



Australian Government
Office of the Registrar of
Indigenous Corporations

Inspecting foliage damage. Dr Ben Hoffmann from CSIRO is working with Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation on the Bawa'mirri Galkal project, an environmental program to contain the Yellow Crazy Ant. Photo: Ben Hoffmann/CSIRO

Growing strong corporations

Contact the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations for support. We're here to help with:

- regulation and compliance
- dispute management
- corporate governance training

as well as

- spreading to a wider community the many good news stories that come from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations.

New ORIC services



Corporation jobs

Want a job in an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander corporation or you have one to advertise?

Go to www.oric.gov.au and click on the green corporation jobs logo.



If you need a hand running a recruitment process check out ORIC's new program, ORIC Recruitment Assistance (ORA). Initially ORA will assist six corporations recruiting for senior jobs and the program will expand as demand for the service increases.

See our easy-to-read employment guides which will help you write a successful job ad, prepare selection criteria or conduct an interview.

Once you've hired someone you'll want a contract. Take a look at our selection of template employment contracts which you can change to suit your needs. They are grouped according to state/territory and position—for example, CEO or store manager. Each template contract comes with a summary of employment conditions and an explanation of the relevant industry award.

Other guides offer tips on managing staff and their performance.

LawHelp



A number of Australia's top lawyers and law firms are contributing their time and expertise free of charge under **LawHelp**. This new scheme assists not-for-profit corporations with a range of legal matters.

For more information and details about how to apply go to the ORIC homepage www.oric.gov.au and click on **Lawhelp** in the hot topics section or email LawHelp@oric.gov.au.

Keep on top of compliance this year

Make sure your corporation follows its rule book and the law by quickly looking up the **Healthy Corporation Checklist**. Go to www.oric.gov.au, click on the training and support tab and find the **Healthy Corporation Checklist** in the menu on the left-hand side.

New financial reporting standard

The Australian Accounting Standards Board has released a new financial reporting standard, **AASB 1053: Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards**. For those corporations that prepare general purpose financial statements it may mean a reduced level of disclosure. For more information see ORIC's *Corporation reporting guide* under the publications tab at www.oric.gov.au.

Training calendar

Every year ORIC offers a series of training workshops and courses to help directors and members learn more about corporate governance and running their corporations. Courses and dates at www.oric.gov.au. To enrol or find out more information email training@oric.gov.au.

Overdue reports?

Don't risk prosecution or deregistration of your corporation. Call us on our freecall number 1800 622 431 (not free from mobiles)



Take a bow

DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Ask any of Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation's members, volunteers and friends what they do and the answer is quick: 'We protect the land and surrounding coastal waters.'

Since incorporating in 1992, Dhimurru has thrived. It's now running several sustainable land and sea use management schemes, continues to gather environmental data for science, and successfully trains and employs scores of people in land and sea care.

The ongoing project to contain the Yellow Crazy Ant, first discovered in north-east Arnhem Land in the late 1970s, is one of the corporation's recent measurable successes.

'We refer to the Yellow Crazy Ant as Bawa'mirri Galkal which is a rough rendition in Yolngu language—*bawa'mirri* is crazy and *galkal* is ant,' says Steve Roeger, Dhimurru's executive officer.

Where the pest came from or how it got here no one is quite sure but no one disputes the environmental damage it causes.

'They form multi-queened "super colonies" which result in ants occurring in extremely high densities over large areas. We don't want anything to do with them here,' says Dhimurru's senior ranger Daryl Lacey. 'They can out-compete native invertebrates for food and places to live and they change plant communities.'

Ecological monitoring has recorded full recovery at 17 sites within 12 months following treatment.



Dhimurru's land management officers Daryl Lacey (left), Butjarri Munungurritj (centre) and Arian Pearson (right) inspect a plaster cast of a nest of Yellow Crazy Ants. Photo: Ben Hoffmann/CSIRO

••• CONGRATULATIONS •••

In recognition of its **Yellow Crazy Ant Management Project**, Dhimurru—in partnership with Rio Tinto Alcan Gove and CSIRO—took out the '2010 Indigenous Award—Caring for Country' and the '2010 Origin Gold Banksia' award.

'This project has been a great example of what can be achieved when we work in partnerships at a community level. Everyone involved should be proud of the recognition we have received.' *Steve Roeger, Dhimurru executive officer*



At the Banksia awards (from left to right) Balupalu Yunupingu, first senior ranger Galkal, Dhimurru; John Edgar, CSIRO; Dr Ben Hoffmann, CSIRO; Paul Dewar, Rio Tinto; Faye Lawton, Rio Tinto; Steve Roeger, Dhimurru executive officer; Daryl Lacey, current senior ranger Galkal, Dhimurru; and Robert Davies, Rio Tinto. Photo: Alan Andersen/CSIRO

According to the Global Invasive Species Programme, the Yellow Crazy Ant is one of the world's worst pest invaders.

Over the past five years Dhimurru—with its partners—has been waging a steady and unrelenting war against the species—and with considerable success. In carefully controlled areas, specialised treatments have resulted in almost 100 per cent effectiveness in getting rid of the ant.

'We are part of the land. We couldn't let this little ant destroy our culture, our land our life,' says Balupalu Yunupingu, Dhimurru's first senior ranger on the Galkal project.

Over 2011 Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation will continue to protect the land and surrounding waters. In its efforts to clean up coastal areas, it is paying special attention to ghost nets. These are fishing nets that have been either lost or discarded at sea yet continue to fish, as if guided by a ghostly hand (the ocean currents and winds). Eventually they end up as debris on the shore. Throughout the world ghost nets are a menace to marine wildlife. In Australia's gulf region, where turtles and dugongs become easily entangled in them, they are a particular threat.

Other ongoing projects include a weed control scheme, a crocodile management program, a feral animal project and a Yolngu scientific knowledge program—to name but a few.

For more information about the Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation www.dhimurru.com.au