



# YINDJIBARNDI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Sunday 12 December 2011

Dear Friends,  
*Wanthiwa* - hello.

On behalf of the Yindjibarndi People and most senior Elder and leader, **Mr Ned Cheedy**, we ask for your help.

Some of you have already donated to our **Yindjibarndi Fighting Fund**. Your assistance has helped Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation to raise a powerful voice against the outrages committed by Fortescue Metals Group; carry our voice to Government; and bring our voice to the rest of the world. Without your help our fate would have been *out of sight out of mind* – silenced under the heavy heel of Mr Andrew Forrest’s *new force in iron ore*, FMG.

FMG’s divide and conquer attack on our community has caused great pain, and its ongoing destruction of our homeland puts us in deadly spiritual danger.

Your donations are very important *votes of conscience* that have made us stronger and lifted our spirits to challenge the tyranny of FMG.

The Yindjibarndi voice has exposed the smiling hypocrisy of Mr Forrest who preaches charity on the public stage, while around the back, he perpetuates the obscenity of *terra nullius*. Significantly, some of our strongest support has come from neighbouring tribes who have already been divided and silenced by FMG. FMG would dearly love to silence our voice too, to better exploit Yindjibarndi lands on the quiet.

While they force ‘frugality’ on the poorest people in the nation, FMG executives are getting fat. Billionaire 6 times over, Mr Forrest, who made \$68 million from Fortescue dividends last year, has never paid corporate tax to the Australian public in return for his plunder and despoliation of the *common wealth* of our culture, country and minerals. In 2011 he bought \$100 million worth of shares to lavish on his executives. Director of Developments Peter Meurs received a total package of \$7.7 million in 2011, while CEO Neville Power has accrued ‘performance’ shares worth about \$8.8 million.

In contrast to FMG’s corporate excess, Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation receive no compensation from lands FMG is gutting, no assistance from any government or agency, and must fund their resistance independently.

**WE ARE NOW LAUNCHING INTO A MORE PROACTIVE AND CHALLENGING PHASE OF OUR CAMPAIGN, FOR WHICH WE NEED YOUR HELP EVEN MORE URGENTLY.**

Our most vital task in the months ahead is to travel to the country FMG has not yet destroyed, to record all the knowledge of Yindjibarndi ceremony and tradition, the sacred and archaeological sites, Law and language that make up our heritage and inheritance. These journeys of ceremony and cultural recording will be the last opportunity for Yindjibarndi elders to make a full record which, after FMG’s right to mine ends and they have moved on, can be used by future generations of Yindjibarndi to restore and revive connections with their homelands. Our use of digital video to capture the landscapes, and the songs, stories, ceremonies and the testimonies of the Elders will be at the heart of this work.

When we are in country we practice a dreaming meditation called *Buyawarri* where the spirits come to those with pure hearts, and fill the one that asks with the power and knowledge to protect and pass on our sacred *Ngurra*.

Please travel beside us defending and fortifying Yindjibarndi culture for our kids and the world. Please help by donating to our Fighting Fund, which will be used to provision cultural recording field trips of Yindjibarndi people and professional heritage volunteers from around Australia (vehicles, equipment, flights, food), and to maintain communications and defend hostile legal attacks. The Yindjibarndi really appreciate your help.

Thank you all.

Regards,  
Michael Woodley – 0419 097 130

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