

Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust (GEAT Inc.)

2015 (1 April 2014- 31 March 2015) Annual Report

This report is in respect of the last year under Statutory Management of Mr Phillip Timney who was appointed by the Northern Territory Government. The period of Statutory management that began on 19 October 2012 effectively ended on 3 February 2015 when the Northern Territory Department of Business confirmed the new deed and constitution had been endorsed in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Act. A fresh certificate of incorporation was issued to GEAT Inc. on the same date.

The new Deed and Constitution were the result of a period of consultation and a meeting at Angurugu of about 120 beneficiaries on the 29th October 2014 when the persons present overwhelmingly endorsed the new Trust Deed and Constitution. The most significant change was to create a new form of Association where the members of the Association were also the committee and with a mixture of beneficiaries and independent people all appointed by the Attorney General. The Attorney General has the power under the constitution to cancel an appointment of a member at any time if something is going wrong.

By 17th April 2015 all Committee members had accepted membership on the GEAT Inc. management Committee and on the 22nd April 2015 Statutory management Appointment of Phillip Timney was revoked.

The management of the trust during the financial years ending 2014 and 2015 was conducted by the Statutory Manager

The new Management Committee is as follows;

Mr Hugh Burton Bradley (Chairperson and Public Officer);

Ms Meriel Corbett-Weir (Independent Management Committee representative);

Mr Bruce Peter Fadelli (Independent Management Committee representative);

Wilfred (Willy) Lalara (Community Management Committee representing Angurugu);

Geraldine Amagula (Community Management Committee representing Angurugu);

Eric Wurramara (Community Management Committee representing Milyakburra);

Lucille Wurramara (Community Management Committee representing Milyakburra);

Betty Herbert (Community Management Committee representing Umbakumba, deputy chairperson);

Elvis Clive Bara (Community Management Committee representing Umbakumba).

Main Activities

The main activities for the 2015 Financial Year were the \$240,000 for the funding of a Bus Transport System linking Umbakumba, Angurugu and Alyangula, major upgrades and staffing upgrades to the GEAT Angurugu Market Garden and funding for 29 funerals.

Costs for GEAT's main activities for 2014 and 2015 are summarised below;

Charitable (grant) expenses

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Ceremony	122,732	40,283
Education grants	39,105	3,554
Funeral expenses	291,760	332,752
Handicapped/disabled	31,220	148
Medical grants	72,076	77,452
Sports and recreation	4,930	2,273
Poverty payments	3,457	26,167
Special grants (i)	1,769,092	1,819,007
Community events	4,072	9,782
Counselling and rehab	10,912	34,994
Transport services	308,467	5,057
Employment and skills training	13,308	150
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	2,671,131	2,351,619
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Special Grants were made up largely of the Market Garden Costs and Transport Services were made up of the funding for the bus services.

The remaining grants can be broken down into the following areas.

Anindilyakwa Land Council

- Sponsorship of the 2014 One People One Voice Festival \$46,251
- Commencement of ground work for Bartalumba Bay marina project – engineering, hydrographic and UAE survey fees \$16,225

Anindilyakwa Services Aboriginal Corporation

- Donation of a Toyota Workmate Troop Carrier to be used for activities carried out at the Angurugu Men's Shed \$68,079
- Contribution towards annual maintenance costs of the Men's Shed vehicle (January – December 2015) \$20,240
- Donation of two shipping containers for use at the Milyakburra Cultural Centre
- Sponsorship of the 2015 One People One Voice Festival \$50,000

East Arnhem Regional Council

- Donation of a Toyota Workmate Troop Carrier to the Angurugu Aged Care \$42,690

Centre	
• 12 months registration for Angurugu Aged Care Troop Carrier	\$839
• Meat supplied for the Umbakumba Community Christmas event held 11 December 2014	\$568
Groote Eylandt & Milyakburra Youth Development Unit (Gemydu)	
• Donation of a Toyota Hi ace Bus to transport community members to and from GEMYDU activities	\$51,586
• Sponsorship of cultural trips run by the Strong Young Men's Centre	\$400
• Running costs for Strong Young Men's Centre (April 2014 – March 2015)	\$132,000
• Donation of a commercial stove and range hood to the Angurugu Women's Centre	\$3,356
• Minor repairs and maintenance at the Angurugu Women's Centre	\$165
Milyakburra Health Clinic	
• Donation of food and bbq supplies for health days including Flu Vax Day and Cardiac and Diabetes Education Day	\$400
MJD Foundation	
• Sponsorship of respite trip for young woman who has MJD	\$3,500
• Donation towards Zebrafish research project – finding a treatment for MJD	\$20,000
Top End Health	
• Sponsorship of Healthy Skin Week – jointly funded with GEBIE	\$2,050

GEAT Inc. Net Surplus 2015

The Net Value of the Trust including real estate as 1 April 2015 was \$50,530,885 with the Surplus for the year ending 31 March 2015 being **\$293,160**

Income

Royalty income for the year ending 31 March 2015 was \$10,412,936 this was down from \$12,503,638 for the year ending 31 March 2014. Other income streams that reduced over the corresponding period were Investments in Unit Trusts (\$284,499 from \$314,260), Insurance recoveries (\$0 compared to \$533,527 in 2014) and sales of assets went from \$452,806 in 2014 to only \$55,145 in 2015.

Incomes streams that did improve in 2015 was Interest Income which increased by \$109,106 to \$724,046 for the 2015 financial year and Rental income increased by \$45,977 to \$695,987 for the year ending 31 March 2015.

Expenses

During the Audit process the CEO and auditor agreed to writing off \$5.3 million dollars in non-Current assets. \$2.8 million of this was made off of motor vehicles and boats. The vehicles and boats were either untraceable, signed over to Individuals or considered to have had significant over evaluation of their worth at the time of purchasing. The rest of the write offs were made up of furniture and equipment, market garden equipment and earthworks, impairments of buildings and write down of the value of the GEAT barge.

Total Expenses are summarised in the table below

Expenses		
Charitable (grant) expenses	2,671,131	2,351,619
Employee benefit expenses	563,806	590,204
Depreciation	449,276	1,464,940
Auditor's remuneration	35,200	34,471
Barge costs	1,879	50,878
Electricity	35,149	37,205
Freight and cartage	17,255	33,914
Motor vehicle expenses	58,874	85,413
Consultancy related expenses	19,495	304,358
Owned, leased and investment property related expenses	358,540	207,393
Impairment and write off of non-current assets	5,308,124	-
Legal costs	1,805,246	1,485,816
Doubtful and bad debts	12,921	1,247,344
Insurance	166,990	207,020
Other expenses	506,193	758,936
Total expenses	12,010,079	8,859,511

Litigation

During the period of administration the Statutory Manager obtained legal opinions indicating that certain advisors did not do enough to protect the trust form over expenditure by the last committee. He commenced legal proceedings in the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory seeking to recover an amount in excess of \$30million. Your present committee is committed to pursuing this course to recover that which is due to the trust

Looking Forward

At the end of the statutory management your Trust assets were increased substantially. This fund which was created by the Church Missionary Society for the benefit of Groote Eyelandt people is now embarking on a new era. The wasteful and uncontrolled expenditure was stopped by the actions of the Northern Territory Government and now you have a committee committed to following the lawful process of managing the trust fund in accordance with the Deed and the law.

It is important to understand that because the trust is a charitable trust the law places restrictions on the way it delivers benefits to people.

The new committee will work with you to achieve the best possible results.

Dated this 18th day of August 2015


Hugh Bradley
Chairperson


Committee Member