

Yarning Time



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Issue 2: December 2018



Message from the RAP Co-Chair

Welcome to the second issue of Yarning Time for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

'Yarning' is a term used by Aboriginal people meaning talking and sharing stories.

Dr Stephen van Leeuwen
RAP Co-Chair

Yarning Time was established to:

- Share information about the department's engagement with Aboriginal people;
- Provide updates on the specific DBCA Aboriginal strategies and programs and
- Inform all staff and the community of the developments in Aboriginal affairs in the department.

Please have a read and enjoy.

Dr Stephen van Leeuwen
Assistant Director, Science Division



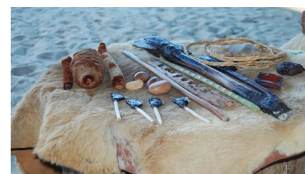
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the lands and waters it manages.

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Traditional owners walking to site



Traditional Owners out on Country in the Warren Region for Tortoise Release

After a previous trial release, science and regional staff invited Traditional Owners out on country to assist in the release of Western Swamp Tortoises into a wetland at Meerup south west of Northcliffe in the Warren Region. Traditional Owners Jack Hill, Sandra Hill and Suzanne Kelly provided a welcome to country to the tortoises, given that they are visitors to Pibulmen boodjar. Department staff discussed the translocation program whilst traditional owners provided insights into the local area and beliefs.

The traditional owners were very appreciative to be part of this unique opportunity; even just the ability to access their country which is remote in areas in a safe manner, was appreciated.

Through their newly developed Aboriginal Engagement Strategy, staff from the Warren Region are looking for every opportunity to develop and foster close relationships with traditional owners to lay the foundation for genuine cooperative and collaborative management of country.

Turtle Welcome to Country

Kaya wanju booyi Whadjuk boodja booyi
Hello welcome turtle, Whadjuk country turtle
Wanju ngalang kwobidak Pibulmen booja
Welcome to our beautiful Pibulmen country
Noonook dabakan koorliny karta werta ngalla mia
You go along slowly across our place

Left to right: Donna Hill, Traditional Owners Sandra Hill, Suzanne Kelly, Jack Hill and DBCA Sonya Stewart getting ready to release the Western Swamp Tortoises into a wetland at

Exmouth Joint Management Knowledge Exchange

The Exmouth District Joint Management trainee rangers Jermaine Baron, Cody Farrell and Judith Peck travelled to the Kimberley as part of a knowledge exchange with Bardi Jawi and Yawuru rangers. Other participants included Exmouth district staff and community elders: Ethan Cooyou, Tom Nagle, Eleanor Killen, Todd Quartermaine, Gwen Peck, Alisa Johnstone and Charlie Baron. This knowledge exchange was found to be very successful and the knowledge gained will support future work on the Ningaloo Coast.



With the Bardi Jawi Rangers at Milagoon on the Dampier Peninsula

Bardi Jawi Oorany (Women Ranger Team)

Bardi Jawi Women's Coordinator Debbie Sibosado gave a tour of their custom built nursery at their Ardyaloon (One Arm Point) ranger base. Debbie showed how the Oorany have set up their operation for collecting, propagating and growing native tube stock from the Monsoonal Vine Thicket (MVT) which is a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) that occurs on the Dampier Peninsula, north of Broome. The Monsoonal Vine Thickets are very culturally important as they provide food, medicine, tools and are also ceremony grounds. The Oorany have a Bardi Jawi seasonal calendar and they use these seasons to know which seeds to collect.

The Oorany use these plants to rehabilitate degraded MVT sites on their country, they took us to visit one of their major projects at Kooljamon Resort at Cape Leveque, where weeds and visitation pressure have damaged the MVT and is causing erosion. At this revegetation site, they don't throw away the weeds. They are removed and used as mulch to stabilise the area until the native species can recover.

The highlight was having Debbie and Oorany Ranger Elaine explain the meaning of their seasonal calendar and all the changes in weather, plants and animals that occur as each of the 6 seasons rotates. The Bardi Jawi people use these seasons to know what to hunt and gather from the land and sea.



Bardi Jawi Oorany (women rangers) Coordinator Debbie Sibosado inducts us to their MVT rehabilitation and monitoring project



Bardi Jawi Rangers demonstrate their MVT

Bardi Jawi Sea Country and Sunday Island

The Bardi Jawi Ranger team including both Aaamba (men) and Oorany (women) went on a boat trip through the Sunday Island Archipelago to show off their sea country and some of the cultural heritage sites they work on. The trip took place during the height of the spring tides so it was amazing to see the tidal currents, whirlpools and rapids caused by 10+ meters of water being pushed through the thousands of little islands and reefs.

The Bardi Jawi Rangers have a custom built 2C Survey vessel called Almban which means "west wind" in the Bardi language. It handles the waters with ease and the skippers Trevor Sampi and Azton Howard know the waters like the backs of their hands. Sunday Island was a mission site where many Bardi and Jawi people were taken and where lots of today's Elders grew up.

No one lives on the Island anymore but the rangers and community look after several heritage sites including old mission infrastructure and places where fresh water flows out on the beaches. Young Bardi Jawi Ranger Zac gave us a demonstration of jumping for a turtle from the small ranger tender vessel "Black Betty". This Green Turtle was released but Bardi Jawi people just about live off their sea country including turtle and dugong depending on the season.



Underway to Sunday Island on board Almban



Departing "Almban" or West Wind, the Bardi Jawi Ranger vessel at One Arm Point

Yawuru DBCA Joint Management Rangers

Spending the day with the Yawuru Joint Management Rangers in Broome was a bit like looking into the future for the crew on the Ningaloo Coast.

Yawuru established their Joint Management in 2010 and at that time commenced 5 Yawuru Trainee Rangers on the MATES Program. Fast forward to 2018 and those same 5 Trainees are now fully operational staff employed as marine rangers, conservation overseers and conservation employees. The Yawuru team has successfully delivered several impressive capital works projects on their jointly managed coastal reserve system around the Broome area. It was really interesting to hear about their journey from trainees to operational staff in the context of managing the impacts of visitation on culturally and environmentally sensitive coastal areas.

The team spoke about the frustrations of trying to manage these sites within the boundaries of an ever-expanding town and both the resident and visiting populations. Despite these challenges the guys have delivered several major projects, which they gave a tour of including boat ramps, road realignments, lookouts and beach access walk ways. It was very inspiring for the crew from the Ningaloo Coast to see these projects delivered by traditional owners under a joint management framework and to see firsthand the possible career development pathways available to them within the department.



Addressing VRM issues on the Yawuru Coastal Reserve system by blending projects into the natural environment



Inspecting dinosaur foot prints at a popular boat launching site on the Yawuru Coastal Reserve

Exmouth Joint Management Continued

Ningaloo Joint Management on National Indigenous TV

The Joint Management team recently teamed up with a crew from National Indigenous TV (NITV) to tell the story about what they are up to on the Ningaloo Coast. Rangi Hirini who is NITV's Western Australian correspondent travelled up to Exmouth and Coral Bay to speak with Cody, Ethan, Todd, Adrian and Tom about the Ningaloo Coast, the reef and their aim to jointly manage it with the Baiyungu Traditional Owners. Click on the link to see the video

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2018/07/03/indigenous-ranger-program-bringing-youth-back-country>

Back to Baiyungu Country Trip

A Back to Country trip is brings traditional owners back together on their country. The history of colonisation has had an impact on many Aboriginal people being isolated from their traditional country, culture and family. DBCA acknowledges this and that country underpins identity, spirituality and home for Aboriginal people.

The department also respects the long standing aspirations of Aboriginal people to be involved in the management of country and having the ability to carry out customary activities on their traditional lands

Through joint management activities DBCA is supporting traditional owners to reconnect with country.

A back to country trip is also an excellent opportunity for traditional owners and DBCA employees to share knowledge, work together on projects and strengthen the relationships between groups. In the case of the Ningaloo Coast, it is the absolute intention of the department that we manage the coast in a partnership with the Baiyungu Traditional Owners. So it makes good sense to get traditional owners involved from the beginning in the various management efforts we intend to undertake.

As many of the issues along the proposed Ningaloo Coastal Reserve are essentially of a nature conservation context, we teamed up with the Nat Cons team to align this trip with the establishment of some baseline monitoring projects for flora and fauna within the Cape Farquhar closed area. During this trip 14 Baiyungu Traditional Owners worked with Derek, Lucy and Taaryn to establish vegetation monitoring transects across 10 sites, setting up and checking cage and Elliot traps, monitoring predator tracks and setting up remote sensor cameras.

We had a chopper on hand to conduct the first aerial goat count along ex-Gnaraloo and ex-Warroora coastlines and used the opportunity to offer some rides for the TOs and staff to take in some of the more remote sights of the Ningaloo Coast and adjacent inland including Blue Holes, an experience many will never forget.

DBCA staff were also very fortunate to be treated to some very special displays of living Baiyungu culture including a smoking ceremony, language lessons and the timeliness humour of elder Gwen Peck. The trip was a great success with the establishment of the Nat Cons monitoring projects but also with the development of the new and strengthening of existing relationships.



All 24 of the 2018 Baiyungu/Nat Cons Back to Country Trip at base camp between Cape Farquhar and Gnaraloo bay



Base camp on the first morning, paradise



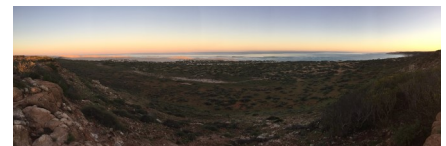
Derek demonstrating the set up of a remote sensor camera to detect feral animals



Roger and Jermaine work alongside Judith Peck and Carmel Cooyou to establish a vegetation monitoring transect



Kurtley "Piggy" Walgar and Gwen "Baiyungu 1" Peck about to take off for their first ever chopper ride.



The Baiyungu coastal landscape

Joint Management with Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation

Murujuga National Park is vested with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) comprising traditional custodians the Ngarluma-Yindjibarndi, the Yaburara-Mardudhunera and the Woon-goo-tt-oo. The land is leased back to the WA State Government as national park and is jointly managed by the representatives of MAC and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Staff in the Pilbara Region work in partnership and support the Murujuga Rangers to undertake conservation work and also participate in departmental training.

Mandatory Fire Pre-Season Training

The Murujuga Rangers along with local Karratha DBCA staff participated in the department's pre-season fire training.

3 Murujuga Rangers have completed the Basic Wildfire Awareness Training.



Turtle Monitoring

Murujuga Rangers have started to apply the West Pilbara Turtle Monitoring Program methodology along Conzinc Bay within the Murujuga National Park. This process will allow the rangers to start monitoring turtle tracks and gain an idea on the possible threats the turtles may be facing.

Turtle monitoring will be conducted from November through to December 2018. It will include early morning starts and walking along a 2km stretch of the Conzinc Bay beach. Once fresh turtle tracks are found, the rangers will be required to record all the data on tablets. This then feeds back into the state's wider database.



The rangers were excited to find a successful nest of the critically endangered hawksbill turtle, with more likely to follow.

The turtle monitoring program will be seeking baseline data to inform the department what restrictions will need to be imposed for future recreation development.

Community Bird Watching Event

The Murujuga Rangers, with support of local industry, recently hosted a community bird watching event in September 2018.

This event was open to the wider community and brought in bird experts from Broome. The event involved breakfast and three guided sessions to three separate habitats. These included the mangroves, the beach and open heathlands.

Approximately 60 members from the community participated. Conrad Audrey, a Murujuga ranger co-lead a group and interpreted the surrounding rock art, particularly the bird rock art.



Cultural tours in Deep Gorge, Murujuga National Park

Murujuga rangers have been trained in the delivery of 'cultural tours' at Deep Gorge within Murujuga National Park.

This has helped the rangers better communicate with visitors, and provides pre-scripted content on specific parts of the park. This includes: rock-art, geology, culture, history and much more.



Miriwoong Gajerrong Rangers Celebrate 10 Years of Joint Management

The Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Parks Council, Parks and Wildlife Service and the Miriwoong Gajerrong (MG) rangers celebrated ten years of Joint Management on Friday the 23rd of November 2018.

The MG rangers welcomed a large group of people who had been involved with the program over the years. Three previous Parks and Wildlife employees returned to Kununurra for the celebrations. Scott Goodson who was instrumental in setting the ranger program up, Len Terry was the MG rangers first operations officer and Luke Bentley worked with the MG rangers as a wildlife officer and then as the East Kimberley's District Manager. Luke is the regional manager for the Warren Region.

The local language centre, Mirima Dawang Woorlab-Gerring, attended the event. The rangers work closely with the language centre completing Miriwoong language training. The rangers learnt language, they have also helped to create modern Miriwoong. MG Corporation attended and presented each ranger with a Leatherman marking their achievement.

The day also marked ten years of service for Andy Reid. Andy was one of the original MG rangers from 2008. He is the only ranger that has been with the program the whole time and is well respected in the district. Congratulations Andy on such a big achievement. Everyone involved with the program looks forward to another ten years.



Celebrating 10 years Joint Management



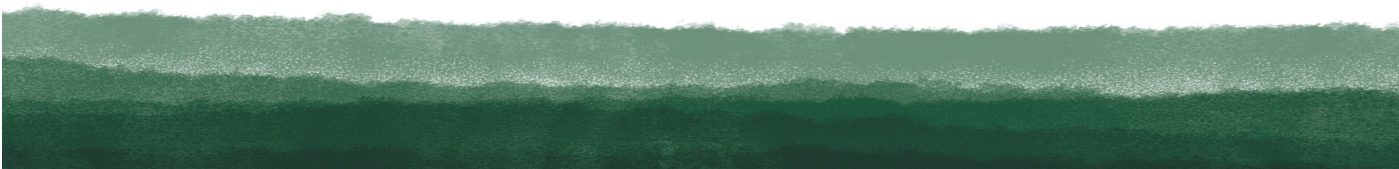
Luke Bentley and Pamela Simon



Mirima Dancers



Scott Goodson, Joanie Simon, Pamela Simon and Livia Simon



Mentored Aboriginal Training an Employment Scheme (MATES) Update

The department's MATES program has 34 trainees throughout the state undertaking their certificate II, III and IV of Conservation and Land Management.

Andrea Thomas is the new regional training coordinator. Her role is to manage and coordinate the Regional Training Unit which includes the MATES Program and the regional training officers based around the state.

There are two new Regional Training Officers; Shannon Wilson who will look after the assessment needs of the South West Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) Trainees based in Narrogin, Collie, Bunbury and Albany and Greg Kitson who will be looking after the training needs of the trainees based in the Midwest.

Existing Regional Training Officers George Laws is based in Busselton, Paul Dunstan is based in the Perth hills, Dane Johnson is based in Broome and Eleanor Killen is based in Exmouth. The department is in the process of filling the regional training office role for Kununurra.

The MATES program has a working group that has been in operation for a year now and works to provide networks, building capacity and resolving any issues occurring across the state in the MATES program. Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome.

The MATES Trainee Guide, MATES Trainee Supervisor Guide and MATES Trainee Guide for Managers have been developed and are available for anyone who fills these roles or is interested in the guides – feedback is welcome. (Cherylene Ehlers)



Bunbury Regional Ranger Team: Regional Parks Ranger Jonny Cobby and MATES Trainees Josh Kelly and Riley Clarke



KMAC Cultural Day

Yued Cultural Day – Wedge Island

Parks and Wildlife Services staff, including MATES Trainee Ranger Joseph Morgan, were lucky enough to be invited to an Aboriginal cultural day hosted by Kwelena Mambakort Wedge Island Aboriginal Corporation (KMAC) at Wedge on 11 October 2018. Traditional owners shared some of their knowledge with key stakeholders and provided a guided tour of a significant registered Aboriginal midden site.

Moora District Manager Allison Donovan said 'I am honoured to have been invited to view the midden site at Wedge and was blown away by the scale and significance of the site'. An amazing morning tea and lunch was also provided showcasing the local indigenous cuisine and we all left with full bellies.

DBCA has a Local Area Arrangement with KMAC and we work together on many different projects with a focus on protecting Aboriginal heritage and providing training to trainee rangers and other staff. We look forward to a fantastic ongoing working relationship and many more cultural days to come.

Exmouth District Joint Management Trainee Rangers and Murujuga Land and Sea Unit Participated in Visitor Risk Management Training Program

Recently staff from across Pilbara Region came together in Exmouth to undertake the department's Visitor Risk Management training program (VRM). Staff from Karijini and Cape Range National Parks and Exmouth District were joined by staff from the Murujuga Land and Sea Unit from Karratha.

For many of the staff involved it was the first time they had met other staff working across the Pilbara region and the course provided an ideal opportunity to start some conversations amongst the group – conversations not only about visitor risk management and the role staff play in this important aspect the department's work but also conversations about working on country and the importance of this for Aboriginal people.

Exmouth District has several Aboriginal staff involved in the day-to-day operations across the Exmouth District Joint Management Trainee Rangers Jermaine Baron, Judith Peck, Cody Farrell and Conservation employee Ethan Cooyou. Murujuga Land and Sea unit staff involved in the course were Conrad Aubrey, Sean McNair, Mariah Reed and Kyle Wilson.

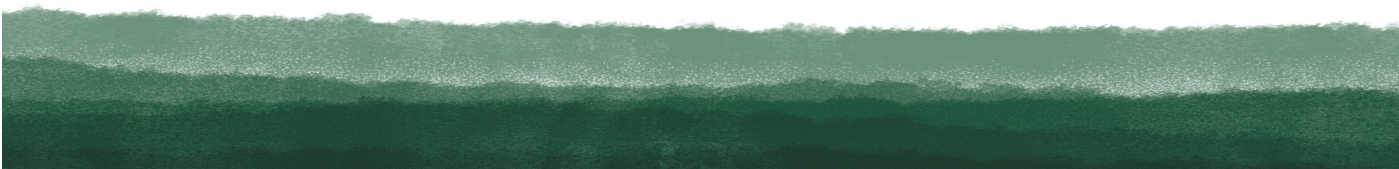
The group was welcomed to country by Elders Gwen Peck and Hazel Walgar.



Completing field work in Shothole Canyon in Cape Range National Park as part of the VRM course



Completing field work in Shothole Canyon in Cape Range National Park as part of the VRM course



Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) Ranger Program Extended

In 2017 the NACC piloted an Aboriginal Ranger Program in the Midwest to undertake Conservation and Land Management Training. NACC provided support for connection to country, sharing of culture and cultural stories with the newly employed Aboriginal rangers. The Commonwealth Government funded more than 20 Aboriginal rangers in this program.

NACC delivered the pilot program in collaboration with Western Mulga, Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, KMAC Botanical and Environmental services and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

DBCA secured funds for four Aboriginal rangers: Kaylahh Dodd (Geraldton), Bruce Bradfield (Geraldton), Wesley Sibosado (Jurien Bay) & Klaas Liezenga (Shark Bay).

With success of the pilot program, the Commonwealth Government has announced that the NACC Aboriginal Ranger Program will be funded for a further three years.

NACC's Aboriginal Liaison Co-ordinator Bianca McNeair described it as a life changing program providing opportunities for Aboriginal people across the Mid West to be employed and engaged in natural resource management activities.

'Not only is traditional ecological knowledge extremely valuable in enhancing the ways we understand and care for our environment, but it is also important for individual identity and sense of community' she said.

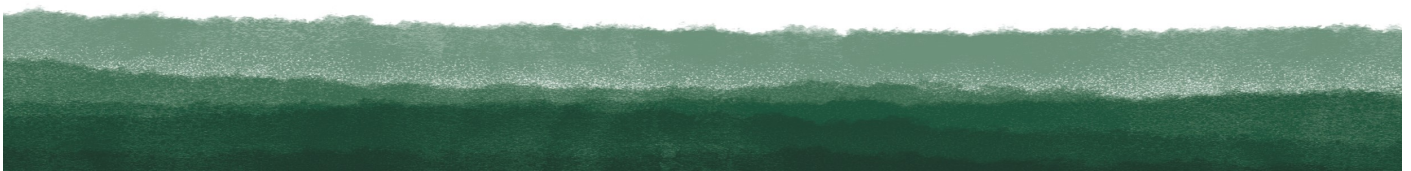
"Being able to offer our Aboriginal community an employment and conservation program for a further three years is a great opportunity to maximise on the many benefits there are to having Aboriginal people care for country".

Below is a fantastic six minute clip showcasing the rangers and their personal accounts of being a part of the ranger program on working on country, and it also stars some of our other wonderful staff!

<https://youtu.be/zvmAIY5StMk>



DBCA Aboriginal ranger and Geraldton Traditional Owner Kaylahh Dodd with NACC Aboriginal liaison co-ordinator at Denham's Big Lagoon. (Picture NACC)



Aboriginal Ranger Program — Round 2 funding

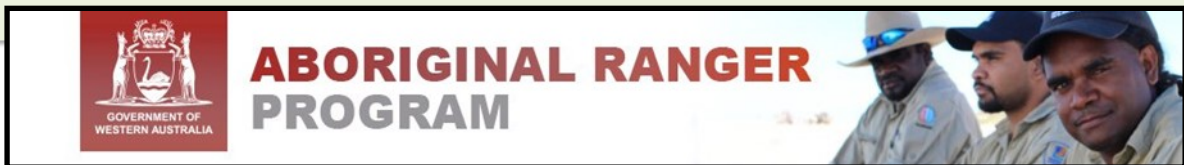
The McGowan Government has called for expressions of Interest to Round 2 of the Aboriginal Ranger Program.

A total of \$9 million will be available in Round 2 for single or multi-year projects up to three years. A further round of funding will be available in 2020.

A particular focus in Round 2 of the Program will be given to the establishment of new and emerging ranger groups, although established groups are also encouraged to apply. There will also be an increased focus on tourism.

Guidelines and an expression of interest application form are attached and will be available at www.dbcwa.gov.au/aboriginalrangerprogram. Further information is also available on the web, including copies of the sample funding agreement, sample reporting templates and the assessment methodology.

The closing date for submissions is **15 March 2019** with a view to projects commencing in July 2019.



Noongar Boodjar Ranger Program

South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council (SWALSC) was announced as one of thirteen Aboriginal organisations across the state to share in the first round of funding from the WA State Government's five-year \$20m Aboriginal Ranger Program.

The Noongar Boodja Mentored Employment and Training Partnership is being delivered by SWALSC via a service contract with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). 12 full-time positions on 16-month long fixed-term s.50D contracts were advertised for six Noongar men and six Noongar women, with one Noongar man and one Noongar woman working on country in each of the six Noongar regions, in a DBCA regional office location selected for the high quality of training available at those locations.

The trainees are located at:

- Albany (Wagyl Kaip / DBCA South Coast Regional Headquarters)
- Jurien Bay (Yued / DBCA Moora District)
- Mundaring (Whadjuk / DBCA Perth Hills District)
- Collie (Gnaala Karla Booja / DBCA Wellington District)
- Busselton (South West Boojarah / DBCA Blackwood District)
- Narrogin (Ballardong / DBCA Wheatbelt Regional Headquarters)

Over the 16-month program, these 12 successful candidates will undertake a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management, and DBCA's Fire Fighting Crew Member Course.

The project will increase capacity in the Noongar community to undertake conservation and land management activities on the lands that will come back to Noongar ownership and control, and to undertake joint management of the conservation estate in Noongar Boodja once the South West Native Title Settlement is implemented.



Noongar Boodjar Rangers and Hon Stephen Dawson MLC Minister for Environment, Disability Services MLC



Above and Left: Philip Ugle and Natasha Ugle planting seedlings in the Wildhorse Swamp Nature Reserve

Geoffrey Dean - 'A true ranger in the making'

Asked what the best thing about being in the Aboriginal Ranger Training Program was, without any hesitation Geoffrey replied, "Working in the parks has provided me the opportunity to care for country like my ancestors did, something I have always longed to do since I was a young boy".

Geoffrey was successful in being selected as a trainee ranger in the Aboriginal Trainee Ranger Program and started work in the Albany District in July this year. It didn't take long for him to have the full respect of not only the ranger team, but all district staff. He fitted in immediately and it wasn't too long before he was entrusted to undertake complex ranger roles on his own (obviously with a little oversight from his mentoring team). One of his fellow rangers, Gerry McNally, recently in an email to the district manager summed him up perfectly, "Geoff is a valuable work colleague who has a calm pleasant temperament, a team player and practically minded, which I have found most useful in my park carpentry projects".

District Manager, Peter Hartley fields a fair share of calls from members of public, some of which are complaints, so it was with trepidation that he took a call from a member of public wanting to speak about one of the rangers. Well it turned out that it wasn't one of 'those calls', but rather a call from a Perth gentleman who wanted to convey his appreciation for the way he and others on a bus were treated by Geoffrey. He explained that they were on their way to Bluff Knoll in the Stirling Range National Park for a snow event and due to the numbers of visitors, had to wait until there was space for the bus in the car park. He explained that Geoffrey had climbed on the bus and invited them all to join him for a short walk 'on country' to look at the wild flowers. People on the bus were 'swept off their feet' by his hospitality and felt it important to convey their sentiments to the department.

The Albany District set out to provide as much exposure and experiential learning as possible and Geoffrey has up to now seized every opportunity offered to him. In his short time with the district he has been involved in national park facilities management, track/trail maintenance, nature conservation projects, compliance activities, prescribed burning and has attended his first bushfire as a crew member of a heavy-duty truck. Learning has flowed both ways, with Geoffrey providing other staff with a great deal of insight in o Noongar culture and Aboriginal perspectives on caring for country and customary activities.

Peter Hartley stated that he has really enjoyed watching Geoffrey grow in confidence over the past six months and cited his handling of a recent critical incident in Torndirrup National Park as nothing short of exemplary. He further added that he was looking forward to seeing Geoffrey develop further, whilst at the same time getting some useful insight from him as the South Coast Region moves towards 'Joint Management'.



Savannah Guides Field School – October 4th to 7th 2018—Kimberley

Parks & Wildlife Service Kimberley Region staff and Aboriginal rangers from Minamata, Ngarla, Yawuru, Bunuba, and Miriuwung Gajerrong were part of a group of over sixty participants from around the country in attending the Savannah Guides Field School in the Kimberley town of Fitzroy Crossing.

Savannah Guides is a professional development program which provides participants with tour guiding skills, knowledge in managing tourism operations, while showcasing pathways into the tourism industry. The Kimberley Region hosted this workshop themed 'towards indigenous cultural tourism', with presentations from established Kimberley tour operators Bart Pigram (Narliija Tours), Waylon Marr & Kerissa O'Meara (Windjana Tours) and Brian Lee (Hunter Creek Tagalong Tours). In conjunction with classroom-based learning, participants took part in guided tours of significant cultural sites, with local Traditional Owners Mary Aiken, Dillon Andrews and Harrison Skinner.

Day One:

Following introductions and welcomes from Savannah Guides President Mick Clark, and Manager Russell Boswell, a series of informative presentations were conducted throughout the morning. These included 'Licencing and Commercial Connection' by Rhonda Murphy (DBCA AHU Manager), 'Camping with Custodians' by Gary Taylor, Tourism WA, and an update on WA Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC) from CEO Robert Taylor. Local Aboriginal tour operators Windjana Tours and Bill Layton of Kimberley Country, who engages local Bunuba rangers in conducting the 'Twin Gorges Walk', also spoke about their individual experiences in running tourism ventures in the Kimberley. The day concluded with a smoking ceremony and welcome to country by Bunuba Traditional Owner Mary Aiken, and a sunset boat cruise on the majestic Fitzroy River through Dannggu Geikie Gorge on the new Parks and Wildlife Service boat 'Ms Casey Ross'.

Day Two:

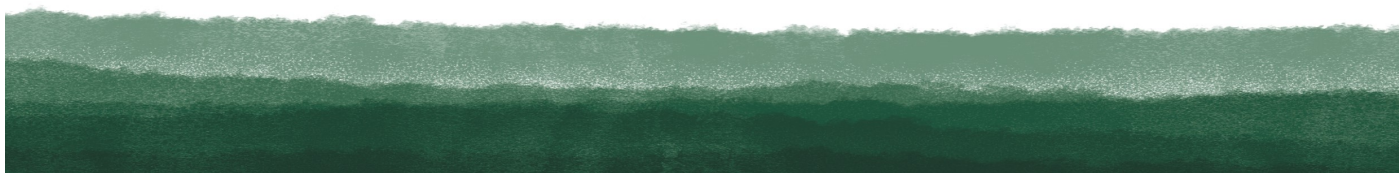
Bunuba Elder Dillon Andrews, who runs Bungoolee Tours together with local Bunuba guides, led the group on a spiritual journey through Windjana Gorge, Lilimulura and Tunnel Creek and explained the legendary story of Jandamarra, a Bunuba man, who in 1894 led his people in a resistance against the settlement of European pastoralists and police. Dillon also treated the group to a singing ceremony (Jumba) within the walls of the magical Tunnel Creek cave.

Day Three:

A guided tour through Mimbi Caves, a place of deep spiritual significance to the Gooniyandi people as well as being one of the most significant Devonian fossil sites in the world, was an unforgettable experience with local Gooniyandi guide Harrison Skinner describing the dreamtime stories of rock art deep within these spectacular caves. The group then travelled to nearby Ngumpan community for a basket weaving/necklace making demonstration by local Yiriman women. A jam session rounded out the day, with talented participants of the group captivating the audience for hours with awesome music!

Overall, Savannah Guides Field School was a rewarding experience for all involved. Not only was it a great opportunity for traditional owner ranger groups and tour operators to yarn and share experiences, it empowered all participants with the confidence and skills to share their knowledge and connection to country with visitors to the Kimberley keen to learn about one of the oldest living cultures in the world!

The next Savannah Guides Field School will be held in Capricorn Caves, Queensland 28-31 March 2019.



Bunuba Traditional Owner On-Country Trip to Mornington Wilderness Camp Proposed Fitzroy River National Park Planning

During the first week of the school holidays in late September, Parks and Wildlife Service West Kimberley District staff facilitated a three-day on country trip with Bunuba Traditional Owners north of Fitzroy Crossing at Mornington Wilderness Camp. With over sixty Bunuba mob in attendance, the primary purpose of the trip was to gather traditional owners together to discuss the proposed Fitzroy River National Park. The creation of a national park along the Fitzroy River is a WA Labor Government election commitment and negotiations have been progressing with traditional owners and pastoralists over the past 18 months. The camp was held in conjunction with a Cultural Caretakers project facilitated by Melissa Marshall (PhD Archaeologist) from Notre Dame University and Bush Heritage to identify and record culturally significant sites in the area. Jessica Miller of Environs Kimberley also attended the camp to work with Bunuba elders on a database for native flora that details their traditional names and use.

Over two days, helicopter flights were undertaken by traditional owners and Parks and Wildlife Service staff over spectacular Kimberley country, taking in Jijidu (Dimond Gorge) and Bundja (Sir John's Gorge). The purpose of these flights was to identify areas which the traditional owners considered should be included in the proposed national park. Following these flights, a discussion amongst Bunuba Traditional Owners was undertaken and areas of importance were recorded on maps. Important cultural sites recorded included a Gwion Gwion (Bradshaw) art site and a Cherabin (native prawn) enrichment site.

While the majority of Bunuba Muwayis (Bunuba name for family/skin group) were represented at the camp, the area holds particular significance for the Malanggu Muwayi, who speak for the area encompassing Jijidu and Bundja. Selina Middleton, who is a member of Malanggu Muwayi, spoke of how much the trip meant to her as she hadn't had the opportunity to return to her Muwayi area for over twenty years. For Selina's daughter, Monique, it was the first time she had visited Jijidu and was able to bring her children along. Monique is part of the Bunuba Women Ranger team that has been funded through the state Aboriginal Ranger Program. Monique said, "having the children involved was a great opportunity for the next generation to connect with the country of their ancestors and this allows for the intergenerational transfer of traditional story and custom from the elders to children".

The trip to majestic Jijidu was a highlight for children and adults alike, with everyone making the most of the opportunity to swim, kayak and fish. It was also the perfect backdrop for Shem Bisluk, of PICA to film Monique and Selina Middleton speaking of their experience of joint management with Parks and Wildlife, of Monique's experience as part of the Aboriginal ranger program and what it meant for them being back in the country they speak for.

The Mornington On-Country Camp was an unforgettable experience for all involved, not only strengthening joint management relationships between Bunuba and Parks and Wildlife but more importantly, it enabled families to come together to share cultural knowledge and continue connecting with country.



Above: Group shot of all involved

Below: Bunuba elder Mary Aiken and Craig Olejnik discussing proposed FRNP boundaries



Aboriginal Tourism Opportunities at Rottnest Island and Kings Park



Call for Aboriginal Tourism Operators

Kings Park, or Kaarta Koomba, invites local businesses employing, owned or run by Aboriginal people to provide new tourism and cultural experiences for its visitors.

Expressions of Interest are invited from 30 November 2018 and close on 14 January 2019.

The Park aims to attract several operators who can offer a variety of authentic Noongar experiences to celebrate this unique part of Western Australian culture. Ideas include walking tours, storytelling, dance, art making, music and bush tucker experiences.

For further details and to apply, please download the Expression of Interest guidelines below.

[Aboriginal Tourism and Cultural Experiences Expression of Interest Guidelines4.96 MB](#)

The call for Aboriginal businesses to participate comes in response to growing demands from domestic and international visitors for Aboriginal cultural experiences. According to recent Tourism WA data, 78 per cent of visitors to Western Australia are looking for an Aboriginal experience of some kind.

For further information, please contact the [Kings Park team](#) via email enquiries@bqpa.wa.gov.au or by telephoning (08) 9480 3600.

Next Edition:

- ✦ Science Strategic Plan
- ✦ Aboriginal Science Projects
- ✦ Regional Aboriginal Engagement Strategies
- ✦ South West Regional Parks Team
- ✦ Customary Activities Training

We hope you have enjoyed reading Yarning Time.



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Conservation and Attractions



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