



ELY TRUST
REACHING OUT
GROWING STRONG IN UNITY

NEWSLETTER

September 2025 Shifting our focus towards the well-being of communities



Message from Ely Trust Chairperson, Rex Burke

Dear Community Members,

We hope this message finds you and your families in good health and spirits.

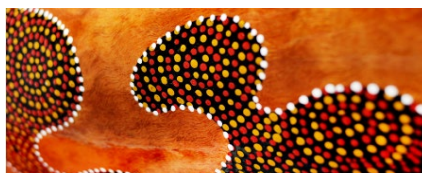
This month, we bring you updates from our July Directors meeting in Bamaga, followed by highlights from the New Mapoon Community meeting held on 29 July. We also share news on community projects, including a spotlight on the incredible work from **Pama Language Centre**.

You will also find information about upcoming meetings, exciting grant application news, and ways to stay connected.

Ely Trust Meetings Update

Following on from last month's newsletter edition, Monthly Directors' Meetings have continued, including the latest held in person in Bamaga on 28 July.

This face-to-face meeting provided a valuable opportunity to connect and collaborate, with Directors engaging in a workshop focused on the Ely Trust Strategic Plan, a key step in shaping future directions and strengthening community outcomes.



Community Engagement: New Mapoon Meeting,

Following the Directors meeting in Bamaga, the New Mapoon Community Meeting was held on 29 July, with a positive turnout from local community members.

This gathering provided community members with a valuable opportunity to share feedback directly with the Directors of the Trust. These conversations are essential in helping the Trust grow and remain guided by community voices, ensuring that future planning and decision-making reflect the needs and aspirations of community and Traditional Owner Groups.



Business Development Fund & Community Projects

Approved Community Projects Grants:

Pama Language Centre is a small, multidisciplinary, highly experienced and skilled language revitalisation team, established by the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership in 2015 to support the language nations of Cape York Peninsula. **PLC** works with First Nations Language communities across Cape York Peninsula and the diaspora to revive and maintain our ancestral languages.

The **PLC** team and collaboration network includes linguists, First Nations Ancestral Language and Culture Experts, artists, musicians, technology experts, sound engineers, animators, project designers and project managers, scientists, dancers, actors, educators, film makers, puppeteers, writers and illustrators.



Angkamuthi and Atambaya children filming for children's TV show

In November 2024 **PLC** received funding from **Ely Trust** to support language revitalisation activities for the Dalhenty-Atambaya, Angkamuthi, Tjungundji, Warrangku, Yupangathi, Taepathigi, Mpakwithi and Thainikwith – Buchat / Pine River/ Leuang language communities. This project is the outcome of an ongoing relationship between **PLC** and the Mpakwithi and Injinoo Ikya language communities over a number of years. Much of this ongoing work has been supported by both **Ely Trust** and the federally funded Indigenous Languages and Arts Program.

Over the past seven months, language revitalisation activities funded by **Ely Trust** have made substantial progress. Activities advertised and promoted through social media networks, posters and fliers distributed in New Mapoon and Bamaga and through the PBCs have received solid attendance.

Three successful ancestral language songwriting, performance, and recording workshops have been facilitated in NPA, including a performance workshop led by internationally renowned singer Sonia Anfiloff. Song is a vital medium for language engagement, learning, and transmission, offering significant benefits for both participants and the broader language community.

Outputs from workshops include video footage and songs in ancestral language for children's YouTube series to be produced in both Injinoo Ikya and Mpakwithi.

The writers and illustrators' workshops facilitated in Cairns in early May, produced text, translations and illustrations for three picture books. Outputs will include the first picture book - and probably the first published text in Tjungundji language, a story told and illustrated by



Angkamuthi TO Sandra Sebasio illustrating her book.

Tjungundji Elder Lottie Luff, as well as the first Angkamuthi text by Sandra Sebasio.

PLC is excited about the positive momentum building in this project and is eager to continue supporting Injinoo Ikya, Mpakwithi, Angkamuthi, Atambaya, and all others who wish to participate in this unique program.

Xavier Barker
Centre Co-Ordinator,
Pama Language Centre



Resources and Support

New Community Projects Application Form

The Ely Trust has introduced a new **Community Projects** policy, procedure, and application form designed to make the application process simpler and more accessible.

This updated form is intended to support all Ely Trust beneficiaries who wish to apply for a Community Projects grants, making it easier to submit proposals that benefit our communities.

If you're interested in applying, please email the Trust at elygrants@elytrust.com.au to request the new application form and procedure documentation.

New Individual Projects Fund

We're pleased to announce a new initiative from Ely Trust, the **Individual Projects Fund (IPF)**.

A key objective of the **IPF** is to provide financial relief to disadvantaged beneficiaries which includes working for the relief of poverty or distress (such as sickness, disability, destitution, suffering, misfortune or helplessness).

The purpose of the **IPF** is to assist beneficiaries with:

- Sad news / sorry business expenses.
- Education and school camp expenses.
- Sporting / cultural initiatives.
- Outstation support.
- Whitegoods / furniture.
- Hospital / Medical / Accommodation associated with extended medical stays out of community.

This fund reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting the Ely Trust's beneficiaries in practical and compassionate ways. If you would like to learn more about this new fund, including requests for the new procedure documentation and application form, please email the Trust at elygrants@elytrust.com.au.

Upcoming Directors Meetings & Grant Application Submission Dates

Directors Meeting



17 September 2025

Directors Meeting



29 October 2025

Grant application submissions

Due by 8 October 2025

Directors Meeting



26 November 2025

Grant application submissions

Due by 5 November 2025



Upcoming Community Meeting

Ely Trust invites you to join us at the following upcoming community meeting.

📌 Mapoon Community Meeting

📅 Wednesday 8 October 2025

🕒 12pm – 2:30pm

📍 Jerry & Ina Hudson Sports & Rec Hall

Lunch and refreshments provided.

📌 Napranum Community Meeting

📅 Thursday 9 October 2025

🕒 10am – 12:30pm

📍 Napranum Community Hall

Morning tea, lunch and refreshments provided.

Upcoming Annual General Meeting

Livestream Event:

Ely Trust invites all community members to attend our upcoming **Annual General Meeting (AGM) via Zoom**. Please refer to important details below.

📅 **Date:** Wednesday 26 November 2025

🕒 **Time:** 9am to 12pm

🔗 **Livestream Access:** A viewing-only livestream Zoom link will be shared 12-24 hours prior to the event.

Please note: The Zoom livestream will be available for viewing only. Online questions or participation will not be enabled.

Message from Ely Trust Financial Controller

Finance Update

- **Financials for 2024/25** are completed for the Main Trust and Charitable Trust and awaiting audit scheduled for 20th October 2025.
- For July 2025 Ely Trust has paid \$303,842 in Business Development Grants.
- All statutory obligations are up to date.
- **2025 / 2026 Ely Trust Budget** allocation is presented on the last page of this newsletter.

Thank you for reading.

If you have feedback or would like to contribute to the next newsletter, we welcome your ideas.

For questions about the content mentioned in this newsletter, feedback, or other matters, please reach out to your local Directors: Rex Burke (Chairperson), Gina Nona, Linda McLachlan, Sandra Woosup, Irene York and Gwen Toby or email admin@elytrust.com.au. For grant related matters please email elygrants@elytrust.com.au.



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Contact us

elytrust.com.au

Michelle Countouris, Executive Assistant

Email: michelle@elytrust.com.au

Phone: 0437 462 364

Ely Trust

Budget 2025 / 2026

Total Revenue

\$5.1 Million

Royalty Income

\$3.7 Million

Re-investment

\$1.8 Million

Grant Budget

\$1.9 Million

BDF - Business Development Fund

CPF - Community Development Fund

IPF - Individual Projects Fund

PLC - Pama Language Centre

Administration

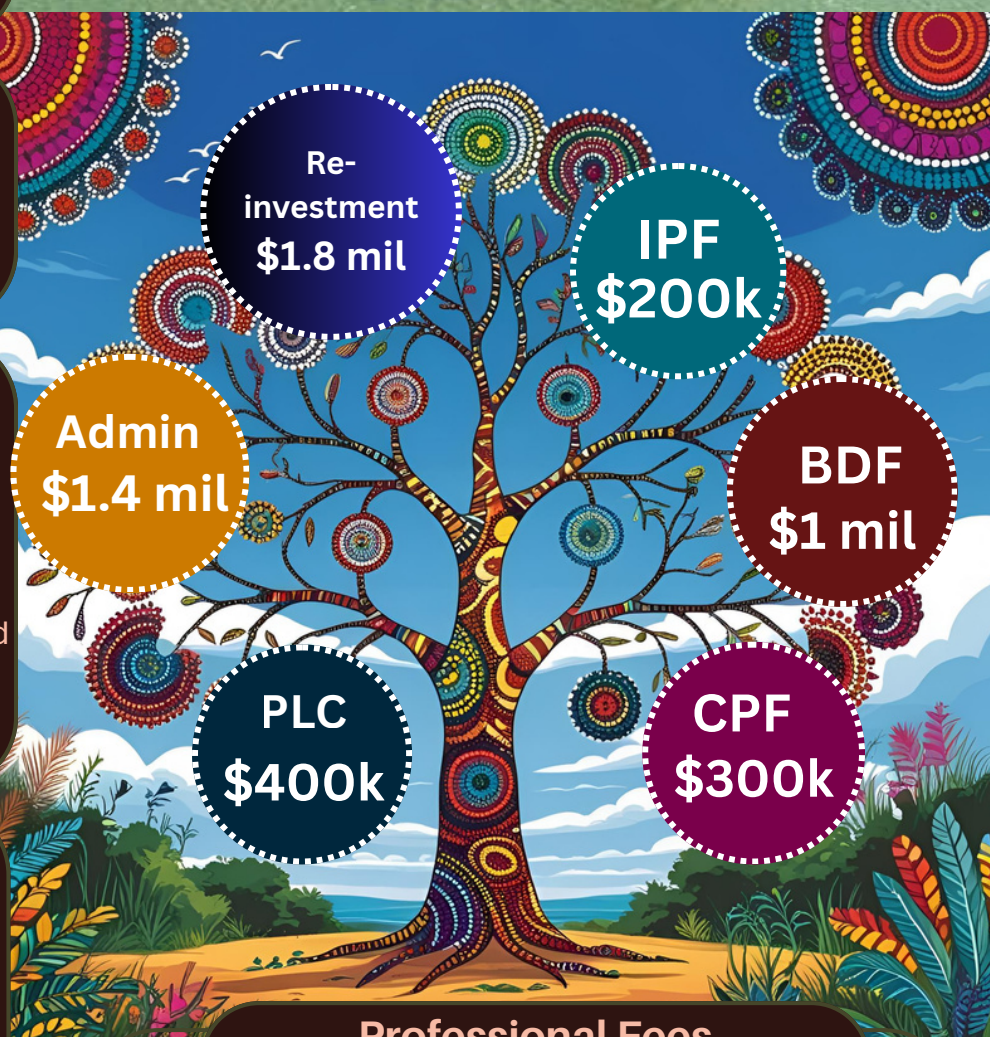
Budget

\$1.4 Million

Total Admin &

Grants Budget

\$3.3 Million



Professional Fees Summary \$431,400

\$77,000

Accounting

\$33,000

Audit Fees

\$271,000

Consultant Fees

\$50,000

Legal Fees

** Included in Administration Budget **