



Introduction

Murlpirrmarra Connection Ltd

Founded in 2010. (NFP, Charitable Organisation)



Our mission is to:

Engage Wiluna's Indigenous youth in educational facilities by building strong relationships with Wiluna families, encouraging, supporting and offering the children educational options.
Create and implement Community initiatives to increase the wellbeing and health of Wiluna's population.
Facilitate the rehabilitation of volatile substance abusive youth.

We achieve this with a variety of activities performed between students, parents, educational facilities, partnered organisations and government departments.
This interaction creates a smooth and comfortable transition for students into educational facilities, development programs and maintains a high level of engagement.

Our current Community Development programs include:

Murlpirrmarra Connection Regional & Metropolitan Tennis Program
Wiluna Martu Eagles vs Dalkieth Nedlands Junior Football Club Carnival
Fairgame WA health and wellness programs
South Fremantle Football Club Visits & Player Identification
Student Work Experience
Malaysian Cultural Tour for graduating students
Wiluna Darlka Football & Basketball NAIDOC Carnival

In addition, we provide support in the areas of:

Student mentoring
Volatile substance abuse rehabilitation
Student work experience
Student welfare
Abstudy assistance
School enrolments
Sourcing student accommodation
Travel arrangements
Health and nutrition skills

Our students

We are currently working with 41 students from Wiluna and its surrounding areas in six participating schools:
Clontarf Aboriginal College
Bindoon Catholic Agricultural College
John Willcock Senior High School
Karatundi Aboriginal Education Community
Carmel Adventist College
Wongutha CAPS

Murlpirrmarra students school attendance is currently at an average of 91%.

Murlpirrmarra Connection Board

Patron: The Honourable **Fred Chaney, AO**
2014 Senior Australian of the Year

Chairman: **David Sanders**
Principle Lawyer at Bennett & Co Law Firm

Chief Executive Officer: **Darren Patten**
Murlpirrmarra Connection Founder / Director

Director: **Mick Wilson**
Executive Director GWR Group Ltd

Director: **Dr. Vanessa Guthrie**
General Manager: TORO Energy Ltd

Director: **Shaun Clark**
General Manager: SMS Rental Pty Ltd

Director: **Peter Dawson**
CEO Risc Advisory Pty Ltd

Director: **Kelman Patch**
Community Advisor Central Desert Native Title

Director: **David McCutcheon**
Northern Star Resources OHS & S Superintendent



Fred Chaney



David Sanders



Darren Patten



Kelman Patch



Peter Dawson



Dr Vanessa Guthrie



Mick Wilson



Shaun Clark



David McCutcheon

Murtpirrmarra & TA's Connection

Inception: WA Governors Tennis Day 2013 & 2014



On Friday 12th April 2013 Cottesloe Tennis Club hosted the Inaugural Governor's Charity Day. The day was a great success with the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Malcolm McCusker and Mrs McCusker the hosts.

The Premier of Western Australia, the Honourable Colin Barnett was in attendance along with Alicia Molik and our Proud Murtpirrmarra Connection Patron the Honourable Fred Chaney AO.

It had been the tradition for many years that the Cottesloe Tennis Club holds a bi annual tennis match with the governor's team. This year the Governor Malcolm McCusker changed the format and the event become a Governor's Charity Day.

It was decided by the Governor's Charity Day Committee to direct funds raised from the event to Variety WA as they targeted the disadvantaged younger members of our community. The committee also targeted wheelchair tennis and indigenous youth of the northwest.

It was pleasing to note that Variety WA had approved their commitment to our charity before the event. This allowed tennis specific wheelchairs to be presented by the Governor to Wheelchair Sports WA and 10 hot shot kits donated by Tennis Australia to our Murtpirrmarra Connection.

The Grant from Variety announced on the day enabled a number of visits to the Wiluna region to conduct initial "Hot Shot" programs for Indigenous children and to implement an ongoing program in conjunction with the local schools and teachers.

In 2014 the Cottesloe Tennis Club once again hosted Murtpirrmarra and TA staffers Brenda & Ian at a club social day and a presentation of a Hotshots package and eight Wilson adult rackets was made to Murtpirrmarra to donate to the regional community.



WA Regional Programs



Ever since Murlpirrmarra's conception, Tennis has been delivered to Wiluna and its surrounding community's due to Murlpirrmarra's CEO, Darren Patten's extensive tennis background.

As you can appreciate delivering tennis or any program to such remote destinations is logistically an expensive and demanding task.

Obstacles:

Distance: *Wiluna is 1000km from Perth and a 12hour drive*

Air travel: *\$850 Perth return P/h*

Limited Accommodation

No vehicle hire services available

Extreme heat



Murlpirrmarra Connections supporting partners and organisational network allow these challenges to be overcome with minimal effort and allowing all community programs delivered effectively.

Over the past 12 months 30+ tennis based activities have been conducted in Wiluna at its community recreation centre.

The donation of 2 Hotshot kits to the Wiluna Shire's recreation centre and 1 to the Wiluna Remote Community school

The donation of 8 senior Wilson tennis rackets

Murlpirrmarra co-ordinated with the Wiluna Shire in purchasing 2 new tennis nets and being successful in obtaining a state government grant to upgrade the court surface and build a bumper board.

With most sessions being conducted at twilight or under lights due to the heat, we have been supplying the children with a barbeque meal and sandwiches after most sessions which has been beneficial to the local children's health and is a real attraction in gaining a bigger participating audience.

Tennis West and Tennis Australia personnel have travelled to Wiluna and conducted clinics over the past 12 months as well as other Murlpirrmarra partners



Regional Schools Programs



In relation to our Regional Tennis Program, engaging with the remote schools has been very important, successful and productive.

Donating the Hotshot kits, Hotshot shirts and conducting clinics at Wiluna Remote Community School & Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community has seen tennis introduced regularly into the schools physical education classes.

Both schools are now conducting tennis lessons to all year groups on a weekly basis.

We are looking at targeting further remote schools in the near future:

Warburton : (1,500 km east-northeast of Perth)
Warakurna: (260 km north east of Warburton)
Leonora : (833 kilometres northeast of Perth)



Regional Tournaments



The first ever Wiluna Junior Open Tennis Championships was conducted in January this year.

The event was very well supported and a real highlight for the community.

With the participating children having never competed in a competitive tournament before the nerves and anticipation levels were very high.

With the support of the Wiluna Shire's Sport and Recreation Manager, Rod McGrath and Murlpirrmarra Regional Manager, Wendy Kelly, the children's confidence levels grew very quickly along with their self esteem.

At presentations, there was great sense of accomplishment from all the children and now the event is a firm fixture on the communities sporting calendar.

Looking forward, our next tournament endeavour is to travel with a number of the children to Geraldton (850km away) for the Geraldton Easter Open next year.



Metropolitan Indigenous Program



Through Murlpirrmarra Connections close working relationship with the Clontarf Aboriginal College an approach was made to Tennis West at the start of 2013 to host Clontarf Aboriginal College at the State Tennis Centre once a week.

This engagement comprised of tennis skill development, coach training, education and accreditation for the students, allowing them to take their tennis credentials back to their individual communities and further tennis development in the regions.

This has been and continues to be a great success from the Clontarf Aboriginal Colleges perspective with many students embracing tennis and all it has to offer.

Our next initiative is to have some of the students ball boy trained and officiate at potentially the “Hopman Cup”.

Another initiative in place for the upcoming summer (Term 4) is the integration of Clontarf College and Murlpirrmarra supported students into the Tennis Club environment.

This will happen with tennis club coaching staff (Tennis mentors) picking up the Aboriginal boarding students, taking them to there respective club and have the student engage in Junior Club, assist coaching and potentially compete in pennant and tournament play.

Three initial clubs have been identified for our “Clubs Program” and we are looking to rotate different located clubs involvement in the metro area.



Opportunity



Newcombe Medal 2014

The opportunity to attend the 2014 Newcombe Medal last year was a real highlight for two of our older Murlpirrmarra supported students.

Ada Ashwin (pictured below) is a Murlpirrmarra supported year 12 graduate from Wiluna who finished her secondary schooling at Clontarf Aboriginal College.

From all records, Ada is the only Martu female (Martu, being the aboriginal group in the Wiluna region) to ever graduate year 12. Ada has since been employed with a tourist organisation “Urban Indigenous Tours” and also works part-time at the “DOME” café.

Shane Wongawal (group picture below right) was a year 11 student also at Clontarf Aboriginal College at the time of the Newcombe Medal and came from a very dark and dysfunctional upbringing.

The chance to travel to Melbourne and attend such an illustrious event was a huge cultural and maturing opportunity for both Shane and Ada and Shane just recently has returned to country (Warburton) and is employed as a trainee mechanic.

The Murlpirrmarra Board hopes this life changing opportunity can continue into the future.



Employment

At the beginning of term two this year a young man in year 11 by the name of Shaquille Morton approached me and asked if he could do his Vocational Educational Training at Tennis West.

Shaq was part of the co-ordinated Murlpirrmarra-Clontarf Aboriginal College-TW, coaching program and was excited and insistent in taking up a work place traineeship / apprenticeship at Tennis West.

Through the support of TW's new CEO, Geoff Quinlan, Shaq commenced an Administrative and Sport and Rec traineeship. Shaq comes from Kununurra in the far north of WA and is extremely thankful for this opportunity.

As a product of Tennis Australia's funding to Murlpirrmarra, we were able to employ Wendy Kelly (pictured below) to a Regional Managers position in the Wiluna region at the beginning of 2015.

Wendy is a Police Constable in the WA Police force and has been based in Wiluna for many years. Wendy is extremely functional and as part of her role with Murlpirrmarra conducts weekly tennis activities with the Wiluna youth as well as a myriad of other engagement activities and supportive duties.



Joint Ventures



The Murlpirrmarra Connection partners with other likeminded NFP & Charitable organisations to deliver a cross section of programs, activities, sports and life style choices that expose potential pathways to the Indigenous youth in Wiluna and its surrounding areas.

(See below some of our partnering organisation)

Fairgame WA: Health & Wellness: <http://www.fairgamewa.org>

South Fremantle Football Club: AFL pathways: <http://www.sffc.com.au>

Curtin Volunteers: <http://www.curtin.edu.au/learningfortomorrow/leadership/curtin-volunteers.cfm>

Sideeffects: Volatile Substance Abuse Awareness: <http://sideeffect.org.au>

Tennis Australia: <http://www.tennis.com.au>

Dalkeith Nedlands Junior Football Club: 7 year relationship with Wiluna <http://www.dnjfc.com>



Dalkeith Nedlands
Junior Football Club



2014 Australian Open Involvement



The 2014 Australian Open gave Murlpirrmarra a great platform to engage with likeminded organisations in a similar space.

Meet and greet opportunities were generously offered to Murlpirrmarra through Brenda, Julie, Ian and their community team at various functions throughout the Open.

These engagements allowed Murlpirrmarra to network, bond, explore and develop JV programs for the regions and also in the Metropolitan areas.

Along with pre-match “Hotshot” coaching stints with the NMFC’s Huddle program as well as Media duties for the ABC & 91.3Sportfm through our “Court Talk” radio program, the 2014 Australian Open was rewarding, successful and a real opportunity for Murlpirrmarra supported students moving forward.

With Murlpirrmarra involved in the steering group of the very important Tennis Australia RAP document, we feel our association is strong and one of mutual respect.

“TA’s partnership with Murlpirrmarra is invaluable and allows us to continue to offer educational options and maintain the wellbeing of the at risk youth in the remote areas. This service is complemented beautifully with the presentation and development of tennis in the regions.”



Future Endeavours



The growth and life changing support that the Murlpirrmarra Connection has administered over the past six years has resinated throughout the Midwest and Murchison regions in Western Australia.

Due to this, the demand has been increasing and we are looking to increase our scope and support to similar disadvantaged youth in other remote regions.

For this to happen our operational costs will rise and an increase in capital will be required to pursue these endeavours.

By Murlpirrmarra increasing its regional footprint, this will allow Tennis (being a fundamental Murlpirrmarra Connection Community development program) to be exposed to regions and youth who would not normally have this opportunity.

Along with our core business of educational advancement and wellbeing for these children, Tennis can and will allow an exciting future pathway for our Murlpirrmarra supported youth and their families.

Other Initiatives:

Metropolitan Murlpirrmarra residential house

Increased number of mentors

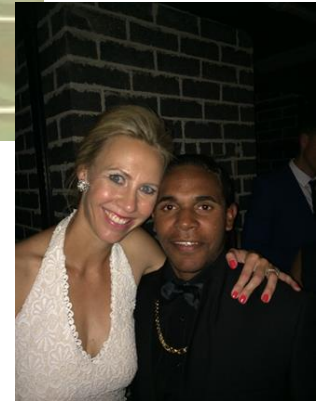
Increased Regional Support Locations

State & National Indigenous Tennis Championships

Increased work opportunities in TA & state bodies



Pictures



Thank you



"The Murlpirrmarra board would like to sincerely thank Tennis Australia, for there wonderful support of our organisation and look forward to an ongoing and successful union into the future."

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Datto".

Darren Patten
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