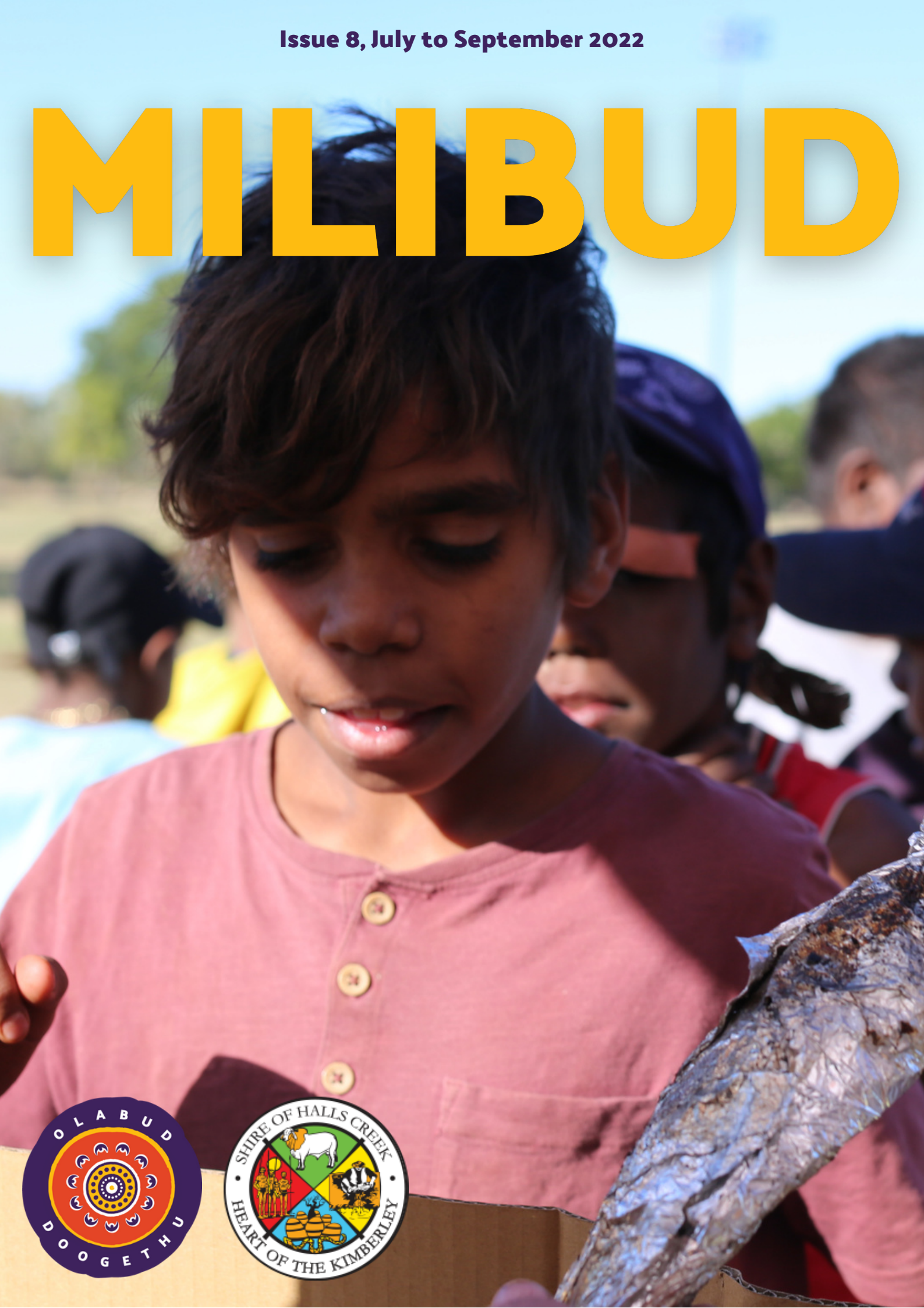


Issue 8, July to September 2022

MILIBUD



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the land of Australia and pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging. We particularly acknowledge the Gija and Jaru people, the traditional owners of the Country upon which the Shire of Halls Creek is located.

'Tis the season...

Gija

The calendar months of August and September are known as Barnden in Gija language, also sometimes referred to as malwalan, and transition into Werrgalen (October). This is the time of going from cool weather to hot weather. Waterholes are mostly dry and many of the trees drop their leaves. The winds can bring willy-willys and the ground begins to get hot. Bush foods can be scarce and it is considered to be a hard time of year.

Common plants and animals at this time of year are:

Ngawoonji, the pencil yam

Joorndany, the bush onion

Ganyarrany, goannas

Lagarnbe, whitchetty grubs

Jaru

Common plants and animals at this time of year are:

Jugurru, the bush orange

Yiringgi, the bush passionfruit

Wanyayaru, the emu

Girnanyji, the porcupine

In Jaru language this period of the year is called Barrangga. The word means the time of the sun. It is considered the build-up time as the temperatures begin to climb higher, the humidity increases and it begins to feel sticky. The small black fruit of the conkernerry, burnungarna, are ripe and ready to be collected. The black plum tree, girndiyi, is forming fruit, and in areas in the north of Jaru country the green plum tree is fruiting.

Introducing our new Directors... as part of the Olabud Doogethu long-term goal of transitioning to independence, and based on a continuous improvement model, staff are given the opportunity to elevate to higher duties, and serve in more senior roles, so as to build capacity in business and corporate competency and acumen, while continuing to utilise cultural competency and traditional knowledge to underpin the Olabud Doogethu work. As such, Dean and Arron have taken on the position of Director which will see them play an integral part in steering the Olabud team towards independence. In turn, this paves the way for other staff to move up and develop their skills, build on capacity and confidence, and adapt and evolve to best support community.



Dean Mosquito

Dean Mosquito is a proud Gija and Jaru man from Warmun (Turkey Creek). Dean has been a part of the Olabud Doogethu project from the very beginning and formed an integral part in the consultation and co-design process. He has served as Executive Officer Culture and Transformation since 2019, overseeing Olabud Doogethu's work to ensure it is culturally informed and led from design phase to day-to-day operations.

As a Director, Dean will work to aid in improving the community and livelihoods of the people of Halls Creek, particularly ensuring that children are connected to their culture and Country.



Arron Little

Arron Little is a proud Gija man from Halls Creek. Having grown up walking between two worlds, the traditional and the contemporary, Arron is passionate about sharing his knowledge and lived experiences, and working with young people and the wider community to support positive mindsets. Arron led the work in developing Olabud's alternative education program, Mibala Learning Country which is now an accredited Certificate II course through TAFE.

As a Director, Arron will focus on empowering young people to feel pride in their culture and identity, and to feel confident to progress in contemporary society.





NAIDOC Week 2022

Monday 4 July

Olabud Doogethu and Shire of Halls Creek staff took part in the planning of and participation in the NAIDOC Week March and Opening Ceremony. An annual tradition in Halls Creek, locals and visitors take to the street and march along the main street to the Halls Creek Town Oval. Marchers enter the Oval ground through the smoke of the XXXX leaves, which cleanses the spirit and alerts the ancestors to an event taking place on their country. The group proceeds across the Oval and is then welcomed to country by Gija and Jaru Elders. This year Jaru man Stewart Morton, speaking in his native tongue as well as English, talked about the importance of coming together on this day and sharing in culture, while Gija woman Josie Farrer spoke of the pride she has in speaking her Language, as so many of her ancestors were banned from doing so for numbers of generations. Our team cooked Kangaroo tails in the traditional way which were enjoyed by all who attended on the day.





NAIDOC Week 2022

Friday 8 July

On Friday 8 July our Alternative Education and Case management teams created an afternoon of interactive fun with an artefacts display, a boomerang throwing techniques workshop with target practice and a Design Your Own T-Shirt station. We were joined by the East Kimberley Job Pathway's Halls Creek team who hosted a Painting on Canvas workshop and put on the BBQ.





Exploring our Country



For our Olabud Doogethu staff, and our clients, getting out on Country is important. Nature's classroom offers a wealth of learnings, and these experiences vary throughout the year, as do the seasons. At this time of year with most of the water holes dry, land is exposed that is under water for much of the year. The rocks which sit in the river and creek beds are now accessible, some made perfectly smooth by the running of the water, and some made angular with sharp edges, caused by being tumbled and cracked against each other by the fast flowing waters after a big wet season. The kids collected up some of the rocks discussing how the smooth ones can be used for grinding bush seeds and nuts into powder, and the sharp ones can be used for cutting foliage and make spear heads.





Back in the Pool!

A refreshing update - the pool

is back open! On Saturday 10 September our Directors, Dean Mosquito and Arron Little joined Shire President Malcolm Edwards and Rec. Centre Manager Ryan Chapman in formally re-opening the pool.

Closed since October 2021, due to a lack of staff, the pool had deteriorated, and was at risk of being condemned. However, new Shire CEO Phillip Cassell saw hope for the pool, and upon the successful recruitment of the Rec. Centre Manager work to bring the pool back began.

Over 4-5 month period, the pool was drained, cleaned, repaired and re-filled. The hard work and persistence of the Shire Rec. crew was admirable, and the work paid off, with a sparkling blue oasis back in the middle of Halls Creek.

Olabud Doogethu Directors Dean Mosquito and Arron Little, along with Elder Josie Farrer and daughter Renata, smoked the leaves of the Ecalyptus tree and the Konkerberry bush, welcoming the community back to the pool site.

Walking through the smoke, children and adults alike came with excitement and enthusiasm, and took to the water on what was a beautiful September day.

Our staff look forward to working together with the Shire, the school and other local partners to utilise the Pool and the Rec. Centre as part of our ongoing efforts to improve experiences and outcomes for our young people and their families.





WELCOMING ALL BACK TO THE POOL

Pictured below (from left); Dean Mosquito, Renata Jazyk, Josie Farrer and Arron Little



A visit from **SOCIAL REINVESTMENT** WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Social Reinvestment WA (SRWA) are a coalition body made up of Aboriginal leaders, the non-profit sectors, industry experts and people with lived experience. Their aim is to end the systemic over representation of indigenous Australians in WA's justice system through prioritisation of smart justice, healthy families and safe communities.

SRWA have been part of the Olabud journey, assisting with co-design processes, advocacy and connection to potential partners and funders.

In early September, SRWA staff visited Halls Creek to conduct interviews and collect impact assessment data to aid in our ongoing efforts to continue our work in the social and justice reinvestment space.





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