



Strong and inspiring community of Roebourne gather for annual gala dinners

The women and men of Roebourne are gathering again for annual dinners this month celebrating culture, community and health, with an incredibly inspiring line-up.

Ngarda-Ngali Gummamardi (which means Men Gathering Together) will be held on the evening of Wednesday, October 15 while Mangabura Gumagarrigu (which means Strong Beautiful Women Gathering) will be held the following night on Thursday, October 16 at the North West Jockey Club in Roebourne.

The annual women's dinner has been a calendar highlight since its inception eight years ago while this year the Roebourne Men's Dinner celebrates its second year.

This year's dinners boasts a top line-up of entertainment and promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Award-winning entertainer Mary G, (alter ego of Dr Mark Bin Bakar) will MC the Strong Beautiful Women's Gathering while Dr Mark Bin Baker will MC the Men's Gathering.

Both events will be capped off with performances by Australian pop star Christine Anu, who will perform with a full band to showcase the best of her hits new and old. Arguably Australia's most successful indigenous performer, Anu has won several ARIA music awards and is best known for her hit song *My Island Home*.

The dinners are supported by long-term sponsors Rio Tinto, Woodside-operated North West Shelf Project and Woodside with catering for the sumptuous buffets generously donated by Sodexo.

Sodexo General Manager Mining Operations Leanne Graham said Sodexo is delighted to be a part of this long-standing event.



“The two dinners play such a critical part in the Roebourne community each year,” Leanne said. “They are wonderful evenings that enable the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and wider community of Roebourne to pay respects to the Elders of the community and celebrate what has been achieved by all.”

Rio Tinto manager Communities and Partnerships Coastal Renae Rutherford said the long-term event was a major part of the Roebourne events calendar.

"Rio Tinto is proud of its long-standing relationship with the people of Roebourne and we are pleased to continue to support these events that bring people together to celebrate their culture, achievements and successes in a fun, engaging and entertaining atmosphere," Mrs Rutherford said.

Women’s Dinner

The Strong Beautiful Women’s Gathering was conceptualised in 2007 by Violet Samson, a senior Ngarluma elder, to encourage positive networking, cultural learning and interaction between women from different Aboriginal language groups and non-indigenous women.

The idea has resonated deeply with the local community, evidenced by the growing number of attendees. Nearly 300 women attended the gala dinner last year- the largest turnout in the event’s history.

Hosted by the female elders of Roebourne, the not-for-profit community event is sponsored by Rio Tinto, Sodexo, Woodside-operated North West Shelf Project and other supportive businesses.

A highlight of the evening will be the announcement of the winners of the community awards.

Woodside Community Relations Manager Pilbara Matt Keogh said the Woodside-operated North West Shelf Project was proud to support the annual Strong Beautiful Women’s Gathering.



“This event is a fantastic opportunity to recognise and celebrate the women of Roebourne,” Matt said.

“It is also a wonderful opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous women to come together, share their experiences and learn from each other in a communal setting.”

Men’s Dinner

The Ngarda-Ngali Gumamardi Men’s Gathering is an opportunity for men in the community to celebrate, network and share with other cultures and generations.

Rio Tinto, Sodexo and Woodside are the principal sponsors of the drug and alcohol-free event, while several other businesses have put their support behind the men of Roebourne.

Woodside Community Relations Manager Pilbara Matt Keogh said Woodside’s Pluto LNG was a proud supporter of the Men’s Gathering.

“It is a privilege to be a part of this event, which will bring the men of Roebourne and surrounding areas together under the stars for a night of networking and cultural sharing,” Matt said.

“I certainly look forward to attending this event, being part of the experience and learning more about local Indigenous culture from the men of Roebourne.”

Ngarda-Ngali Gumamardi Men’s Gathering is proudly supported by Rio Tinto, Woodside and Sodexo.

All are welcome to come along for a delicious gourmet buffet and enjoy a fun, free evening with the men and women of Roebourne.

Both events are free of charge to attend, and free buses will be available. Contact Tamara BinAmat at Impact Media for more information.



Tamara can be reached at tamara@impactmediakarratha.com.au or on 0455 835 424.

Men's Dinner: Wednesday October 15

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: North West Jockey Club, Roebourne

Principal Sponsors: Rio Tinto, Sodexo and Woodside

Sponsors: NYFL, REFAP, Impact Media, North West Jockey Club, Pilbara News, City of Karratha

Women's Dinner: Thursday October 16

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: North West Jockey Club, Roebourne

Principal Sponsors: Rio Tinto, Sodexo and the Woodside-operated North West Shelf Project

Sponsors: NYFL, REFAP, WBHO Civil, North West Jockey Club, Pilbara News, City of Karratha



Rio Tinto



Operated by Woodside in Joint Venture with Tokyo Gas and Kansai Electric