



**Arirrki Aboriginal Corporation ICN:4637**

**ABN: 52 607 631 522**

**PO Box 645**

**Alyangula NT 0885**

**Trading as**

**Spectacular Jumping Crocodile Cruises**

**Groote Eylandt Car Rentals**



Arirrki Aboriginal Corporation  
Meeting Agenda  
General Board Meeting  
[date]

## **Minutes**

- \* Due to conflicts with The Herbert Funeral in Umbakumba, scheduled to start one hour after the Arirrki AGM, the Board consulted ORIC regarding rescheduling. The Arirrki Rule book does not technically allow this, it does however allow for the use of Technology. The AGM was held briefly with six members present to form a quorum at the scheduled time and place, it was then uploaded as a prerecorded presentation, to the Arirrki Facebook page. Comments were opened to allow members to acknowledge their viewing for 24 hours.
- \* All reports were passed by the quorum present.
- \* An information BBQ was held two days later, after the conclusion of the Sorry Business to allow all members to attend, and informally ask any questions, receive copies of all reports etc.
- \* Arirrki Aboriginal Corporation admits that while this is not the preferred way of running the AGM, it was done by necessity and met the criteria in the rule book. The rule book will look to be reviewed to allow for rescheduling conflicts for the future.

Attendance -

Abel Lalara, Hamilton Lalara, Fabian Lalara, Wilfred Lalara, Russell Lalara.

### **Business arising**

Ratify 2019 minutes as a true and proper record.

### **Finance report**

Finance report by Dynamic Financial Management/Merrit Partners. - Note this was not the finalised audit report, which was unavailable at the time. This was presented at the second informal meeting.

Arirrki is looking at approximately a \$640k loss for the financial year. This is mainly due to the writing down of good will in accounts to meet the audit requirements. Of this \$640k loss, approximately \$70,000 is actual real money. Considering that the financial year was started looking at almost a \$500k loss in real money due to over spending by the previous GM, and the impact of COVID 19, Arirrki is financially in a good position with almost \$450k in the bank, \$400k in approved grant funding to be drawn on, and the sale of the Northern Adventurer and Larrakeyah Unit to add to the savings.

The Board will continue to use Merritt partners for the 2020/2021 Audit. A decision on the contracting of financial services is pending final quotes. This should be made by the board prior to Christmas.

## CEO report

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this country, the Anindilyakwa and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. I pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

The past 12 months have been interesting to say the least. Since the last AGM, we began by finally having some sort of idea of the financial mess we were left in. With overspending and unapproved purchases leaving huge holes in Arirrki's budgets, we left last years AGM, with allegations of mismanagement, accusations rumours, threats and general disharmony. We spent money we hadn't even earned, for Christmas 2019 with Community support being handed out all in the way of flights and accommodation. Our businesses were not performing, and we discovered many of the procedures and policies that Arirrki and its businesses should have had, simply didn't exist.

January saw fighting between Board members and management, spill out into the wider family and Arirrki suffered. This was compounded, when a Special General Meeting was called to solve these issues with ORIC's help, instead became a one sided farce, as ORIC used COVID 19 as an excuse to not become involved.

COVID 19 then took its impact, on the world, locking down Groote Eylandt and causing our businesses to shut up shop. For March and April, our businesses were closed full time and our income dropped to nothing. Around this time, the Board started to pull together. Arguments were sorted. Decisions made to forget past wrongs and move forward. Family started to be put first and decisions to sure up Arirrki's future began to take place.

Over 2020, The Board has gone into survival mode, reducing spending, cutting costs and generally tightening our belts to see out what has been a very tough year. Groote Eylandt Car Rentals was loosing money, and Spectacular Jumping Crocodiles had no customers, and had lost 50% of its potential customers through the loss of the precooked cruise ship visits. Allowing for our already poor finances, 2020 should have been a year that had the potential to close us down.

Staff were turned tot he governments JobKeeper program, saving wages. management refused overdue pay rises. Businesses were revamped, and new business systems were put in place to increase efficiency. Business managers reduced costs, marketing was changed to reflect the customers needs, Community support was reduced by almost half, and now nearing the end of 2020, Arirrki can claim, that despite technically having made a financial loss, that 2020 could have been, should have been, a disaster, we are in a position to make 2021 a year that changes Arirrki's future and the lives of our members.

We have almost half a million dollars in our business accounts and are spending money to improve our businesses. We have almost \$400k in approved grant funding to improve our businesses. We are about to turn high risk non-performing assets, low risk assets that make money and maintain a nest egg for our future.

Arirrki has committed to developing community ventures, in youth diversion and training to support our young members. We are looking at developing a number of small businesses, using local resources, providing training and business planning, to allow members to become their own bosses and provide their own families with incomes. We are developing large business plans that will see opportunities for members to gain training and employment on Groote Eylandt, under trained and locally employed managers. Arirrki is looking to use our gains to give back to the community in ways that most of us have spoken about, but have never seen occur.

A new Arirrki website is being launched that will give members access to information like they have never had before. Board minutes, and financial statements, plus access to online forms such as community support.

The Board is also looking to change. As our Elders look to reduce their loads, we are looking at using their wisdom to set our goals, but having subcommittees that allow normal members to get involved and make decisions under the guidance of our elders.

We will get it right first go? Probably not, but we will adapt and overcome until we have a corporation that works and meets our members needs. This is after all a family corporation and our focus will be on family first. Our rules are being written down for the first time and will eventually be available online. This will allow members to make sure what is good for one person is good for all people. That the Boards decisions are good and fair.

Despite all the false claims, the rumours, in some case the out right lies, the Board and management have listened. We have made changes, not because they were needed, but because they were asked for. We have tendered our our accounting to make sure we have best price. We have found an auditor that is making us accountable and a better corporation by finding our faults. Like a child, Arirrki is maturing. We are getting better, smarter, and more focussed.

2020 has been tough. We have weathered it, and come through. We are now ready to make progress on building a future for our youth.

## SJCC report

SJCC has weathered 2019/2020 well. Despite COVID close downs and the loss of the cruise ship market, Spectacular, has revised its marketing, and addressed efficiencies in the workplace. The loss of prebookings with the cruise ships has cost us almost 50% of our business. Going into the quieter wet season period, SJCC is currently trading approximately 16% behind, having made up 34% market share with careful social media marketing.

The new building is finally opened and usable. By utilising a proper retail space, we have seen sales growth in souvenirs grow from an average of 3-4% of sales to an average of 10% of sales per month. It is hoped that with a growing range that this will increase.

There is still outstanding dock repairs to complete. Selling and removing the Northern Adventurer will also allow this to be delayed.

## GEER report

GER has finally implemented RCM as an online booking and management platform. It has increased profitability as bookings are now being taken, and paid for online. Vehicle fleet mail linked to this program and we are searching for ways to increase efficiency. Having gone from a \$50k monthly loss at Christmas last year, to a \$50k profit, GER is once again showing it can be an effective business. Much of this improvement can be attributed to the new manager Kiara Searby.

## Arirrki report.

Arirrki is moving into greater areas of community support through the department of family services. We are looking to take on more youth diversion work. This is helping to also reduce employment costs with GEER effectively getting free labour.