcast on Yolŋu Radio.

Looking Ahead

ARDS is excited to be launching the Dictionary of Anatomy: Dhäruk Mala ga Mayali' Rumbalpuy in September 2010. This really is a ground breaking publication and we hope that its release and promotion will both raise ARDS profile as a producer of high quality cross cultural resources and draw attention to the need for dictionaries of this kind across disciplines and other Indigenous languages. On this note, in 2010 we will be commencing work on a legal dictionary translating between English and Djambarrpuyŋu.

Talking with ARDS staff



“For Yolŋu, the impact of this work is that it gives them the tools to take up the knowledge that they gain, and pass it onto their peers and to the next generation”

Dr Marilyn McLellan ARDS Linguist

Language is at the heart of ARDS' work. Linguist Marilyn McLellan brings to the ARDS team a wealth of experience and a passion for the complexities and possibilities of working with Indigenous languages.

“I’m a Queenslander who became a school teacher and I went to Papua New Guinea to teach in a high school of 400 students who had 40 different language groups in their backgrounds. It became obvious there that people learn best through their own languages. So we were forever talking with people about how they said things in their language, and they would very helpfully say “in our language we say it like this”. That helped our teaching quite a bit.”

“That’s where I became very interested in languages and it made me want to go on thinking, and working in that area.”

After returning to Australia, Mally as she is known to most, embarked on a journey that has seen her working in the area of linguistics and Indigenous languages for more than 25 years. During that time she has used her skills in diverse areas such as training Indigenous translators and teacher trainees and supporting

bilingual schools as an education linguist. In 2005 Mally came on board with ARDS. One of the first projects she was handed was the English to Djambarrpuyŋu Dictionary of Anatomy, which after years of hard work, will be launched in 2010. Because language is at the heart of ARDS work, Mally's expertise is drawn on across projects and in economic, legal, governance and health areas of language exploration.

Through all of her work though, she maintains a clear focus on the importance of capacity building and two way learning.

"The thing that makes me fly the most is enabling other people to learn and in turn, learning and being challenged myself. I love watching the growth of the Yolŋu people I work with; the growth in their knowledge of how to do this work and seeing them develop in

their understanding of English and their own languages. In this process, I find there develops a kind of synergy. I am teaching my co-workers and they are teaching me. We learn from each other."

"The impact of ARDS work is with people, and that's really the most important thing. With the Anatomy Dictionary for instance, if it becomes a tool for Balanda doctors, it will help them to convey correct messages to Yolŋu, to communicate more effectively. For Yolŋu, the impact of this work is that it gives them the tools to take up the knowledge that they gain, and pass it onto their peers and to the next generation."



Yolŋu Radio

Yolŋu Radio broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week over the entire North East Arnhem Land region, and in Darwin. With content and languages from across the region, this unique service makes information, music and learning accessible to all.

Highlights

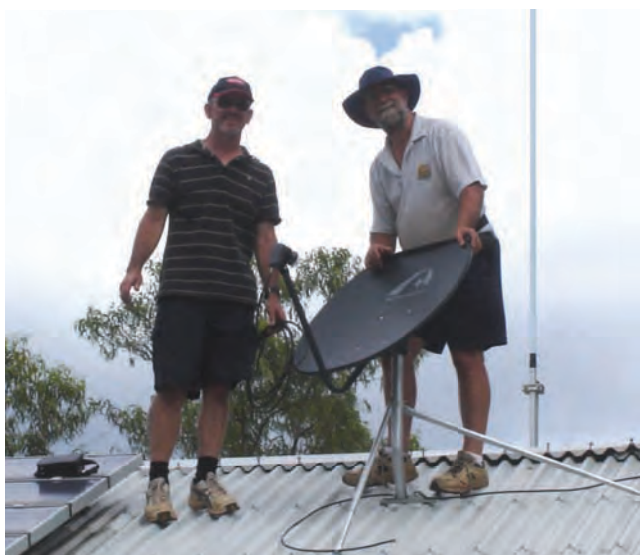
- *All major communities and 10 homelands across north east Arnhem received radio maintenance and repair work*
- *Welcomed Bryan MacDonald back to ARDS*
- *Welcomed Spud Murphy to the team as consultant radio technician*
- *Welcomed former volunteer Gaia Osbourne into the full time position of multimedia assistant*



Overview of the Year

This year the Management Committee gave ARDS a very clear direction to focus on improving its Yolŋu Radio service. Much progress has been made in a short amount of time.

Bryan MacDonald has returned to ARDS to work on the network, upgrade the system and focus on building relationships between our listeners and the radio service. With the help of consultant radio technician Spud Murphy, extensive improvements and repairs have been made to the network. Engagement and feedback by listeners in our communities and homelands has increased notably thanks to Bryan's hard work.



The ARDS team responded to listener feedback by sourcing new traditional and contemporary music, producing new education programs on requested topics, and improving scheduling of traditional song cycles to fit with ceremonial protocols.

Sponsors

ARDS wishes to acknowledge the support of the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA). Without their funding of \$200,000 this year, we could not have continued to provide this valuable service to the people of North East Arnhem Land.

Looking Ahead

Our new purpose built studio and offices in Nhulunbuy are on track for completion in 2011. The new facilities will improve ARDS' capacity to meet the demands of a growing audience in North East Arnhem Land and beyond. To meet these needs we will be working hard to secure adequate funding for staffing and operations of the new and expanded premises. ARDS is committed to building stronger links with listeners and engagement and training of Yolŋu educators, presenters and musicians will be a major focus for the radio.

Audio Education Programs

This year the team at ARDS have produced a range of new audio education programs and other materials for broadcast on Yolŋu Radio. Here is a sample of just some the in-depth information we delivered to Yolŋu through this unique service.

Soft drinks

- Is there battery acid in Coke?
- Why is coke brown?
- How much sugar is there in coke?
- Sugar in your body
- What is caffeine?
- Why are children crying for Coke? Meaning of addiction
- What happens to left over sugar in the body?
- Function of the pancreas and insulin
- Children and risks associated with high sugar consumption
- Sugar and diabetes
- Traditional Yolŋu diet is low in sugar

Update on Swine flu in the NT- 364 cases

- Swine Flu
- Definition of the English words Swine and Flu
- Child vaccine and Flu season
- Tamiflu - vaccination and general info

Drug trafficking

- Similarities: Mägayamirr and the Australian Law System
- What is the meaning of 'criminal offence'?
- What are the penalties for cannabis trafficking in the NT?
- Differences in sentencing

Police Powers

- Police Powers
- Our rights as citizens
- Giving your name and address
- The right to silence
- Distinction between being arrested and going voluntarily
- Arresting you
- Understanding reasonable force
- Your rights when arrested

Audio Education Programs (continued)

Antibiotics

What is the meaning of the English word infection?
Protecting children from getting infected

Hepatitis

Symptoms of hepatitis
Meaning of the English word hepatitis - sickness of the liver
Causes of hepatitis
Concept of hepatitis virus 'carriers'

STI's

Difference between bacteria and viruses
STI statistics update
HIV statistics update

Cockroaches

Yolŋu knowledge of native cockroaches
What is the meaning of 'pest': native vs introduced
Where non-native cockroaches live and what they eat
Cockroaches and pathogens
What is the meaning of the English words 'pest control'
Methods of pest control
Bacteria and cockroaches
Traditional housing and laws about hygiene and safety
Eucalyptus - antibacterial properties

Child protection laws

Mandatory Reporting
The Task Forces
Who has to report
Different laws
The Convention on the Rights of the Child

Conmen and internet scams

What is the meaning of the word 'conman'?
What is the behaviour of a conman?
False identities
Story of woman who lost her life savings to a lottery scam
How to know if a letter or email is real

Meaning of the word 'Rights' in law

Introduction
The right to silence
Why the right to silence
When to enforce your right to silence

East Arnhem Liquor Permit System

Understanding the conditions of your permit
Complaints mechanisms
Penalties and Town camps
NT & Federal Laws working together
History on General Restricted Areas
What is a General Restricted Area?
Drinking Laws
What do the English words Licence and Licensee mean?
Public Restricted areas and Special Event Permits
Special license to sell at community events
Private functions and special event permits
Permit conditions and where to apply
Permit committees
Homelands and permits
The licensee's Responsibility under the law

Audio Education Programs (continued)

Sponsorship

Garma Festival 2009, Yothu Yindi Foundation
 NTER Emergency Response Community
 Consultations
 Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services
 Swine Flu Vaccination and Prevention
 Indigenous Arts and Cultural Funding Program
 Binge drinking
 Learn or earn - Department of Education and
 Training
 Indigenous Funding Program submissions
 Territory Credit Union (TCU) Visa Debit Card
 A Working Future - Department of Housing
 Something great is about to start - DET
 Targeting Young Methamphetamine users
 Child Protection Inquiry Yirrkala meeting
 Basics Card - Centrelink

Traditional and Contemporary Stories

History of Milingimbi and Galiwin'ku
 Stories from the Old people
 History of Radio at Ramingining
 Weaving and carving at Mäpuru
 Arnhem Weavers from Mäpuru
 Lirrwi - embers
 Life at Ngaḍayun (Barrkira)
 Ratjuk - Barramundi
 Miyapunu - Sea Turtle
 Waltjimirri
 Shark story
 Mata Mata history
 Garrthalala history
 Gurrumuru Landcare Rangers

Yolju Radio Recordings and Broadcast Statistics for period July 2009- June 2010

Category	Total Number of Programs in Database	New in 2009-10	Spins	Previous Financial Years' Programs	Number of Previous Programs Broadcast	Spins	Total Spins
Community Announcements	168	23	2520	145	24	4579	7099
Education	1020	138	3117	882	543	13980	17097
Emergency Message	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Funny Stories	7	0	0	7	5	15	15
Religious	247	0	0	247	232	3551	3551
Sponsorships	92	19	2090	73	8	3243	5333
Stories	58	6	232	52	33	1956	2188
Temporary Announcement	5	5	140	0	0	0	140
Traditional Songs	499	68	2673	431	282	22922	25595
Time Call	50	0	0	50	38	8192	8192
Station id – English	33	0	0	33	25	3982	3982
Station id – Yolju Matha	78	0	0	78	22	18889	18889
Total	2260	259	10772	2001	1212	81309	92081

Bryan Mac Donald

Bryan first came to North East Arnhem Land in 1984 as a council mechanic in Gapuwiyak. He went on to become a MAF pilot for ten years before joining the ARDS team in 1998.

“I was really wanting to learn language, but when you fly all day and then have some family time, my brain was just shutting down when I tried to do language study at night.

“You meet a lot of people as you fly around Arnhem Land, you go to all of the outstations and communities and get to know a lot of people but you don’t get to develop any depth of relationship and that was really troubling me. So an opportunity came up to join ARDS and train in community development which I did, and at the time they were able to offer three months full pay to learn language.”

“That was in ’98, so I did sexual health education for about two and a half years and then I had to go back to QLD for some family issues. I came back in 2002 to Darwin and started off in Family Services. It had pretty wide guidelines at the time and people started ringing me about their relative in prison or in court, wanting to find out more information. Fairly quickly I started seeing major communication issues happening in the criminal justice system and did a lot of work in this area. I stayed with ARDS that time for about five years.”

After another three year break, Bryan has returned to ARDS to work on the radio network and building community relationships with Yolŋu Radio. The challenges of maintaining a network in such a remote region are huge and something that most other broadcasters don’t have to face.

Talking with ARDS staff



“As I travel around I hear people saying very positive things about the education material that ARDS has produced over the years, clearly people are wanting that to continue and increase.”

“This year travelling around some of the outstation roads we were down to 30km/h average speed, so they’re quite rough roads. So that adds significantly to the financial cost of running the network, but also just the logistics of getting to these places by air or by road.

“Another challenge is the environment; the extremes of temperature and humidity and dust. All of the outstation transmitters operate in a non-air-conditioned, dusty, humid environment so it really asks a lot of the electronic equipment. All of the mainstream radio broadcasters have all their equipment in a nice dust proof air-conditioned room for a very good reason. “

So what is it that keeps Bryan coming back?

“In a word, relationships! Obviously having lived in Arnhem Land for a lot of years you get to know a lot of people so it’s good to go out there always and catch up with old friends and carry on with those relationships. It’s good to get the radios back on air, obviously people really appreciate that, especially in the outstations. It’s always good to hear their appreciation.”

“As I travel around I hear people saying very positive things about the education material that ARDS has produced over the years. Clearly people are wanting that to continue and increase. Just being able to get access to good information is what people are saying that they appreciate, so we need to keep doing that.”



Supporters, Donors, Sponsors

We cannot build a better future for Indigenous Australia without your help. Your support enables us to make a real and lasting contribution to closing the gap once and for all. ARDS would like to thank all the individuals, governments and non-governmental organisations that supported our work in 2009.

Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs www.fahcsia.gov.au	\$772,850
Australian Government Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts www.environment.gov.au	\$489,316
Northern Territory (NT) Government Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services www.localgovernment.nt.gov.au	\$208,000
Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing www.health.gov.au/oatsih	\$171,474
NT Government Department of Health and Families www.health.nt.gov.au	\$119,893
Laynhapuy Homelands Association	\$119,344
NT Government Department of Justice www.courts.nt.gov.au	\$60,000
Menzies School of Health Research www.menzies.edu.au	\$47,414
Anglicare NT Communities for Children Initiative www.anglicare.org.au	\$30,000

Supporters, Donors, Sponsors (continued)

Zero Waste SA www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au	\$19,723
I & G Pty Ltd Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing www.health.gov.au	\$12,180
Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) www.alpa.asn.au	\$7000
NBC Consultants Northern Building Consultants	\$3000



Accounts

Balance Sheet

	2010 \$	2009 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	111,255	205,808
Trade and other receivables	46,976	129,595
Inventories	18,294	39,126
Other	-	2,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	176,525	376,529
NON CURRENT ASSETS	(215,380)	
Financial assets	965,046	1,189,538
Property, plant and equipment	124,158	218,101
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	1,089,204	1,407,639
TOTAL ASSETS	1,265,729	1,784,168
CURRENT LIABILITIES	(82,465)	
Trade and other payables	146,383	118,921
Financial liabilities	2,080	-
Provisions	130,000	224,407
Other	5,700	98,701
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	284,163	442,029
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	(2,813)	
Financial liabilities	-	16,707
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	16,707
TOTAL LIABILITIES	284,163	458,736
NET ASSETS	981,566	1,325,432
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Reserves	-	689,537
Retained profits	981,566	635,895
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	981,566	1,325,432

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Revenue	2,367,560	2,249,718
Employee benefits expense	(997,899)	(1,578,794)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	(135,980)	(143,402)
Advertising	(6,944)	(9,607)
Lease expenses	(600,000)	-
Computer expenses	(121,723)	(215,380)
Consultancy fees	(155,817)	(36,454)
Insurance	(73,708)	(18,440)
Office equipment	-	(30,163)
Printing and stationery	(19,388)	(28,929)
Project and contract expenses	-	(82,465)
Telephone	(25,173)	(28,821)
Transmitter expenses	(91,681)	(108,045)
Travel expenses	(94,001)	(180,431)
Seminar expenses 'Bridging the Cultural Divide'	(194,988)	(230,337)
Other expenses	(192,845)	(266,857)
Borrowing costs expense	(726)	(2,813)
Profit	(343,867)	(729,660)

Broadcast And Reception Locations

Station Location Frequency

Balma	87.8FM
Ban'thala	87.6FM
Bodiya	87.6FM
Darwin	1530AM
Dhipirri	87.6FM
Dhudupu	87.6FM
Dhumbala	87.6FM
Dhurupitjpi	87.8FM
Donydji	88.0FM
Galiwin'ku	87.6FM
Galupa	87.6FM
Galurru	87.6FM
Gängan	87.6FM
Gapuwiyak	87.6FM
Garrthalala	87.6FM
Gatji	102.9FM
Gumugumuk	87.6FM
Gurrumurru	88.0FM
Gutjangan	87.6FM
Humpty Doo	1530AM
Mäpuru	88.0FM
Matamata	87.6FM
Milingimbi	87.6FM
Mirrngatja	88.0FM
Mooroonga Island	87.6FM
Ngadayun	88.0FM
Ngangalala	102.9FM
Ngayawili	87.6FM
Nhulunbuy	87.6FM
Nikawu	87.6FM
Palmerston	1530AM
Ramingining	102.9FM
Rapuma	87.6FM
Wulk	102.9FM
Yilpara	88.0FM
Yirkala	87.6FM
Wandawuy	88.0FM



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Cover Photo
Wudarritj - Dhuwa Tree
Leaves used by Yolŋu as a plate and for
wrapping food to cook.

