

First Circles engage with the Regional Networks

May and June kept First Circles members busy engaging with regional CM&C staff in Alice Springs, Katherine, Top End and East Arnhem regions. Regional staff provided a comprehensive overview of their respective regional priorities.



Morning tea with FC Members and Big River's CM&C staff

Regional staff discussed their office's roles and responsibilities, including Local Decision Making commitments. Sessions highlighted the importance of members connecting and feeling comfortable to contact regional offices on matters of importance to the community.



FC Members with Central Region staff - Jessica Scrutton, Ken Lechleitner and Karl Hampton

During the regional engagement sessions members participated in 'Lateral Thinking' activities, project planning, S.M.A.R.T Goals and the structure of government in the NT.

Members also continued to explore a number of key community matters that they will explore in the lead-up to the Cabinet meeting in late 2024.

Important topics discussed included:

- Access to safe drinking water in communities
- Effects of Agriculture on groundwater levels
- Men's health and wellbeing
- Social media and community
- Youth on the streets



Alumni advice...

During their visit to Katherine, Big Rivers members Cecilia Lake and Deanna Kennedy, caught up with First Circles 2023 Alumni member Andrea Andrews. Some great laughs were shared along with some invaluable tips for their presentation to Cabinet.

Want to know more about First Circles?

Contact the Office of Aboriginal Affairs on:
08 8999 8579 or email: oaa@nt.gov.au

First Circles community engagement

Office of Aboriginal Affairs staff travelled from Darwin to the remote community of Barunga to promote the First Circles Leadership Program at the annual festival.



2024 First Circles member, Tristin Maroney and fellow Jawoyn Association rangers, transformed their successful hunting trip into a tasty feast for all to enjoy over the weekend!



Senior ACPO and First Circles Alumni Member, Bettina Danganbarr at the Barunga Festival with colleagues, Tyrus Wunungmurra and Dylan O'Connor-Mitchell.

Bettina Danganbarr AM Awarded 2024 Member of the Order of Australia

Senior Aboriginal Community Police Officer (ACPO) Bettina Danganbarr, is a Yolngu woman and well respected leader in her community of Galiwinku. A First Circles Alumni Member from 2014/15, 2016 and 2017, Bettina has worked tirelessly to improve the safety of women and to protect and support both Yolgnu and Balanda people in the community. Bettina co-founded the Galiwinku Woman's Space and has remained its Chairperson since 2012.

She has received multiple awards for her service to the community including:

- Northern Territory's Local Hero, Australian of the Year Awards Honour Roll, 2018
- Northern Territory Recipient, Women's Leadership Australia Award, 2019
- Northern Territory Chief Ministers Awards, Aboriginal Leadership Medal, 2021
- Member of the Order of Australia 2024 - For significant service to the Indigenous community of Arnhem Land.

Keep up the amazing work Bettina!