

## **WALK A WHILE NEWS – NOVEMBER 2016**

### **We are Making Progress**

The reason you haven't heard from us for a while is that we've had numerous challenges and hurdles to overcome. But we're excited about those. It is far better that these hurdles become evident now, rather than later, when the Cross is raised.

So, the purpose of this email is to let you know we are back on track and - as is always the case with God's work - we are now better placed, with new levels of governance, and new plans, to move ahead strongly.

A new company has been formed called Memory Mountain Limited, with a Board of Directors comprised mainly of indigenous people. This gives each family in the Ikuntji community a voice in the Company and ownership of the Cross and all related enterprises. The Company was founded and structured in consultation with the community Elders, because this Cross is their project and their vision. Of course, we will continue to walk alongside them and give assistance and guidance as required.

We've also made great progress on the access track up Memory Mountain and we have just breached the most difficult section. This track is being constructed to the highest standard and in full compliance with all Work, Health & Safety regulations. We are minimising environmental impact, while giving you a path that's not too difficult to climb.

The track is a very important aspect of the Cross, for two reasons. Firstly, the track will enable the sections of the Cross to be transported up to the top of the mountain by all-terrain vehicle. This will reduce the amount of work that needs to be done by helicopter, meaning significant cost savings. Secondly, the track will make it possible for all people to be able to go right up to the base of the Cross and enjoy the spectacular 360 degree views.

The construction team is doing a fantastic job. They will be going out again in early December to work on the next stage of the track. These are very committed workers. It's going to be extremely hot out there in December, but they are as keen as anyone to see the Cross come to fruition. The Construction Manager said, "... of all the projects we have done, this is probably the most meaningful, because we understand the benefits it will bring to the surrounding communities." In fact, in the carpark at the base of the mountain, the team built a BBQ facility with a sign – cut out of solid steel – that reads '*Between Heaven and Earth*'. When I asked why they did that, the Construction Manager said they believe this prayer mountain will become a place of connection between heaven and earth.

We have also been busy connecting with other government and non-government organisations who are keen to work with us on a range of social enterprise projects that will commence when the Cross is erected. We believe one of the main benefits this Cross will bring for the surrounding remote communities, is employment and economic opportunities from tourism.

One of our Directors, Tim Morris-Smith, has been hard at work on improving our tax-deductible status. And we are very happy to report that every dollar you donate is now fully tax deductible – not only for our Education and Cultural Exchange arm, but also for the Cross.

So, as your donations keep coming in, we will be able to keep going, all the way to the top of the mountain, then finally get the Cross raised.

Ken Duncan (signature)