

Thubayurri (hot time) News | 2022

Nyinggulu seasons - Thanardinyunggujarri



It's **thubayurri** (hot time) along the **Nyinggulu** (Ningaloo) Coast.

The **gurdangara** (willy willy) dance across country and **jirriri** (mirage) appear on the horizon, a sign that summer is coming and it's going to be hot.

Hazel Walgar – Baiyungu Traditional Owner sharing knowledge on country

Prescribed burning in Cape Range National Park

Favourable weather conditions in August allowed Parks and Wildlife Service to carry out prescribed burns within Cape Range National Park. Prescribed burning is implemented in the cooler months when fuel moisture levels are higher and weather conditions are more stable, reducing the intensity of the fire applied to the environment.

After three months of detailed planning, Parks and Wildlife Service staff implemented prescribed burns in three areas of the national park. Two minor burns were carried out to protect park infrastructure. One more extensive burn was applied adjacent to the bushfire that occurred around Charles Knife area in February 2022 and the Sandy Bay track. The result of the burns created a mosaic of burnt and unburnt vegetation thereby reducing the fuel load in several areas across the cape. These burns assist with fire suppression by providing safer spaces for firefighters to carry out suppression activities and reducing the risk of landscape-scale fires spreading across the cape.

Prescribed burns are implemented to protect visitors, significant infrastructure, commercial assets and cultural heritage sites. The application of fire in cooler conditions also improves flora diversity through the regeneration of vegetation, germination of the soil seed bank and creation of new habitats for native fauna.



Top right: Aerial view of the prescribed burn in Cape Range National Park.

Bottom Right: Burning along the Sandy Bay track. *Photos - DBCA*

Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves jointly managed into the future

On October 24 2022, the Minister for Environment, Hon. Reece Whitby MLA announced the release of the Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) Coastal Reserves joint management plan (2022). Together, Traditional Owners from the Nganhurra Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions will oversee the management of the area and make joint decisions to deliver positive outcomes.

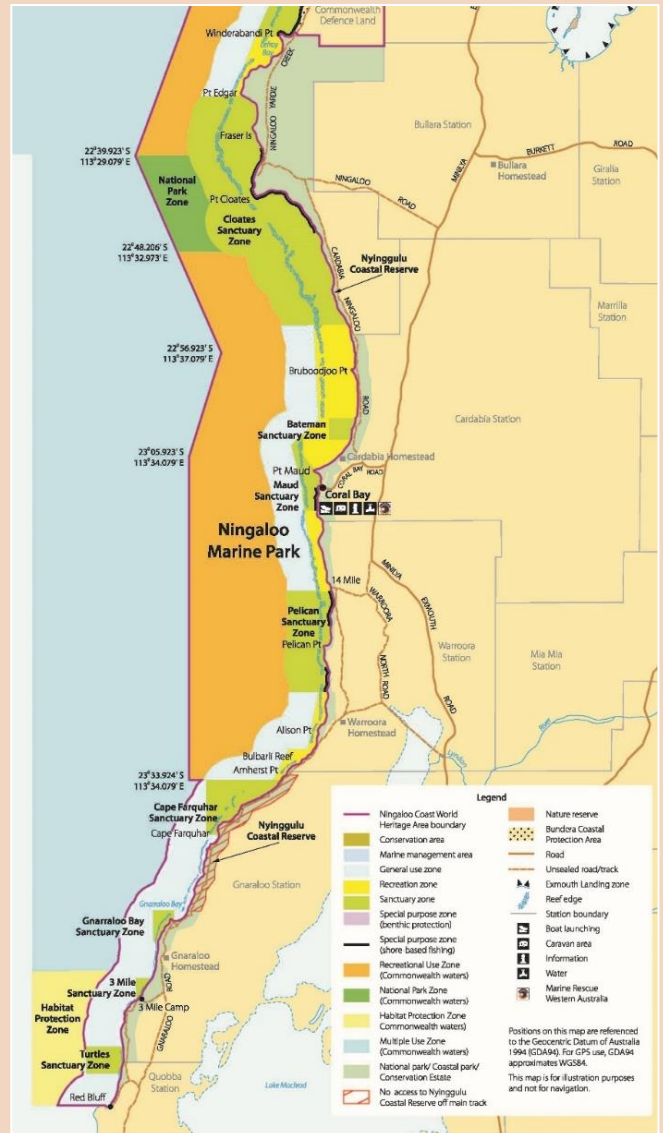
Joint management is about traditional and western cultural working together to look after Country. Applying a joint management framework enhances the protection of culture and heritage, geology and landforms, plants, animals and habitats while allowing culturally appropriate opportunities for recreation and tourism.

Covering an area of approximately 70,400ha, the Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) Coastal Reserves includes Nyinggulara National Park, Nyinggulu Coastal Reserve, the terrestrial portion of Ningaloo Marine Park which extends 40m landward of high-water mark north from Amherst Point to Winderabandi Point, and Coral Bay Foreshore Reserve.

The planning area is culturally significant to Traditional Owners as it holds many cultural values, including cultural heritage sites and places of ceremonial and mythological significance. The area is also highly valued for recreation, with many visitors seeking the low-key remote recreation experience.

To read the Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) Coast joint management plan (2022) download a copy

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/parks/management-plans/NyingguluCoastalReserves>



Above: Map of the Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves joint management plan (2022)

Fishing at Ningaloo – Do you know your zones?

Ningaloo Marine Park is divided into a number of zones designated not only to conserve fish populations and habitat but to allow visitors to responsibly enjoy a great fishing experience.

By downloading the **Marine Parks WA or Recfishwest** app to your phone you can find out what zone you are in and what activities are permitted even when you are offline!

By fishing according to the zoning rules, you will be helping to protect fish stocks, so everyone can enjoy fishing at Ningaloo into the future!



Feral cat investigations in Cape Range

Feral cats pose a substantial threat to Australian native fauna species, particularly mice, reptiles, shorebirds and turtles within the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area.

Earlier this year, Parks and Wildlife Service conducted feral cat trapping and nightly track counts, focusing efforts on the southern part of Cape Range National Park and adjacent Learmonth Air Weapons Range.

As a result of this work, the stomach contents of the cats captured were analysed to provide insight into feral cat prey preference along the Ningaloo Coast.

Feral cats are very suspicious of new things in their environment. Several planter sets (see image) have been installed in Cape Range National Park and other key locations where feral cat activity is monitored. By leaving these planter sets in situ in the landscape, feral cats become familiar with the object over time, which in turn, assists the success of the feral cat trapping program.

Parks and Wildlife Service ask if you see a planter set, please don't touch it and avoid spending a lot of time in the area to help minimise human scent at the site.



Above: A planter set left in situ along the cape.
Photo - DBCA

UNESCO celebrating 50 years!

November 16 2022, marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the World Heritage Convention by UNESCO. Over the past five decades, the Convention has protected and promoted humanity's treasures and transformed how we value heritage. The celebration reflects on these accomplishments and how best to evolve to meet the challenges facing heritage preservation today and in the future.

The theme, "The Next 50: World Heritage as a source of resilience, humanity and innovation," focuses on five key areas: Climate Change and Heritage Conservation; Balanced Representation of the Inscribed Sites; Sustainable Tourism; Digital Transformation; and Post-COVID-19 Recovery.

The World Heritage Convention is now one of the most ratified international conventions in history. The 1,154 cultural and natural World Heritage properties located in 167 countries across the globe demonstrate the diversity and power of heritage to bring people together around



unesco

Ningaloo Coast

World Heritage since 2011

common values and aspirations.

At a global level, we can embark on the next 50 years of protecting and learning about the world's cultural and natural heritage with a renewed sense of purpose. At a local level, this is an opportunity to continue to recognise the irreplaceable cultural and natural heritage along the Nynggulu (Ningaloo) Coast, ensuring ongoing protection and conservation for future generations.

Majun (turtle) nesting season along the Jurabi Coast

The Jurabi Coast is highly valued for its cultural and natural values. For Traditional Owners of the Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) Coast, majun (turtle) are a significant totemic species particularly the green turtle. Baiyungu Traditional Owner Hazel Walgar shares 'here along the Jurabi Coast, there are many sites that belong to the majun malanmayi (turtle dreaming) and that it is the female majun (turtle) birthing place, a place of women's business.'

During Nyarlba (spring time) majun (turtles) mate in the inshore waters of the Ningaloo Marine Park. This can be exhausting for the females, they come ashore to during the day to rest and avoid the attention from male turtles. As the seasons change to thubayurri (hot time) more and more majun (turtle) can be seen balygura (nesting) on the beaches of a night time.

Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and Traditional Owners are working together to look after majun at Ningaloo.

You can help by:

- Keeping dogs and other domestic pets away from turtle nesting beaches.
- Letting turtles rest along the shore and remain 15m away, keeping out of her line of sight.
- Following the turtle nesting code of conduct when viewing turtles nest.
- Joining a Jurabi Turtle Centre Turtle eco-education tour (December – March).



Above: Greens are the predominate turtle species nesting along the Jurabi Coast. Photo - NTP

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions | PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Turtle Watching Code of Conduct

1 EMERGING TURTLE
Climb from ocean towards nesting area.
Estimated time 5-20mins
Keep your distance. 15m

2 DIGGING BODY PIT
Lots of sand flicked into the air using front flippers only. Turtle may move and repeat this process until finding the correct spot.
Estimated time 20-40mins
15m

3 EXCAVATING EGG CHAMBER
Sand stops being flicked as turtle scoops out egg chamber with rear flippers only, flicking motion side to side.
Estimated time 10-20mins
2m

4 LAYING EGGS
Turtle remains very still with a gentle heaving motion. If her flippers are moving and sand is being flicked she is NOT laying.
Estimated time 3-10mins
1m
Discrete use of red light only, keeping the light partially covered.

5 COVERING NEST
Turtle covers egg chamber with sand using rear flippers then gradually moves forward, camouflaging nest, flicking lots of sand into air.
Estimated time 20-40mins
3m

6 RETURNING TURTLE
Crawls back from beach to ocean. May stop to rest at water's edge to restore energy.
Estimated time 20-40mins
Keep your distance. 15m

7 EMERGING HATCHLINGS
Around 60 days after laying eggs.
Stay below the dunes to avoid trampling on nests and emerging hatchlings.
HIGH

RISK OF DISTURBANCE
HIGH (Red) | MEDIUM (Orange) | LOW (Yellow)

NO GLOW: Nesting turtles and hatchlings are easily disturbed by lights, use the moon to light your way.
MOVE SLOW: To avoid disturbing turtles, walk along the water's edge.
STAY LOW: Out of sight of nesting turtles – sit, crouch or lie in the sand.
LET THEM FLOW: Let hatchlings make their own way to the ocean, they take an imprint of that beach so they can return to the same area when they are ready to mate and lay eggs. Try not to get between hatchlings and the water's edge.

Prohibited actions:
No flash photography at any time
No dogs on turtle nesting beaches
Don't drive on turtle nesting beaches