

# Yarning Time



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



Issue 3: May 2019



## Message from the RAP Co Chair

Welcome to the third 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  
Biodiversity and Conservation Science



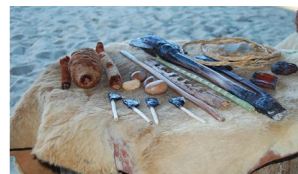
Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



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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*All the team enjoyed using the rake hoe to clear fuel. While this is hard work, it is one of the most effective means of stopping a fire from spreading by removing the fuel from in front of the fire – particularly if a bulldozer or loader is not around.*



*Explaining the equipment on the DBCA Fire Truck*

**Basic Wildfire Awareness Course: Goldfields Land and Sea Council Aboriginal Ranger Group**

In November 2018, Richard Boykett from the Fire Training and Development section, travelled to Kalgoorlie to present the Basic Wildfire Awareness course for a group of rangers from the Goldfields Land and Sea Council Aboriginal Ranger Group. The Basic Wildfire Awareness course is a nationally accredited course which provides an introduction to safe operations around a bush fire. The course that was presented to the Aboriginal Ranger Groups, was developed to also provide some base level field skills to ensure that if the rangers attend a prescribed burn with Parks and Wildlife Service staff they can safely undertake the work.

The practical drills included drafting water from the water hole at Kalgoorlie Arboretum. We then practised on the Kalgoorlie Heavy Duty truck using the live reel (used during mop-up), the lay flat hose (used during knock down and to get into trees) and the marauder branch (nozzle) which is hard mounted to the truck and has enough power to get up into the tallest trees. When the pump is turned right up, many of the rangers were struggling to hold on as it threw water over thirty meters up into the trees around the reserve.

They also practised the burn over drills (in case staff get caught out in a burn over situation).

The team at Kalgoorlie assisted in the training to ensure that it is meeting the needs of the region and the types of fuels (spinifex, grasses and Mallee trees) that are likely to be encountered. Special thanks to Jewell Crossberg, Sean Duke and Evan Donovan for taking the time to explain the trucks and pumps and to support the training. The Rangers are now ready to work alongside the Kalgoorlie DBCA fire team at prescribed burns and most importantly to do it safely and come home at the end of the day.

## Goldfields Joint Management

Over the past twelve months the Goldfields Region has made significant progress in the Aboriginal Joint Management space. From the Kalgoorlie office we currently work closely with eight different Aboriginal Groups on DBCA managed estate across the Goldfields Region. Listed below are a few tasks and achievements worth mentioning.

### Goldfields Land and Sea Council Rangers (GLSC)

The GLSC were successful in their application for funds through the State's Aboriginal Ranger Program (ARP). These allocated funds are used to employ Aboriginal Rangers to perform land management activities on DBCA managed estate.

The GLSC Rangers form an essential part of the Goldfields Region's operations team and are directly involved with the following activities;

- ✦ Wild dog baiting using 1080 baits;
- ✦ Prescribed burning and fire mitigation;
- ✦ Fence line construction and maintenance;
- ✦ Mallee fowl monitoring;
- ✦ Weed management through chemical application;
- ✦ Recreational site management including Visitor Risk Management (VRM); and
- ✦ Erosion control and track maintenance.

The GLSC Rangers have successfully completed the department's VRM, 1080 baiting, and Basic Wildfire Awareness training courses.

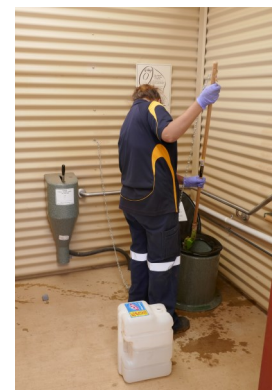
The GLSC Rangers are responsible for servicing the Goldfields Region's top seven recreational Parks. During each visit a comprehensive checklist is completed, and a detailed report is sent to the DBCA office.

The GLSC were responsible for completing the following projects;

- ✦ Security compounds were constructed around two newly installed radio repeater towers on the Great Eastern Highway;
- ✦ Several dams have been fenced off as part of the Region's Large Feral Herbivore (LFH) management plan;
- ✦ A new boundary fence was constructed around the Kambalda Nature Reserve; and
- ✦ Several interventions of spraying Hudson Pear cactus (*Cylindropuntia rosea*).



*Fence line construction*



*Recreational site management*



*Recreational site management*



## Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara (MKK) - Martu Rangers

Over the past twelve months the Rangers were working closely with DBCA staff performing the following activities:

- ✦ Assisted with the biological surveys conducted on MKK;
- ✦ Monitoring of threatened native species in conjunction with the science department;
- ✦ Conducting predator track surveys;
- ✦ Maintaining Camera-traps;
- ✦ Prescribed burning practices inside the MKK predator proof compound;
- ✦ Landscape prescribed burning;
- ✦ Wild dog and cat baiting – 1080 ground baiting;
- ✦ Traditional painting of the Martu Head Quarters building;
- ✦ Several interventions of spraying Hudson Pear cactus (*Cylindropuntia rosea*); and
- ✦ Successful ground shooting operations as part of the LFH management plan on MKK.

The Martu Rangers have successfully completed the Department's 1080 baiting training as well as an accredited All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) (Quadbike) training course. The Rangers are now using their quadbike training to conduct predator track surveys.

A new Martu head quarters is on the verge of completion with much of the carpentry work being done by the Rangers. They did an amazing job with the internal painting of the building.



*Painting the new Martu head quarters.*

## Ngadju Rangers—Norseman

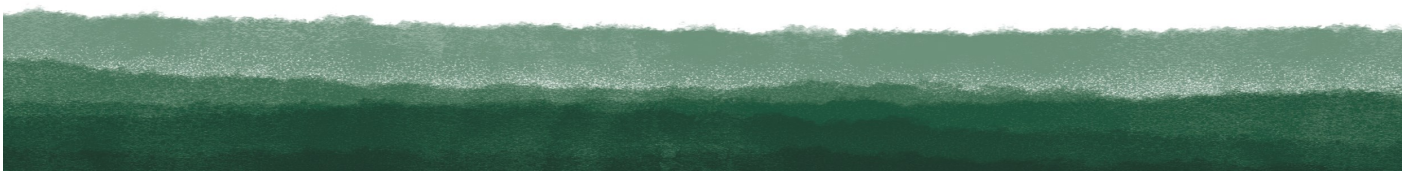
The Ngadju Rangers are responsible for servicing the Cave Hill recreational site. The Ngadju group is a fantastic group to work with showing ambition and innovation. The adoption of digital technology takes the group to the next level. They have a pro-active approach and operate with a high level of professionalism. The Ngadju is responsible for the restoration of the culturally significant cave through the removal of graffiti.



*Recreational site management*



*Graffiti Removal in a culturally significant cave*



## Caldyanup Boardwalk Opening

Traditional Owners recently got back out on country to help Warren Region staff to officially open the new boardwalk at *Caldyanup* (Mount Frankland). This official opening provided an opportunity for the Traditional Owners to see the upgrades to the recreational sites that they had assisted with their guidance and approval. After the opening, a BBQ lunch was held at the Frankland District office and then a tour of local sites of interest was conducted.

Warren Region staff are now working with some of the Elders to document family stories that link to the site. These stories will enhance the interpretation of the already amazing wilderness lookout and boardwalk. One story includes that of a family totem, the *waalitj* (Wedge tail Eagle). The *waalitj* eagerly called out during the official opening ceremony as if to welcome the Traditional Owners back to country. Staff also aim to include art and design work by local Noongar families within the signage throughout the site.



*Caldyanup Lookout opening*



*DBCA Staff and TO's gather for the opening*



*Mr Glen Colbung provides the Welcome to Country and tells the story of his totem the Waalitj*

## 2019 Scholarship Participant—John Snowden

We are pleased to announce that John Snowden (Riverpark Operations Officer) was successful in his application for the 2019 Scholarship Program. John's language group is Ngemba and his traditional country is Gundabooka Mountains Bourke NSW. He is part of the Marine and Riverpark team in the Swan Coastal District.

The Director General's Career Development and Study Assistance Scholarships program is designed to encourage employees to attain post secondary qualifications relating to their employment with the department. The study will subsequently assist employees in applying and being considered for positions with the department which require a formal qualification. John received one of these Scholarships to undertake a Diploma of Conservation and Land Management.

He has previously completed certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management and the Diploma will allow him to further develop his knowledge and skills in this area. Learning more about the various areas of the industry such as natural resource management, rehabilitation, report writing, preparing tenders and quotes, conducting comprehensive inspections of Park facilities and interpreting legislation.

John started the Diploma part time at the South Metropolitan TAFE Murdoch on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2019 and is enjoying the different units the course offers.



### Sea turtle monitoring and Aboriginal ranger exchange at Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park

Late 2018, Aboriginal rangers descended from all over the Kimberley to be involved in the Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park turtle monitoring program. The turtle monitoring program is coordinated by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA); Parks and Wildlife Service, Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park team. This team, which includes the DBCA Nyangumarta and Ngarla rangers, oversee the two monitoring sites at Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park and Anna Plains. Anna Plains was monitored by Nyangumarta and Karajarri Aboriginal Protected Area (IPA) rangers, while the caravan park site was monitored by Parks and Wildlife Service Nyangumarta and Ngarla rangers, with assistance from several other DBCA staff and Aboriginal Corporations, including Miriuwung Gajerong, Bunuba and Dambimangari rangers.

Every year, thousands of *wayarti* (flatback turtles) come ashore to lay their eggs at Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, which stretches 260km along the Kimberley/Pilbara coastline. Rangers worked in teams to record data on the nesting abundance and success of the *wayarti* that nest here, as well as hatching and emergence success. Hundreds of *wayarti* nests were recorded over the two-week period and everyone enjoyed learning more about the wildlife at Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park. Aboriginal rangers manned the education stalls that were set up every evening at the caravan park to educate visitors to the park about *wayarti* to make sure they aren't disturbed while they are nesting.



*Parks and Wildlife Service Nyangumarta, Ngarla, Miriuwung Gajerong and Bunuba rangers and other DBCA staff participating in the 2018 Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park turtle monitoring program and ranger exchange. (Photo Kevin Smith)*



*The Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park team, including Parks and Wildlife Service Nyangumarta, and Ngarla rangers, hosting the Dambimangari rangers during turtle monitoring. (Photo: Dean Molineux)*



*Parks and Wildlife Service Nyangumarta ranger Nathan Hunter (far right) discussing turtle nest features with the Dambimangari rangers at Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park. (Photo: Chloe Rings)*



*Flatback sea turtle hatchling at Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park. (Photo: Chloe Rings)*



*Ranger exchanges: having collected wildlife camera traps, rangers analyse photos to see what animals are living in the sand dunes at Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park. (Photo: Chloe Rings)*

### Sea Turtle monitoring and Aboriginal ranger exchange at Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park Continued...

When not collecting data for the turtle program, the Parks and Wildlife Service Nyangumarta and Ngarla rangers took the opportunity to show the visiting ranger teams other projects that they have been working on in the park and to share time together on Nyangumarta country. Other activities undertaken include sampling sand for microplastics, pied oystercatcher surveys, photo point monitoring of weed patches, on-country trips, re-baiting and later collecting wildlife camera traps and analysing the photos together. Everyone had a great time yarning about each other's country and works programs, with lots of ideas and stories being shared. We're all already looking forward to next season's program!



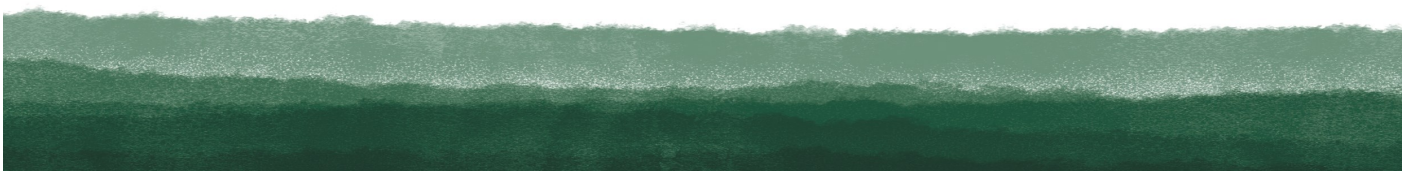
*Parks and Wildlife Service staff, including DBCA Nyangumarta rangers, delivering training and working together with Karajarri and Nyangumarta IPA ranger groups to record flatback turtle hatching success at Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park. (Photo: Chloe Rings)*



Parks and Wildlife Service *Nyangumarta* ranger Augustine Badal assisting to deliver nest marking training to the *Nyangumarta* IPA ranger team. (Photo: Jesse Murdoch)



Wayarti (flatback turtle) returning to the sea in the early hours of the morning after laying her eggs at Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park. (Photo: Chloe Rings)



**Flatback turtle foraging research milestone achieved in Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park.**

Last year saw the world’s first study of resident Flatback turtles (*Natator depressus*) right here in W.A. at the Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park. Nyamba Buru Yawuru Country Managers and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Yawuru Rangers assisted the DBCA Marine Science Program and Murdoch University researchers on the in-water capture and analysis of foraging Flatback turtles in Roebuck Bay.

Teams worked fast in the small confines of vessels to capture, measure, weigh, take blood and genetic samples and attach satellite trackers to the turtles. Data on flatback turtles were recorded to investigate diet, habitat use, diving behaviour, health status, movements and population structure such as ratios of males to females and adults to juveniles.

Expert team work by the DBCA Yawuru Rangers, Nyamba Buru Yawuru Country Managers and the research scientists lead to the successful capture of 44 Flatback turtles over the 10 capture days. GPS transmitters were deployed on 26 Flatback turtles (including 12 males) to understand how they use Roebuck Bay and to identify linkages between foraging areas and nesting beaches. This is the first time in Australia that data has been collected on the movements of male Flatback turtles via the use of GPS transmitters. This study forms part of the Northwest Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Project.

Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park is located south of the town of Broome and covers approximately 78,800ha from *Minyirr* (Gantheaume Point) in the north to *Miriny* (Cape Villaret) in the south. The marine park is jointly managed by Nyamba Buru Yawuru Corporation (on behalf of the Yawuru native title holders) and DBCA.



Nyamba Buru Yawuru Country Manager Daisy Walker holding fresh blood samples taken from a male Flatback turtle captured in Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park



Anthony Richardson (DBCA Yawuru Ranger) watching a male Flatback turtle swim away with its new GPS transmitter backpack

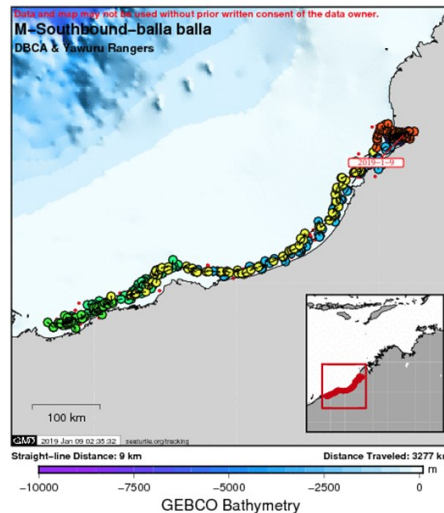
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Nyamba Buru Yawuru Country Managers and DBCA Yawuru Rangers and research staff searching for foraging Flatback turtles in Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park



(From left to right) Anthony Richardson (DBCA Yawuru Ranger), Tony Tucker (Senior Research Scientist, DBCA) and Eduardo Maher (Nyamba Buru Yawuru Country Manager) attaching a GPS transmitter to a male Flatback turtle in Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park



The movements of a male Flatback turtle after the attachment of a GPS transmitter during the survey. This turtle has travelled 3277km to date (image: seaturtle.org)



## Customary Activities Update

Information sessions continue to roll out for the Aboriginal community and DBCA staff on the CALM ACT provisions which enable Aboriginal people to access country to carry out activities related to their culture.

Since August 2018 seven sessions have been held. This included:

- ✦ Staff from the Midwest Region including the Moora District;
- ✦ the South Coast Region – Esperance District;
- ✦ the Warren Region:
  - Frankland District – Walpole and
  - Donnelly District – Pemberton;
- ✦ South West Region (SWR) – Wellington District – Bunbury Regional Headquarters – new Regional Parks Team;
- ✦ Two sessions held with the community:
  - Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation Rangers (ETNTAC) in Esperance and;
  - The Woods family in Albany.

The Woods family session was organised by Sonya Stewart, Aboriginal Engagement Officer. Thanks to Sonya for her support. "It was great to have representation from 4 generations of one family to talk customary activities on a personal level. A few weeks later the family called up DBCA staff to find out options for camping over the busy season. This is a great result and one of our main focuses - getting families back on country." Sonya Stewart

Robert Block, District Manager from Esperance District said

"Both courses with staff and community members were well received and highly appreciated. It demonstrated the departments intent to work together to resolve issues and seek opportunities that benefit both conservation estate management and the Traditional Owners".

Since 2018 approximately 128 DBCA staff and Aboriginal community members have participated in the information sessions.

The Guide to Aboriginal Customary activities on Parks and Wildlife managed lands and waters is being reviewed in response to the new Biodiversity and Conservation Act 2016 and the Biodiversity and Conservation Regulations 2018.

The AHU is planning to roll out more sessions in 2019. Please contact [karim.khan@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:karim.khan@dbca.wa.gov.au)



Left: Esperance Tjaljarik Rangers completing Customary Activities training



Right: DBCA staff completing Customary Activities training at Lucky Bay in Cape Le Grand National Park

### Cardabia Fencing Project

Exmouth District Trainee Ranger Team have been working in partnership with staff from Cardabia Station on a project that allows for conservation and economic pastoralism to coexist on the Ningaloo Coast.

Cardabia Station is an operational cattle station managed by Traditional Owners located adjacent to the Ningaloo Coastal Reserves. This project aims to reduce the impact of cattle on the fragile landscape of the Ningaloo Coast. This was achieved through the building of a two-strand electric fence, keeping the cattle to the east and the fragile conservation area to the west.

Despite the heat and flies, trainee rangers (Ethan Cooyou, Jermaine Baron, Cody Farrell and Judith Peck (Former Trainee) worked seamlessly with the Cardabia staff and turns out we have some old hands at fencing in our ranks! For the trainee rangers who are completing their Cert II's in Conservation and Land Management they were able to use this project to complete the fencing unit required for their Certificate. Incorporating a training unit into a current project always results in more comprehensive learning outcomes.

In addition to conserving the natural values of the area, we worked with Baiyungu Elders to conserve the cultural values of the area. This was achieved through surveying the area prior to fencing to identify if the fence was planned to go directly over any culturally sensitive areas. The initial fence alignment was then adjusted to fence around these cultural heritage sites rather than through.

The project was a fantastic opportunity as it combined working with joint management partners on country, training for our trainees as well as achieving conservation and cultural heritage goals.



From left to right trainees Cody Farrell, Judith Peck (former trainee) and Jermaine Baron



Cody Farrell and Eddie Cooyou repairing a fence. Judith Peck (former trainee), Kurtley Walgar, Elder Hazel Walgar and Jermaine Baron in background



Ethan Cooyou with Eddie Cooyou in background



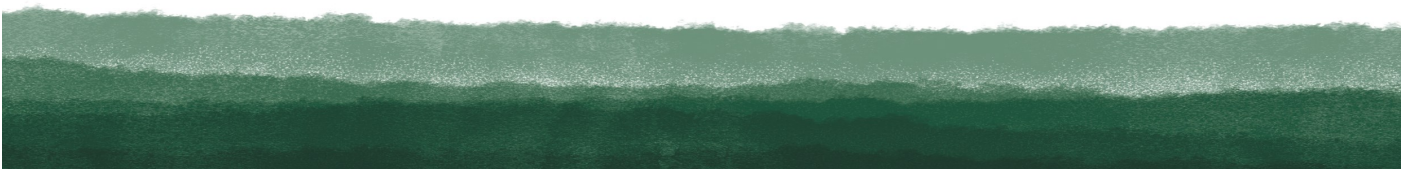
left to right trainees Jermaine Baron and Ethan Cooyou



From left to right Judith Peck (former trainee), Ethan Cooyou, Eddie Cooyou, Cody Farrell, Kurtley Walgar, Elder Hazel Walgar, Eleanor Killen, Jermaine Baron, Gavin Walgar (front h-v-is) and Cardabia station Manager Joe Cooper giving a demonstration on fencing



From left to right Jermaine Baron, Cody Farrell and Eleanor Killen in foreground. Kurtley Walgar, Ethan Cooyou, Judith Peck and Eddie Cooyou in background.



### Science Strategic Plan 2018-21

100 departmental staff and external guests came together on 5 September for the launch of DBCA's new [Science Strategic Plan 2018-21](#).

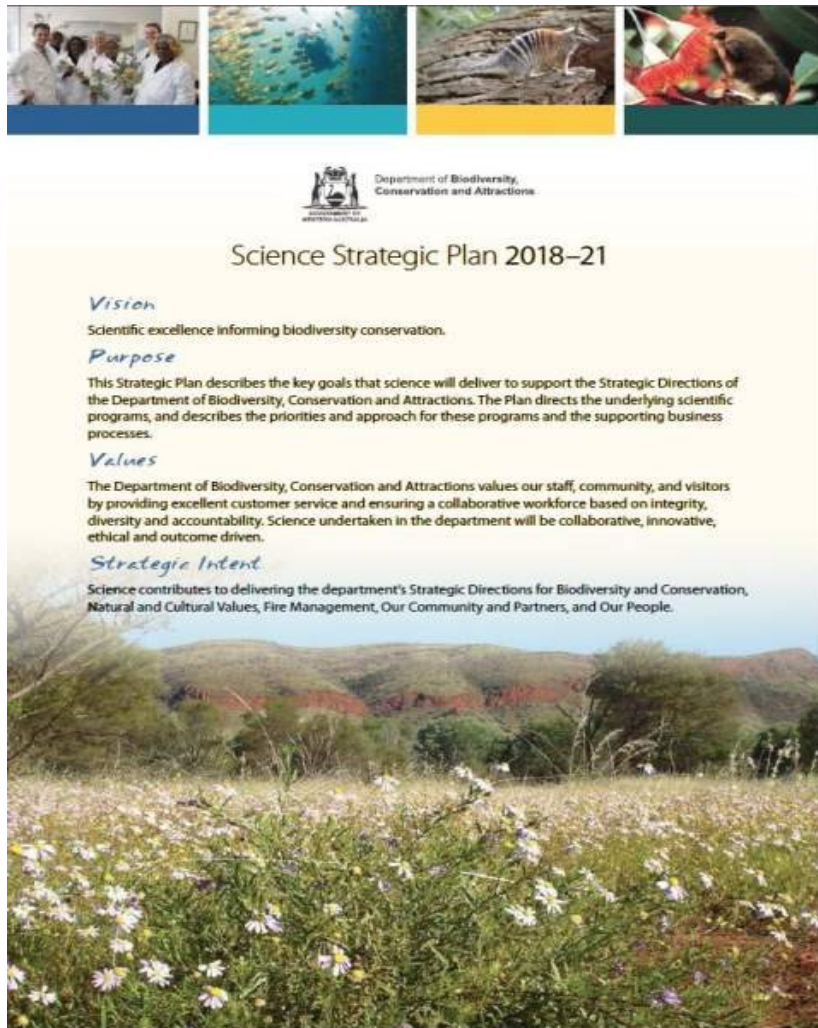
Launching the plan, Chief Scientist of WA Professor Pete Klinken said it was an exciting time for biodiversity conservation in Western Australia. He said the plan provided a strong, succinct vision for how scientific excellence would be delivered and achieved in a collaboration way across the department and the State.

Director General Mark Webb said the plan was the result of a comprehensive external review into science across the former Department of Parks and Wildlife and the three statutory authorities.

He said the science functions of the department were amalgamated to capitalise on the excellent foundations of science activity across the agency, and provide an integrated approach to delivering science.

DBCA Biodiversity and Conservation Science (BCS) is delivered at multiple sites across Western Australia, including national and marine parks, Kings Park, Perth Zoo, Rottnest Island, and the WA Herbarium.

Executive Director Biodiversity and Conservation Science Dr Margaret Byrne said a key part of DBCA's scientific work would be to continue to build on partnerships within and external to the department.



### Aboriginal Involvement in Science

The BCS division engages with Traditional Owners to undertake science projects combining scientific principles with ancient traditional knowledge. The following strategic theme has been developed to help deliver on this.

#### Our Community and Partners

Building positive and meaningful partnership to achieve results

Strategic Theme	Strategic Goal	Approach
Engagement with Traditional Owners	Traditional owners are involved in knowledge sharing and delivering science projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with Traditional Owners in joint management to undertake science projects</li> <li>Provide scientific input to the department's Aboriginal engagement processes.</li> </ul>

Some examples of Aboriginal engagement with DBCA include:

- ✦ Translocation of the Endangered *warru* (black-flanked rock wallaby) in the Western Desert project, which aims to secure additional populations of the unique desert genetic stock of this species. This has resulted in the discovery of previously unknown populations of this and other conservation significant fauna species.
- ✦ Bilby monitoring in the Pilbara, Fitzroy River catchment in the Kimberley and the on the Dampier Peninsula by the Nyul Nyul, Yawuru, Goolarabooloo, Jabirr Jabirr and Nyikina Mangala rangers continued with offset funding support from Main Roads WA.
- ✦ Region-wide targeted surveys for bilby and rare and priority flora in the La Grange Irrigated Agriculture Project Area were undertaken in collaboration with Karajarri and Nyangumarta rangers, Yawuru Country Managers, the Kimberley Land Council and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation.
- ✦ The *Operation Rangelands Restoration* project continued at Matuwa (Lorna Glen former pastoral station). Reintroduced populations of bilby, brushtail possum, mala, golden bandicoot and boodie were monitored. Martu traditional owners and the department will continue to jointly manage this property on the Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara Indigenous Protected Area for conservation and cultural purposes.
- ✦ As a partner in the *Minyma Uninypa – the Seed Women* project funded through the State Government's Aboriginal Ranger Program, the Department provided a seed biology and ecology training course to a group of Spinifex Women Rangers.
- ✦ The Department worked in collaboration with Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa and Metals X with support from the Nifty mining site to undertake a survey for threatened species in and around Karlamilyi National Park that identified new populations of quolls and black-flanked rock wallabies.
- ✦ Marine monitoring of dugong, dolphin and turtle in the Pilbara and Kimberley.
- ✦ The Department worked with Rangelands NRM to deliver ranger workshops and handbooks to assist in surveillance and mitigation work under the *Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia 2014–19*.



## Aboriginal staff represented on new South West Regional Parks Team

A new regional parks management team has been established in the South West region. Its great to see that Aboriginal staff are represented on this new team.

In November 2018 the department welcomed one new Aboriginal Ranger, Jonnie Cobby, and two new Aboriginal Trainee Rangers, Ryley Clarke and Josh Woods, into the recently established Bunbury Regional Parks Team. The three new positions have been created as part of the establishment of two new regional parks (Preston River to Ocean Regional Park & Leschenault Regional Park) in the Bunbury region, which is being funded through the State Government's Royalties for Regions Program.

Ryley and Josh will complete their traineeship through the departments Mentored Aboriginal Traineeship Employment Scheme (MATES)

Jonnie is a Yankunytjatjara/Arrente man who started in the department in 2012 as a MATES trainee based in Yanchep National Park. During his time at Yanchep, Jonnie moved between an operations role during the fire season to a visitor services role, including guiding at the parks Crystal Cave, as well as completing a Certificates III and IV during the traineeship. After leaving Yanchep late last year and relocating to the south west, Jonnie is enthusiastic about being able to 'get in on the ground floor' of a newly formed regional parks team in Bunbury and being involved in the exciting new projects ahead.

Ryley a Noongar woman who grew up in Bunbury, started in Wellington National Park in the Collie District as a seasonal crew member in 2017. She then went on to becoming a Trainee Ranger in the SWALSC Noongar Boodjar Mentored Employment Training Partnership in Blackwood District. In this role Ryley helped with weed control, visitor risk management as well as general campsite clean ups. She is very excited to be a part of the beginning of the new parks and thrilled to work with such a great team.

Josh is a Noongar man who grew up on a family farm east of Albany in a small town called Manypeaks. He has completed a Certificate II in Conservation Land Management while working as a Trainee at South Coast Natural Resource Management in Albany. Following his traineeship Josh moved to Green Skills and worked in the field on a wide range of jobs including weed control, fencing, cultural surveys and boardwalk management. This is Josh's first time working for the department. He is excited to be part of the new team and is looking forward to gaining more experience in his chosen field. He will study to obtain a Certificate III in Conservation Land Management. His career goal is to become a full-time ranger and hopes to be a long-term employee for DBCA.

Tim Hammond is the Regional Parks Operations Officer and has worked for the Department for 10 years. He has qualifications in Cert IV Conservation Land. Tim grew up in Australind spending much of his childhood playing in the proposed Leschenault Regional Park. His Grandmother was a Noongar lady who passed when he was quite young. Tim says he feels at home in the southwest bush and loves taking his daughter for adventures in nature.

The fifth member of the team is Aminya Ennis who is the Regional Parks Coordinator. She brings a wealth of conservation management experience and provides great support to the team. Aminya is organising a Welcome to Country ceremony at the first meeting of the Advisory Board to be held in Bunbury.

For more information on the Preston River to Ocean and Leschenault Regional Parks contact Aminya Ennis on 08 9724 6135



*Right to left: Jonnie Cobby, Josh Woods, Ryley Clarke and Tim Hutton (Regional Parks Operations Officer) at Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park*

### Disturbance of Ancestral Burial Ground—Wellington District

Phillip Ugle is a Trainee Ranger for the South West Land and Sea Council (SWLSC) Noongar Boodja Mentored Employment and Training Partnership. SWLSC have a service contract with the Department as part of the State Aboriginal Ranger Program. Phillip is based at the Wellington District in Collie and recently participated in a significant cultural ceremony.

“One of the mines in Collie was carrying out works next to an ancestral burial ground which has disturbed the old people that came before us in the Collie Wilman Beelagu (river people) Boodja (lands). I was asked to participate in a cultural ceremony that was led by my Uncle Joseph Northover (local Collie Elder and Senior Loreman)” Phillip Ugle.

Punishment for the disturbances had to be carried out according to the old lore’s of the local traditional owners the Wilman Beelagu so the old people could once again be at rest.

Once the fire was lit the ceremony started, in traditional language, the old people were called on to join in; Joe being Elder and knowledge holder had to receive a cultural punishment to appease the spirits of the old people and make right the wrongs of others; which Phillip had to perform. “Following the cultural punishment, we cried for country; for the damage to our lands and waterways; for the impact of what has happened and what is yet to come; to let the old people know that we are trying to protect our lands the best way we can and that we are sorry for not doing our job better as their living descendant’s” Phillip Ugle.

The cultural ceremony ended with a smoking ceremony to cleanse the people. They gathered the red gum leaves and rubbed them under their arm pits so that their old people would know their scent. They threw the leaves onto the fire for the smoke to rise. Phillip then carried out the smoking ceremony cleansing the Elder’s and the people from the mine site who took part in the works that caused the disturbance.

“Once completed it was as if a weight had been lifted and the good feeling returned to that place; we are a part of the oldest living culture in the world. I was so proud to be a part of the cultural ceremony and to have the DBCA Wellington district in Collie supporting me in strengthening my cultural connection to country and understanding my responsibilities as a traditional owner and knowledge holder” Phillip Ugle.





### 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IY2019) to raise awareness of the crucial role languages play in people’s daily lives.

IY2019 is an opportunity to continue raising awareness and taking further actions to improve preservation and promotion of Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

In Australia, it is estimated that there were approximately 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages with 800 dialects at the time of European settlement.

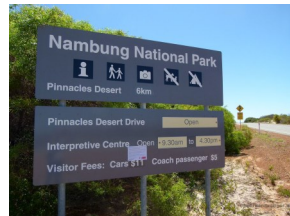
In Western Australia, there are 51 language groups. The six Aboriginal language centres in the state aim to preserve and promote traditional language.

The department is working with over 30 Traditional Owner groups and the language centres around the state.

DBCA supports the aspirations of Aboriginal people in naming of the departments areas, features and assets. In science; the recognition of Aboriginal custodianship of country through the use of Aboriginal meanings and place names are approved by Aboriginal people with the authority to speak for country when describing new species. Examples include the herb *Mitrasacme katjaranka* (meaning ‘near Katjarra’) from the Birriliburu IPA and the freshwater claypan crustacean *Boeckella pilkillilli* (meaning ‘claypan’) from the Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara IPA.

Activities and events will be planned through out the year to acknowledge and celebrate IY2019.

For more information please access the following websites: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/articles/indigenous-australian-languages> and <https://www.arts.gov.au/what-we-do/indigenous-arts-and-languages/indigenous-languages-and-arts-program-language-centres>



**Next Edition:**

- ✦ South West Regional Parks Team Training
- ✦ Perth Water Precinct plan
- ✦ Kings Park Tour Operators
- ✦ Ranger work in Tasmania
- ✦ Murujuga World Heritage
- ✦ Regional Aboriginal Engagement Strategies

**We hope you have enjoyed reading Yarning Time.**

