

# Gumurr'manydji Manapanmirr Djäma

*Making successful business together*

A photographic journey, presented by the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA), in recognition of the Yolŋu people of East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, and the contribution our people have made in building better futures and stronger communities.

We share with you a small part of our history and the foundations that were set by the people who were here before us, and we acknowledge their strength and achievements.

This virtual gallery was created for visibility and education within schools and access to the wider public.

To access the gallery  
please click on the [link](#)

# Early learnings about ALPA



Unity Through Enterprise

The Arnhem Land Progress  
Aboriginal Corporation

1. What does ALPA stand for?

*The Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation*

2. List three things that ALPA does as an organisation.

*Remote Retailing*

*Community Services Program Delivery*

*Enterprise and Economic Development*

3. Where is East Arnhem Land?

*It is in the far north-eastern corner of the Northern Territory*

4. What is the dominant language spoken in East Arnhem Land?

*Yolŋu Matha*

5. List some of the differences between a remote community and a city?

## Remote community

E.g. Remote communities only have a small store

*Health Clinic*

*No cinema*

*No park*

*Limited road access*

*One school*

## City

E.g. Cities have big supermarkets like Coles and Woolies

*Hospital*

*Cinema*

*Park*

*Road access*

*Many schools*

# Early learnings about ALPA

6. Circle the following communities on the map:

Galiwin'ku (Elcho Island)

Milingimbi (Yurriwi)

Gapuwiyak (Lake Evella)

Ramingining

Minjilang (Crocker Island)



# Watch the Chairperson's Welcome Video



**1.** What's the Chairperson's full name?

*Reverend Dr. Djiniyini Gondarra*

**2.** What is his clan's name?

*Golumala Clan*

**3.** How long has he been the Chairperson of ALPA?

*Since 1993*

**4.** Who is he thanking in the video?

*The people in the images*

**5.** What's the meaning of the exhibition title in English?

*Making successful business together*

**6.** Which communities selected the photos?

*Galiwinku, Milingimbi, Gapuwiyak, Ramingining and Minjilang*

# Wall 1 Text:

## Yolŋu Maḏayin ga Rom Mala

*Yolŋu Culture and Law*

### VOCABULARY ITEMS

Draw lines to connect the Yolŋu words with English meaning.

ceremony	Balanda
work	Natha
law	Rom
water	Gapu
food	Bungul
culture/way of life	Maḏayin
the body	Rumbal
non-Indigenous person	Djäma

1. What's the meaning of "Rom"?

*Law*

2. What's the meaning of "Maḏayin"?

*Culture/way of life*

3. How many moieties are there in Arnhem Land? What are they called?

*Two. Yirritja and Dhuwa*

4. Is it true that Yirritja can only marry Dhuwa and Dhuwa can only marry Yirritja?

*Yes*

5. When do Yolŋu people start learning about Rom?

*When they are young*

6. Yolŋu people share what they hunt and gather with their family.

**True / False**

7. Tick the activities that Yolŋu people do to pass down stories and traditions to children:

Hunt  Weave  Paint

Dance  Sing

8. List some ways non-Indigenous people learn about Yolŋu Rom?

*Be patient*

*Listen first*

*They should be quiet until the Yolŋu people know that it's time for them to listen and learn*

# Wall 1 Images:

## Yolŋu Maḏayin ga Rom Mala

*Yolŋu Culture and Law*



**1.** Find the image above on the wall.

a. What are they making?

*Armbands*

b. Where are they from?

*Highly respected leaders of  
the Guyula clan*



**2.** Find the image above on the wall.

a. What's the name of the game in English?

*Greasy pole*

b. What's the name of the game in Yolŋu?

*Rrupiyaw-ŋupanmirr*

c. When is it played?

*On New Year's Day*

**3.** Find the image with a radio and a guitar on the wall.

a. What kind of music are they recording?

*Yolŋu gospel music*

b. Who is Bobby Gaykamaŋu Dhalmurrawuy?

*A famous singer*

c. Where was the photo taken?

*Galiwin'ku*

**4.** Find the image with men sitting around at a shelter.

a. What are they preparing for?

*Preparing for Bunḡul*

b. What are the children doing?

*Listen, watch and learn*

c. What's the name of the man with white hair in the centre?

*Djäwa*

**5.** Find the photo about Emu Dance Ceremony on the wall.

a. When was the photo taken?

*1970s*

# Wall 2 Text:

## Gapu-Damurruṅ and Gapu-Raypiny

*Saltwater and freshwater*

### VOCABULARY ITEMS

Draw lines to connect the Yolṅu words with English meaning.

sea/saltwater	<del>Gapu-Raypiny</del>
freshwater	<del>ṅatha</del>
family	<del>Gapu-Damurruṅ</del>
food	<del>miyapuna ṅaraka</del>
trepanḡ or sea cucumber	<del>gurrutuṃirr</del>
crocodile	<del>marthaṅay</del>
boat	<del>rrupiya</del>
money	<del>ṅaku</del>
canoe	<del>dharripa</del>
turtle shell	<del>bāru</del>

**1.** Who were the Macassans and what did they trade with Yolṅu people?

*Indonesians. Iron goods, tobacco and other things in return for dharripa (trepanḡ or sea cucumber), miyapuna ṅaraka (turtle shell)*

**2.** Who ended the trade relationships with the Macassans?

*In 1906 the South Australian Government banned the Macassans from entering Australian and Yolṅu waters altogether, ending this trade*

**3.** What were Yolṅu people given for their goods and labour?

*Initially, Yolṅu were given rations for their goods and labour and then eventually rrupiya (money)*

# Wall 2 Images:

## Gapu-Damurrung and Gapu-Raypiny

*Saltwater and freshwater*



**1.** Find the image on the right on the wall.

a. What's name of the boat?

*Warruwi*

b. What did the boat transport to communities?

*Food, Goods, and People*

c. What's the name of the captain on the boat?

*Captain Wili Walalipa*

d. When was the photo taken?

*Circa 1960s*

**2.**



**2.** Find the image with a giant fish (Groper) hanging between two men.

a. What is the name of the man on the right?

*Djupandawuy*

b. What was Djupandawuy famous/ recognised for?

*His skilful hunting*

c. What did the missionaries rely on Yolŋu for?

*Hunting skills and knowledge of both the land and water*

d. What was the new industry that Yolŋu became a part of?

*Yolŋu became part of the new fishing industry, exporting large quantities of fish and selling them locally between their communities*

**3.** Find the image with a crocodile on the beach.

a. What is Yolŋu word for crocodile?

*Bäru*

b. What did the Yolŋu receive in exchange for the crocodile skins?

*For rations and later for money*



**3.**



**4.** Find the image with two men working on a canoe.



a. What is a naku?

*It's a dugout canoe*

b. What are the two men's names?

*The man in the canoe is Djoma and the man standing is Philip/Bobby*

*Guthayguthay (also known as Pussy Cat)*

c. Why did the coastal people travel long distances out to the sea?

*To catch turtle or to visit other communities from Milingimbi to Yirrkala for ceremony*

**5.** Find the image on the right on the wall.



a. What is this ceremony called?

*Baptism*

b. Do Yolŋu pastors still hold baptisms on the shore in Arnhem Land communities?

*Yes*

c. What is the name of this beach?

*Mission Beach*

## Wall 3 Text:

### Yolŋu ga Wäŋa-Naraka

*Yolŋu people and the land*

**1.** What does the Land give Yolŋu?

*Natha (food), shelter, water and firewood*

**2.** What kind of food do they hunt from the land?

*Bush yams, kangaroo, bush fruits, magpie goose*

**3.** What is Bungul and why is it important?

*Natha (food), shelter, water and firewood*

**4.** Does the Land still provide food for Yolŋu today?

*Yes*

# Wall 3 Images:

## Yolŋu ga Wäŋa-Naraka

*Yolŋu people and the land*



**1.** Find the image above on the wall.

a. What kind of snake is that?

*File snake*

b. What's the best way to cook the snake?

*Cook it in the coals*

c. What's the boy's name holding the snake around his neck?

*Fred Nanganharralil*

**2.** Find the image with two men on a farm.

a. What is the Yolŋu word for peanut?

*Binat*

b. Where were the nuts sold?

*Darwin and other islands*

c. Who are the two people in the photograph?

*L - R: Danyala and Bungapirriwuy*



**3.** Find the image above on the wall.

a. What animal are they carrying?

*Kangaroo*

b. What are they going to do with it?

*Share with other members of the family*

c. When was the photo taken?

*1970s*

**4.** Find the image with two women collecting firewood.

**4.**



a. How often did the women collect firewood?

*Every day*

b. Was there electricity in remote housing in the 1950s and 1960s?

*Yes, but it was rare*

c. What did women collect firewood daily for?

*For cooking, keeping the mosquitos away and keeping deadly animals away from the camp, like snakes and wild pigs*

**5.** Find the images with bananas, watermelons, and pineapples.

a. What were some of the fruits and vegetables grown on the farm?

*Sugarcane, rock melon, custard apple, pumpkin, peanuts*

b. Who enjoyed the produce grown on the farm?

*The local community*



# Wall 4 Text:

## Romgu Djägamirr Mala

*Knowledge Keepers. People who look after the Law. Education.*

**1.** Who is responsible for teaching young children in Yolŋu culture?

*Everyone*

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**2.** How do Yolŋu children learn?

*Through watching and listening and from our Elders*

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**3.** Why did the Elders encourage the children to learn English?

*So they weren't left behind in this new society*

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**4.** Who opened the first Aboriginal School of Retail Training? What year and where was it opened?

*ALPA opened the very first Aboriginal School of Retail Training. At Galiwin'ku in 1981*

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**5.** What did Yolŋu people learn at ALPA Training School?

*They learned how to operate community stores*

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# Wall 4 Images:

## Romgu Djägamirr Mala

*Knowledge Keepers. People who look after the Law. Education.*



**1.** Find the image on the right on the wall.



a. What's their job?  
*Retailer*

b. Where do they work?  
*ALPA stores*

c. What are they learning about?  
*About a new thing called television*

d. Where was the photo taken?  
*Galiwin'ku Training Centre*

e. When was the photo taken?  
*Early 1970s*

**2.** Find the image with a man painting up a boy for a ceremony.



a. What is the name of the man on the left?  
*Dätjun*

b. Where was the photo taken?  
*Milingimbi*

**3.** Find the image with two kids wearing headphones.



a. What are they learning through headphones?  
*English*

b. Where was the photo taken?  
*Gapuwiyak*

c. When was the photo taken?  
*1975*

**4.** Find the image on the right on the wall.

a. What's the English translation of the photo title: Yolŋuny ŋuli ga marngithirr nhänharay ga ŋänharay?

*Yolŋu learn by watching and listening*

b. What's the teacher's name?

*Mayaŋambarr (Dorothy) Waŋambi*

c. Why was bilingual education encouraged by Yolŋu leaders?

*So that our kids would not be left behind in a new Balanda (non-Indigenous) world*

d. Where was the photo taken?

*Gapuwiyak*

**5.** Find the image on the right on the wall.

a. What did Aboriginal staff learn at the school?

*Learn how to be retail workers and manager back in their own community stores*

b. Where was the photo taken?

*Galiwin'ku*

c. What year was the photo taken?

*1982*



# Wall 5 Text:

## ḡathanmaram ga Wāḡanhany

*Growing our communities*

- 1.** What does the word 'building' mean in Yolḡu culture?

*It means to make it ḡathanmaram (grow)*

- 2.** How did Yolḡu people build roads in the missionary days?

*By hand*

- 3.** What buildings stood strong when Cyclone Lam hit in 2015?

*The ones that were built in the missionary days*

- 4.** What's the Yolḡu word for 'Cypress Tree'?

*Lanapu*

- 5.** Why do Yolḡu people want to see these businesses happen again? Write down three reasons.

*1. The young people need these opportunities and this kind of work*

*2. They will learn things and feel proud*

*3. We want our houses to be built by Yolḡu hands for Yolḡu people*

- 6.** What is the construction company called that Yolḡu own today?

*Bukmak Constructions*

# Wall 5 Images:

- 1.** Find the image below on the wall.

- a. What were some of the diseases that were treated at the Milingimbi hospital?

*Measles, tuberculosis, and smallpox*

- b. What's the name of the nurse in this photo?

*Joy Gäyura*

- c. Where was the photo taken?

*Milingimbi*



- 2.** Find the two images with tree logs.

- a. What were the tree logs used for?

*To build houses*

- b. What type of wood was commonly used for building houses in Galiwin'ku during the mission era?

*Cypress Pine*

- c. Who were the main builders of houses during the mission era in Galiwin'ku?

*Yolḡu men*

- d. Where was the photo taken?

*Galiwin'ku*



- 3.** Find the image above on the wall.

- a. What are the men doing?

*Building a house*

- b. What materials did they use to build a house?

*Locally sourced brick and Cypress or timbers*

- c. When was the photo taken?

*Circa 1970s*

# Wall 6 Text:

## Nuthanmaraman ga Manymakkuman Djämanhan-ALPA Dhäwu

*Creating proper jobs and enterprise-The ALPA Story*

- 1.** When was the Arnhem Land Progress Association established?

*1972*

- 2.** How much money was borrowed to purchase the stock, plant and equipment from the Uniting Church Northern Australia?

*\$1 million*

- 3.** How long did it take to repay the loan?

*Three years*

- 4.** How did ALPA become a successful business model?

*Because it was Yolŋu and Balanda (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) working together*

- 5.** Who leads ALPA's Board today?

*An all Yolŋu Board*

- 6.** What kind of businesses does ALPA have now?

*A high-end furniture business, accommodation lodges, mechanical workshops, a major construction company, homelands repair and maintenance businesses*

# Wall 6 Images:

- 1.** Find the image on the right on the wall.



- a. What's the little girl's name?

*Valerie Gawukawu Ganambarr*

- b. What is she doing?

*Straightening up the products on the shelf*

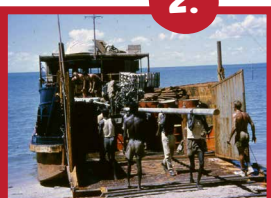
- 2.** Find the image with a big barge (boat).

- a. What did the barge transport?

*Food and goods*

- b. Where was the photo taken?

*Galiwin'ku*



- 3.** Find the image with the Galiwin'ku SUPERMARKET sign.

- a. When did the first Galiwin'ku store open?

*1972*

- b. Which communities were part of the ALPA group?

*Galiwin'ku, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Minjilang, Yirrkala, Warruwi and Gapuwiyak*

- 4.** Find the image below on the wall.

- a. What are these people lining up for?

*Rations*

- b. What was the earliest form of remote store?

*The ration shed*



**3.**



- c. What were the main rations?

*Flour, sugar, tea and tobacco*

- 5.** Find the image above on the wall.

- a. What is happening in the photo?

*A board meeting*

- b. Where did people come from for the board meeting?

*From different places*

- c. Who was the last non-Indigenous Chairperson of the Board of Directors?

*George Rawnsley*

- d. Does Rev. Dr. Djiniyiŋi Gonḍarra OAM still hold the position of Yolŋu Chairperson?

*Yes*

