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Department of Biodiversity, **Conservation and Attractions** 

# Acknowledging and celebrating our journey together

770

First contact in Australia Arrival of the Endeavour. Captain : James Cook landed in Botany Bay, home of : the Eora people, and : claimed possession of the East Coast of : Australia for Britain under the doctrine of

**Captain James Stirling** : explored Swan River. On 8 March, two boats, a cutter and a gig, carrying Stirling and 18 men set off to explore : the Swan River.

838

**Rottnest Island Prison** began. During the time of the prison around 4,000 Aboriginal men and boys served sentences on the island, it is reported that a minimum of 370 : Aboriginal men and boys died there before : the prison ended in : 1904.

886

Aborigines **Protection Act.** : The Act provided a resident magistrate with the power to : forcibly remove : Aboriginal children : from their parents.

The Aborigines Act. The Act gave sweeping powers to the Chief Protector. The Chief Protector had the right to take any Aboriginal child from their family and send them to missions or other institutions.

The first Aboriginal deputation to the WA Premier. A delegation fought the effects of the 1905 Act. They advocated for : Aboriginal people to be given basic civil rights like other : Australians.

Day of Mourning Protest 26 January. On Australia Day 1938, both Aboriginal people and non-Indigenous protestors marched through the streets of Sydney, followed by a congress attended by over a thousand people at the Sydney Town

946

Pilbara strike. The Pilbara strike was a landmark strike by Indigenous Australian pastoral workers in : the Pilbara region for human rights recognition and payment of fair : wages and working conditions. The strike did not end until : August 1949.

1770

: 'terra nullius'.

1788

1831

Roundhouse built : Arrival of the First Fleet. The First Fleet in Fremantle to of 11 ships arrived : hold prisoners. The : Botany Bay, home of : Roundhouse was the Eora people with used for colonial and : more than 1,480 men, : Aboriginal prisoners. It women and children became a holding cell : for Aboriginal men prior : onboard. to being transported to : Rottnest Island Prison.

1840

**Protector of Aborigines** was established. Charles Symmons assumed this role in 1840, Symmons was able to sentence individuals he described as "untamable savages" to be sentenced at Rottnest Island Prison.

1886

1905

900

Western Australia's first national park, John Forrest. Proclaimed as a national park in November 1900, it was the first national park in WA and the second in Australia.

Prohibited Area: : City of Perth was a prohibited area for : Aboriginal people. : The prohibited area was in force : from 1927 to 1954, and covered the boundaries of the City of Perth.

1932

Australian : Aborigines' League. : Established in Victoria by : William Cooper, : the Australian Aborigines League was the first entirely Aboriginal organisation in : Australia.

The Natives (Citizen Rights) Act. This Act allowed Aboriginal ex-service personnel and some other Aboriginal people to qualify for Australian citizenship.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Legend

Blue box: Departmental milestones or projects

: Purple dotted box: State or national milestones or projects

## 1967

Referendum. Australians voted overwhelmingly to amend the constitution to include Aboriginal people in the census and allow the : Commonwealth to create laws for : Aboriginal people.

## 1963

**Native Welfare** Act. The Native Welfare Act 1963 repealed Aborigines Act 1905 and all the Acts that amended the 1905 Act.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • •

## 197

: The Aboriginal Flag designed. Designed by Harold Thomas, the Aboriginal flag has become a symbol of unity and strength. • The three colours represent the colours of a proud people.

## : 1975

First NAIDOC Week. The National : Aborigines Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) was composed entirely of Aboriginal members for the first time in 1974. The following year of 1975, it was decided that the event should cover a week, from : the first to second Sunday in July.

## 1982

The renaming of **Bungle Bungle National Park to Purnululu National** Park. The Bungle **Bungle Working Group** was established, with directive to include Aboriginal peoples, tourism representatives and other stakeholders. This influenced the name change to acknowledge the park's cultural significance.

## 1985

Uluru hand back. On

26 October 1985 Ayers Rock National Park was handed back to the Anangu people. The park was renamed Uluru-Kata : Tjuta. The Uluru-Kata Tjuta : model is one where the title deed was given to : the Anangu, in return for providing a 99-year lease : of the lands back to the Australian Government for conservation purposes, with a joint management arrangement between : Parks Australia and the Anangu who now work : together to manage the park.

1989 First Aboriginal Research Scientist appointed. Stephen van Leeuwen was appointed to the Pilbara region as a research scientist embarking on a 30-year journey with the department.

## 1991

Report of the Royal **Commission into Aboriginal** Deaths in Custody. The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) (1987–1991) studied and reported on the underlying social, cultural and legal issues behind the deaths in custody of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

### 1991

First Aboriginal Liaison Officer. CALM announced the appointment of their first Aboriginal liaison officer, Noel Nannup, in the south-west of WA at Narrogin.

## 1998

Malimup Communique. This communique was developed : at a meeting of Aboriginal representatives, staff of government land management : agencies and representatives of in non-government environmental : groups at Malimup Spring, WA. : The Malimup Communique prompted sustainable hunting and gathering by rightful Aboriginal : people in their ancestral lands, : including the use of firearms.

### 1996

**Aboriginal Tourism Unit (ATU)** established.

### 1965

The Freedom Ride. : Charles Perkins : and a group of students from the : University of Sydney drew national and international attention to the : appalling living : conditions of : Aboriginal people : and the racism that was rife in : New South Wales · country towns.

## : 1971

Noonkanbah Station Walk-Off. : In 1971 Aboriginal employees walked off the station over fair pay and conditions disputes. The : Noonkanbah dispute in WA's : remote north put land rights on the: : national agenda and led to the foundation of the : Kimberley Land Council.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

## 1972

**Aboriginal** Heritage Act. Recognising the need to reassess previous approaches to land use and development, the **WA Government** introduced the Aboriginal Heritage Bill into Parliament on 30 March 1972.

## 1976

The Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act. It was the first law by any Australian government that legally recognised the Aboriginal system of land ownership, and legislated the concept of inalienable freehold title, as such was a fundamental piece of social reform.

## 1984

Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Act. The CALM Act was enforced in 1984 to make better provision for the use, protection and management of certain public lands, waters flora and fauna.

## 1986

**First Aboriginal** Ranger Training **Program**. This was conducted by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) in the Pilbara. The program was based at Millstream-**Chichester National** Park with additional work experience at the neighbouring Hamersley Range National Park. It was extended to the Kimberley and the Goldfields regions in 1987.

## 1990

Millstream-**Chichester National** Park Conference. Aboriginal delegates from communities in the Gascoyne, Murchison, Goldfields, Pilbara and Kimberley regions meet with CALM and the National Parks and **Nature Conservation** Authority to present a 14-point statement aimed at addressing land-use issues that concern Aboriginal people.

## 1992

The Mabo decision. On 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia recognised that a group of Torres Strait Islander people, led by Eddie Mabo, held ownership of Mer (Murray Island).

## 1993

1993

**Native Title** 

**Act.** The Native

Title Act 1993 is

a law passed by

Parliament that

rights and interests:

the Australian

recognises the

of Aboriginal

: and Torres Strait

: land and waters

: traditional laws

: and customs.

: Islander people in

according to their

**First National** Reconciliation Week (NRW). NRW is a time to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us : can contribute : to achieving : reconciliation in : Australia. : The dates for NRW remain the : same each year; : 27 May to 3 June.

## 1995

of a Ministerial

Committee, the

Purnululu Park

Council.

**First National** Purnululu **National Park** Sorry Day. On 26 May Management 1998, the first Plan. This plan formally **National Sorry** recognised for Day was held to the first time in commemorate the anniversary WA the social, of the Bringing economic and cultural Them Home responsibilities report and of Aboriginal remember the grief, suffering **Traditional** and injustice Owners toward their Country experienced through the : by the stolen establishment : generations.

1998

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Aboriginal Tent Embassy established. : The Aboriginal Tent Embassy was set up by Aboriginal activists on the lawns opposite Parliament House in 1972 to protest the Government's refusal to acknowledge Aboriginal land rights.

2000 1999

changed to the Aboriginal Tourism, **Education and** 

1999

1999

**National Park** 

Management

**Plan**. The plan

determined

that the

Owners

of Karijini

National Park,

represented

had direct

input into the

management

of the park

through the

establishment

of the Karijini

Park Council.

**Traditional** 

Karijini

Aboriginal Tourism, **Education and Training Unit** name changed to **Aboriginal** Heritage Unit

2001

Paruku Indigenous : Protected Area (IPA). The IPA was declared in September 2001 and covers 4300km2 within the Tjurabalan Native Title area which borders the Great Sandy Desert and Tanami Desert regions of the south Kimberley.

#### 2002

Ngaanyatjarra Land **Indigenous Protected** Area (IPA). The Ngaanyatjarra Lands cover a total area of 25 million hectares, of which 9.8 million hectares is an IPA which is larger than Tasmania. The IPA encompasses the entire WA section of the Central : Ranges Bioregion, which : : until its dedication in August 2002 was unprotected by any other reserve system.

## 2008

Formal joint management in the East Kimberley. The Yoorooyang Dawang Regional Park Council manages six conservation parks.

## 2008

Miriuwung and Gajerrong (MG) Ranger Program began. The MG Ranger Program is linked to the commitments in the Ord Final Indigenous Land Use Agreement (2005) in Miriuwung and Gajerrong country in the East Kimberly.

2008

2010 Formal joint management with Yawuru in the West Kimberly. Yawuru Conservation Parks include Birragun, Minyirr Buru and Guniyan Binba.

2010

### 2011

Kimberley

2011 to 2014

Aboriginal people employed within the department.

Formal joint

2012

management with

Gajerrong people

(Kimberly Region). Ord

River and Parry Lagoons

nature reserves began to

be jointly managed under

a new service agreement.

Yawoorroong Miriuwung

Science and Conservation Strategy. This strategy delivers a coordinated suite of large-scale conservation initiatives and social and economic development opportunities across the Kimberley

## 2013 to 2015

Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES). The AES aimed to increase the representation of

First Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). This RAP was effective in starting the department's commitment to reconciliation.

### 2013

**Bilby Research and Management** Program. This program began in partnership with Traditional Owners and rangers in the Pilbara Region.

## 2013

Formal joint management of a marine park in the Kimberly Region. The Dambimangari people began jointly managing Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park with the department.

The ATU was **Training Unit.** 

2001

2000

Reconciliation

: May, a milestone

was reached in

: the process of

reconciliation

: Indigenous and

non-Indigenous

250,000 people

between

Australians.

Walk. On 28

(AHU).

2002

Commencement

**Aboriginal Training** 

Scheme (MATES). The

considered the scheme

and Employment

State Government

as one of the five

2002

principal strategies

for reconciliation with

Aboriginal people on

2002

of Mentored

2003

2003

**Indigenous Ownership** and Joint Management of Conservation Lands in **WA Consultation Paper.** The paper outlined key areas for the department moving forward with joint management such as: managing protected areas, Aboriginal training and employment, reconciliation and native title.

# 2007

2007

Indigenous **Heritage Unit** name changed to Aboriginal Heritage Unit.

## 2009

2009

First departmental **Aboriginal staff** conference. This conference held at Yanchep National Park was the beginning of biennial events and provided a unique platform for staff to network. From the conference an Aboriginal Employee Reference Group (AERG) was established.

### 2011

Region.

2011

Inaugural Eugene Winmar Award. This award recognises outstanding performance and achievement of Aboriginal staff. Named in honor of the department's longest serving Aboriginal staff member, Eugene Winmar, who started work at the Forests Department in 1971. The first award was presented to Principal Research Scientist Dr Stephen Van Leeuwen for excellence in his work in the field of science.

## 2011

The Conservation Legislation Amendment Act. Amendments were made to create the management objective to protect and conserve the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons, enable customary activities and joint management for Aboriginal people on the CALM Act land.

## 2013

2013

First jointly-managed national park. Murujuga National Park has the distinction of being WA's 100th national park and the first to be jointly managed in WA.

## 2013

Acknowledgment signs. This project saw the development and installation of signs at departmental offices to acknowledge Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters the department manages.

#### by the Karijini turned out for conservation lands in Aboriginal the Walk for WA. Reconciliation Corporation,

: across Sydney's

Harbour Bridge.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

AHU name changed to Indigenous Heritage Unit (IHU). The IHU provided people an opportunity to experience Aboriginal heritage in the natural environment.

## 2003

Indigenous Cadetship Project (NICP). This provided Indigenous students with the opportunity to gain tertiary education. Under the cadetship, the department provided support while they were undertaking tertiary studies.

**Establishment of the National** 



## 2014

Formal joint management with Nyangumarta Warrarn and Wangparta (Ngarla) traditional owners. Parks include: Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, Kujungurru-Warrarn Nature Reserve, Kujungurru-Warrarn Conservation Park and Walyarta Conservation Park.

**First Aboriginal Cultural Awareness** Training (ACAT). This mandatory training delivered by the AHU was first held in Kensington. 1,400 staff have undertaken this training so far.

## 2015

Joint vesting under the CALM Act. Amendments to the Act provided for the joint vesting of national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves with Aboriginal people, which provided additional recognition of Traditional Owners on the title of land.

: 2017

**Uluru Statement from the Heart** : Voice Treaty Truth.

The 6% target for Aboriginal representation was achieved.

Released on 26 May 2017 by delegates to the First Nations National Constitutional Convention, held near : Uluru after the 16-member Referendum Council appointed in 2015 had travelled : around the country and met with over 1,200 people. The statement was issued after the Convention, and calls for a "First Nations Voice" in the : Australian Constitution and a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of "agreement-making" and truth-telling between the Australian Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (Makarrata is a Yolngu word approximating the meaning of "treaty").

Commencement of the Noongar **Boodja Mentored Aboriginal Ranger** program. A partnership between the Southwest Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) and the department to employ Noongar people to work on Country, funded by the Aboriginal Ranger Program.

2017 to 2019 Aboriginal Employment Strategy. The department continued to meet its commitment to employ Aboriginal people.

### 2018

**Bramley National Park (Margaret River)** renamed Wooditjup. The park was renamed to reflect the area's significance and in recognition of the Wardandi Traditional Owners.

State Aboriginal Procurement Policy. A policy to support the contracting of Aboriginal businesses when purchasing goods, services, community : services and works.

### : 2019

World Heritage nomination announced for : Murujuga. On 26 August 2019, the Premier and Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation announced World : Heritage listing for Murujuga would be pursued with support from the department, to have the area's unique cultural, archeological and heritage : values recognised at the highest international level.

## 2019

**Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit (AEHU)** formed. This coincided with the AEPL Branch restructure.

## 2020

Native title settlement for Gibson Desert Nature Reserve. On 29 October 2020, the Warnpurru Aboriginal Corporation signed a native title settlement agreement with the State Government for the reserve, which will be renamed Pila Nature Reserve.

## 2020

Addition of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape to Australia's World Heritage : Tentative List. The Murujuga Cultural : Landscape was added to Australia's World : Heritage Tentative List on 23 January 2020. : This is the first formal step in the World : Heritage nomination process.

## 2014

## 2014

First regional ACAT – South West Region. This was the very first ACAT to be delivered regionally.

## 2014

First issue of Yarning Time. This newsletter highlights stories about the department's engagement with Aboriginal people, culture and Country.

## 2015

## 2015

Formal joint management with Karajarri traditional owners for Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park.

## 2016

#### 2016 **Formal joint** management across a range of

Kimberley parks. Dambimangari, for Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park and Lalang-garram Marine Park

> Yawuru, for Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine

Nyangumarta Karajarri, for Walyarta **Conservation Park** Balanggarra for North Kimberley

Marine Park.

## 2017

# 2017 Formal joint management with Bunuba

Dawangarri traditional owners for the following parks: Danggu Geikie Gorge National Park, Miluwindi Conservation Park, Dimalurru Tunnel Creek National Park, Bandilngan Windjana Gorge National Park, Jungiwa Brooking Gorge Conservation Park and Balili Conservation Park.

## 2017

**South West Region Aboriginal** conservation employees. Targeted employment of Aboriginal people as seasonal conservation employees.

## : 2017

#### Aboriginal Ranger Program commenced. Led by the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal organisations with support from the department, this \$20 million program is : helping Aboriginal organisations manage Country and protect the environment across WA through employment and training opportunities.

## 2018

## 2018

**Bunbury Regional Parks Unit** Established (BRPU). The BRPU created three new positions for Aboriginal staff. This included a senior ranger and two trainee rangers.

## 2018

Wellington Dam new walk trail officially named the Wiilman Bilya Trail. The name pays tribute to the Wiilman Traditional Owners with Bilya being the Noongar word for "river".

## 2018

**Mookaroo First Rains Community** Festival Bunbury. The Mookaroo First Rains Community Festival celebrated the new season with a range of cultural activities to raise awareness about the Culture in the Parks program which focuses on cultural tourism.

## 2019

## 2019

Review of Conservation Legislation Amendment Act 2011. Comprehensive review of 2011 amendments to CALM Act, with a focus of formal joint management arrangements in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions. Key findings and lessons learned documented.

## 2019

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) came into force. The BC Act provides greater protection for WA's biodiversity. It replaced the outdated Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and Sandalwood Act 1929.

## 2019

Creation of Aboriginal Engagement Planning and Lands (AEPL) Branch and units. The AEPL Branch was established in the Parks and Visitor Services Division.

## **: 2019**

: Plan for Our Parks announced. The Plan for Our Parks initiative will see WA's conservation estate : expanded by 20 per cent within five years. It will create more opportunities for nature-based and : cultural tourism, build on joint management and : enhance biodiversity conservation. 

## 2020

## 2020

Kalgulup Regional Park established, Bunbury. Kalgulup means "place of fire" in the Noongar language. The name change is in recognition of the area's significance to the Pinjarup, Wadandi, Kaneang and Wiilmen people.

## 2020

**DBCA Aboriginal Strategies and** Frameworks. The Corporate Executive Group endorse the development of key Aboriginal strategies and frameworks:

- Aboriginal Engagement Strategy
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Aboriginal Employment Strategy
- Acknowledgement signs
- Culture in the Parks Plan

All to be launched in 2021.