



Working with Communities

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MEDIA RELEASE FROM OUTBACK STORES



New Future for Historic Kimberley Community

A remote Indigenous community that has serviced the East Kimberley region for more than 120 years has welcomed a new future for its residents through a partnership with Outback Stores.

The Warmun Community (Turkey Creek) Inc. in the Kimberley region of Western Australia signed a management agreement on 1 July 2013 to allow Outback Stores to help manage the Warmun Store and Wungkul Roadhouse.

The Warmun store provides a range of retail products including fresh & frozen produce, dry goods, perishables, hardware, clothing, kitchenware, white goods, entertainment products and automotive accessories, while the Wungkul Roadhouse offers camping, accommodation, meals, souvenirs and fuel. Furthermore, both the store and roadhouse are perfectly positioned at the gateway to the nearby Purnululu National Park.

The history of the Warmun Community stretches back to 1886, when it was originally established as a police station, government rations depot and a service point for the telegraph line from Wyndham to Derby.

This exciting new partnership between Outback Stores and the Warmun Community Inc. will ensure employment and training opportunities for local residents, along with improved access to healthy, fresh foods.

Community resident Kenneth Rivers has lived in Warmun for most of his life and is a Director for the Warmun Community Council. Kenneth believes the new management contract will greatly benefit the Warmun Community.

“I do think it’s a good thing and from the feedback we were getting, the store can only improve,” he said.

Since the Warmun Community was formed more than 30 years ago, it has continued to grow to a population of approximately 400 people and is recognised today as one of the largest, historically significant Indigenous communities in the East Kimberley.

Outback Stores CEO Steve Moore welcomed the opportunity to begin working with the Warmun Community and said the newly established partnership will be a great addition to the 30 stores already partnering with Outback Stores throughout Australia.

“I’m looking forward to building a solid, long term relationship with the Warmun Community and gladly welcome the Warmun Store and Wungkul Roadhouse on board with Outback Stores,” Steve said.

“I hope to continue this promising new management agreement and ensure our unique brand of retail management services provide the community with ongoing access to healthy, fresh food and quality produce.”

About Outback Stores

Outback Stores is a company that manages remote stores on behalf of remote Indigenous communities. It was set up in 2006 in response to a growing need for functional and viable shops that were able to meet the health and nutritional requirements of Indigenous populations. It has been successful because it builds strong relationships with the communities it works with, resulting in stores that people can take pride in and feel part of. Outback Stores is a government initiative with an independent board.
www.outbackstores.com.au

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