



Australian Government
Office of the Registrar of
Indigenous Corporations

ORIC Oracle

TECHNOLOGY—IT CAN HELP

As corporations expand IT plays an increasingly important part in managing daily activities.



Using computers is part of life. Faith Thompson from Ngukurr Arts at an ANKAAA Art Worker Program workshop. Photo: ANKAAA

Ngukurr Skypes

Ngukurr Arts Aboriginal Corporation

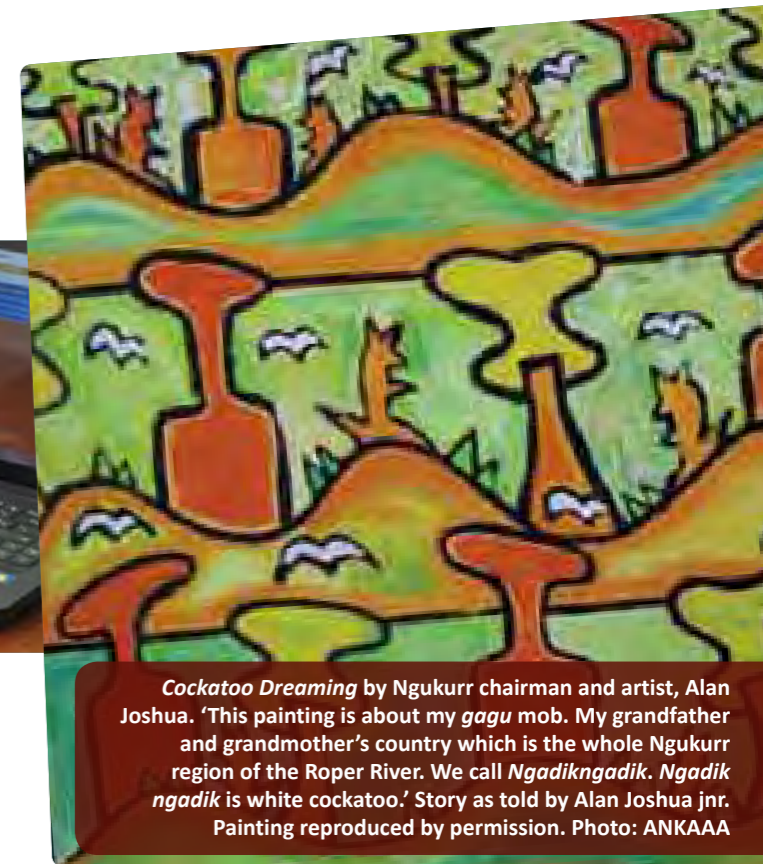
The country around Ngukurr Arts is hilly with typical Top End growth, billabongs and big rivers. The nearest main centre, Katherine, is about three hours drive away but this is of no concern to the Ngukurr artists who, it seems, thrive on remoteness. The centre is a hub of creativity and the remarkable work it produces is as distinctive and as varied as the artists themselves.

For a people so culturally rich, with deep connections to their land and traditions, some might expect they are removed from the digital age. Not so.

A short time ago, with a bit of back up from ANKAAA*, Ngukurr Arts held a board meeting using Skype.

'Using Skype was a fantastic solution,' says Christina Davidson, ANKAAA's CEO.

*ANKAAA is a peak body for art centres and stands for Association of Northern, Kimberley and Arnhem Aboriginal Artists



Cockatoo Dreaming by Ngukurr chairman and artist, Alan Joshua. 'This painting is about my *gagu* mob. My grandfather and grandmother's country which is the whole Ngukurr region of the Roper River. We call *Ngadikngadik*. *Ngadik ngadik* is white cockatoo.' Story as told by Alan Joshua jnr. Painting reproduced by permission. Photo: ANKAAA

The Ngukurr chairman and artist, Alan Joshua, was in Darwin while ANKAAA's resource and development officer Chris Durkin was in Ngukurr with the board of directors.

'Using Skype was a fantastic solution,' says Christina Davidson, ANKAAA's CEO. 'The chairman had to be here in Darwin because his son was in hospital.'

Skyping allowed the directors to discuss and make decisions. They could see and hear each other clearly. It was definitely better than trying to manage with just a phone.

'Chris Durkin was sitting on the ground in Ngukurr with his laptop on his knee and he just passed it around so each director could speak,' says Alan Joshua. 'Everyone really appreciated seeing each other and I think everyone enjoyed the experience.'

Get connected

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) can help you get connected.

Satellite Phone Subsidy Scheme

This scheme is available for those who live, work or travel in areas where there is no mobile coverage. You can get up to \$1000 off the retail cost of a satellite phone handset. To find out if you qualify for the subsidy, go to www.dbcde.gov.au/satphone, phone 1800 674 058 or email satphone@dbcde.gov.au

Indigenous Communications Program

The Indigenous Communications Program (ICP) provides community phones to remote Indigenous communities. Since 2009 over 90 communities have received fixed satellite phones under the program. A further 60 fixed phones will be installed at the end of the wet season. The ICP also delivers internet access and training to larger communities in collaboration with state and territory governments. For more information about the ICP go to www.dbcde.gov.au/icp, phone 1800 355 014 or email ICP@dbcde.gov.au



NT mojos: Brendan Yunupingu, Desmond Daly, Gerald Yawulkpuy, Harry Munkara, Jasmine Daly, Jasmine Patrick, Richard Riley, Ron Poantumului, Rudolph Wurragwagwa, Sabrina Nayarri, Sharon Gaykamangu. Photo: FaHCSIA

NT mojos

NT Mojos—an innovative pilot mobile journalism project has helped to close the gap in the Northern Territory by giving Indigenous communities a chance to tell their stories in their own way.

See these talented journalists in action at <http://ntmojos.indigenous.gov.au>

Your 2009–10 reports had to be lodged by the end of last year. If you haven't yet sent in your corporation's reports, you could be facing prosecution or deregistration.

You can lodge your reports online at <https://online.oric.gov.au>. If you have any questions, please call us on our freecall number 1800 622 431 (not free from mobiles).

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Antoinette, a pharmacy assistant from Ngaanyatjarra Health Service, on the road between Warakurna and Blackstone. Photo: NHS

Making calls

Ngaanyatjarra Health Service Aboriginal Corporation

Peter Taylor from Ngaanyatjarra Health Service (NHS) knows all about the advantages of communication technology. His corporation provides a range of health services to about 1800 Aboriginal people in some of the most remote parts of Australia. Satellite phones are crucial.

'We operate a number of clinics in remote locations such as Warburton, Cosmo Newberry and Tjukurla,' says Peter. 'Reliable communication is essential.'

NHS now has 36 subsidised satellite phone handsets, which allows the corporation to have one satellite phone in each of its ambulances and special team vehicles.

Without the satellite phones, running the health service would be almost impossible. It's a big operation with 11 clinics and employing general practitioners, medical specialists and remote area nurses.

'We rely on the flying doctors for medical emergencies that we can't handle in the clinics. When you can't get to a landline phone having the satellite phone can be the difference between life and death,' says Peter.

'We also insist that staff don't travel on remote roads without a satellite phone. The distances and harsh conditions make it too difficult and dangerous, as highlighted in recent single-vehicle rollovers.'

Without a satellite phone people can be stranded for many hours—even days—and delivering urgent medical attention is delayed.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations in breach





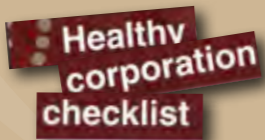
Lajamanu community, Northern Territory.
Photo: FaHCSIA Communications

What's new

ORIC's online services

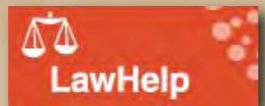
Healthy corporation checklist

Check your corporation's compliance with your rule book. Go to www.oric.gov.au, click on the 'Training and support' tab at the top. The **Healthy corporation checklist** is listed on the left-hand side.



LawHelp

If your not-for-profit corporation needs help with a legal matter try **LawHelp**. You will find guidelines and how to apply at www.oric.gov.au. Scroll down to the 'Hot topics' section and click on **LawHelp**.



Corporation jobs

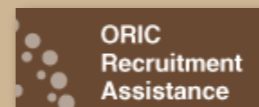
Advertise your vacant positions on the ORIC website or, if you are hiring someone, look at our job guides and employment contract templates. Sample contracts can be tailored to your corporation's needs. Just go to www.oric.gov.au and click on the **Corporation jobs** logo on the bottom right-hand side.



List your jobs now!

ORIC recruitment assistance (ORA)

Finding the right person for the job can be difficult. Let **ORA** help you through the selection process. Go to www.oric.gov.au, click on **Corporation jobs** and in the menu on the left-hand side click on **ORIC recruitment assistance**.



Lodge online

The reporting period for 2010-11 is coming up. You have between 1 July 2011 and 31 December 2011 to send your reports to the Registrar. Why not lodge online this year. Go to <https://online.oric.gov.au>

New look Oracle

If you'd like to give us feedback on our new format or share a story about your corporation we'd love to hear from you.

Drop us a line at publications@oric.gov.au

Subscribe to the *ORIC Oracle* by emailing info@oric.gov.au

Training

ORIC provides training in corporate governance throughout the year. To find a course to suit your needs check the front page of the ORIC website. Dates and venues are constantly updated. To enrol or find out more information email training@oric.gov.au

Don't forget you can contact someone at ORIC at any time.

Freecall **1800 622 431** (not free from mobiles)

Email info@oric.gov.au