



STRONGER IN OUR WAY

MEN'S FORUM NOVEMBER 2026

Binarrig-gerring Jawaleng-woorr (Strong Men)

Dates: Tuesday 10 – Wednesday 11 November 2026

Pillars: Healing • Strengths • Opportunity • Connection • Culture

Co-Hosts: Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation (KWAC) & Gawooleng Yawoodeng Aboriginal Corporation (GY)

Co-Facilitator: Darryl Gardiner, Rolling with the Punches

Key Contact: Kirsten Hunter (Kirsten.Hunter@kwac.com.au | 0487 391 608)

Guidelines: Strictly alcohol- and drug-free. All activities and meals are free.

Key Locations & People

- **Site 1 (Strong Men Shed / Waringarri Men's Space):** Registrations, Opening & Smoking ceremony, afternoon stalls, community celebration.
- **Site 2 (Language Centre – Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring):** Keynote addresses, cultural welcome, yarning circles.
- **Site 3 (Shaded Grounds & Verandah):** Pathways expo, community stalls, dancing, meals.
- **Confirmed Speakers:** Darryl Gardiner, David Newry, Donny Imberlong, Anthony Martin, Caleb Edelsten (and more TBA).
- **Service & Community Stalls:** GY Men, OVAHS, One Arm Point (OAP) Arts, Waringarri Arts, Wirrim, Aboriginal Family Legal Services (AFLS), and Waringarri Strong Men's.

DAY 1: TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2026

Theme: *Healing, Cultural Grounding & Community Gathering*

(Daytime: Men Only | Evening: Open to All)

- **08:30 – 09:00 | Strong Men Shed**
 - **Arrival:** Pick up hats and water bottles; hot tea, coffee, biscuits, and catch-ups.
- **09:00 – 09:30 | Strong Men Space**
 - **Opening Ceremony & Smoking:** Led by David Newry and local Elders; grounding on Country.
- **09:30 – 09:45 | Transition**
 - **Move to Language Centre:** Short walk/shuttle transfer over to Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring.
- **09:45 – 10:15 | Language Centre**
 - **Smoko:** Provided by Blak Tapas.
- **10:15 – 11:30 | Language Centre**
 - **Official Forum Welcome:** Opened by Darryl Gardiner and KWAC (Kirsten Hunter); setting protocols and themes.
- **11:30 – 13:00 | Language Centre**
 - **Morning Workshops & Partner Stalls:** Interactive yarning workshops running alongside service stalls (OVAHS, AFLS, OAP Arts, Waringarri Arts, Wirrim, and strong men's programs).
- **13:00 – 14:00 | Dining Area**
 - **Lunch Break:** Provided by Blak Tapas.
- **14:00 – 15:30 | Language Centre**
 - **Afternoon Yarning Circle:** Led by Darryl Gardiner & guest speakers. Honest discussion on overcoming roadblocks, mental health, and family leadership.
- **17:00 – 19:00 | Waringarri Grounds**
 - **Community Celebration of Culture (Open to All):** Families and youths welcome. Free community feed, traditional dancers (Miriwoong and Bardi Dancers).

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2026

Theme: *Strengths, Opportunities & Pathways Forward*

(Men Only: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm)

- **08:30 – 09:00 | Strong Men Shed**
 - **Morning Check-In:** Tea, coffee, biscuits, and catch-ups.
- **09:00 – 10:00 | Main Space**
 - **Re-grounding & Day 1 Reflections:** Review key talking points from Tuesday; set priorities for jobs and ongoing support.
- **10:00 – 10:30 | Dining / Verandah Area**
 - **Smoko:** Provided by Wild Mango.
- **10:30 – 12:30 | Main Space**
 - **Leadership & Pathways Panel:** Panel yarning with David Newry, Donny Imberlong, Anthony Martin, Caleb Edelsten, and Darryl Gardiner sharing real stories and enterprise journeys.
- **12:30 – 13:30 | Dining Area**
 - **Lunch Break:** Provided by Wild Mango.
- **13:30 – 14:30 | Shaded Grounds**
 - **Pathways Expo: Direct Opportunity Yarning:** Direct yarns with employers, civil contractors, training groups, and ranger teams. Focus on actual tickets, apprenticeships, and jobs.
- **14:30 – 15:00 | Main Space**
 - **Walking Alongside Us: Continuous Support:** Connecting men with local mentors, health (OVAHS), and legal support (AFLS) for long-term backing.
- **15:00 – 15:30 | Main Circle**
 - **Closing Circle & Personal Commitments:** Passing the message stick; each man shares one step forward for himself and family. Final blessing and close.

Ground Rules & Support Protocols

- **Alcohol & Drug-Free Policy:** Strictly enforced across all event spaces to maintain safety and cultural respect.
- **Wellbeing & SEWB Support:** Aboriginal health and wellbeing workers (OVAHS / KWAC / GY) are on-site at all times for discreet, 1-on-1 private support.
- **Conversational Approach:** Focus on shoulder-to-shoulder yarning, plain speaking, and genuine peer connections rather than formal presentations.