

# Yarning Time



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



Issue 4: October 2019



## Message from the RAP Co Chair

Welcome to the fourth 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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**Aboriginal Engagement, Planning and Lands Branch — Parks and Visitor Services**

In February 2019, following approval from the Public Sector Commission, it was announced that a new Aboriginal Engagement, Planning and Lands Branch (AEPL) would be established in the Parks and Visitor Services Division.

As Native Title negotiations, reserve creation and management planning processes are interconnected, in practice and legally (for marine reserves), it was decided to bring these functions into one new branch. Government priorities and election commitments influenced the establishment of the branch which will coordinate and target the department’s efforts to achieve the State Government’s *Plan for Our Parks* goal of securing five million hectares of additional parks and reserves in five years.

The branch will be responsible for land administration; preparation of management plans; supporting Aboriginal engagement; supporting Aboriginal tourism; Aboriginal heritage protection, cultural awareness training; joint management and national/world heritage matters including the nomination of Murujuga to the World Heritage List.

Colin Ingram has been appointed AEPL Branch Manager.

The responsibilities of the AEPL Branch units are:

**Land Services Unit — Bok Ho (Land Services Coordinator)**

- ✦ Administering the CALM Act Crown and freehold conservation estate
- ✦ Acquiring Crown and freehold land for addition to the conservation estate, including acquisition through environmental offsets
- ✦ Assisting with negotiation and implementation of CALM Act section 8A and 56A agreements
- ✦ Assisting with the negotiation and implementation of native title agreements and future acts
- ✦ Providing advice on Crown land administration policies, easements, leases and licences

**Native Title Unit — Simon Choo (Coordinator (Native Title))**

- ✦ Negotiating Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) with native title holders for the creation and joint management of *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* lands such as national parks and conservation parks
- ✦ Providing advice to the DBCA on matters relating to the *Native Title Act 1993*
- ✦ Providing advice on matters associated with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*



**Planning Unit — Laurina Bullen (Senior Planning Officer) and Liesl Ludgerus (Senior Marine Conservation Officer)**

- ✦ Preparing management plans for marine and terrestrial parks and reserves in accordance with the CALM Act
- ✦ Management plans set out the policies and processes to manage and protect the values (e.g. natural and cultural) of the lands and waters in the parks or reserve
- ✦ They guide the development of operational documents that provide specific direction for on-ground management actions
- ✦ A management plan can provide for joint management with Aboriginal groups. If lands and waters are jointly managed there must be a joint management agreement attached to the management plan.

**Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit — Rhonda Murphy (Manager)**

- ✦ Providing support and advice regarding Aboriginal culture and heritage
- ✦ Leading the development and implementation of Aboriginal programs and strategies
- ✦ Mentoring support for the Aboriginal Ranger Program
- ✦ Supporting staff with Aboriginal community engagement

**Planning Information Unit — Mark Sheridan (Senior Marine Conservation Officer — Information)**

- ✦ Gathers, develops, analyses, presents and manages spatial information to support planning processes and provides advice so that planning and policy decisions are made on the best available information. This includes spatial information from government, Traditional Owners, stakeholders and users.
- ✦ Develops spatial information products to support planning and management of the State marine reserve system (including management plan maps, planning maps, public brochure maps, operational maps, etc) and reports statistics on the State marine reserve system.
- ✦ Develops spatial components of marine reserve legislation to enable gazettal of reserve boundaries and management zoning and liaises with Landgate and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to formalise marine reserves in the State's land administration system.
- ✦ Provides representation and liaison across Government in regards to marine spatial information and management to support conservation planning.



**AEPL Branch Planning Day**

On 22 August staff from the new Aboriginal Engagement Planning and Lands (AEPL) Branch came together for a planning day with a focus on the roll out of the *Plan for Our Parks* initiative.

The planning day was facilitated by Tammie Reid from Focused Facilitation and aimed to identify how the Branch can best work together to deliver a successful plan through teamwork and effective communication. Unit Leaders gave a presentation on each unit's role and how they can contribute to *Plan for Our Parks*.

*"It was important that as a new branch we could all come together for the first time and identify the challenges and opportunities that exist in delivering Plan for Our Parks and other government priorities. The feedback from the group was very positive and the day was extremely valuable. The task now is to focus on addressing the actions that we identified as achievable and having the highest impact on our efficiency and effectiveness as a branch." — Colin Ingram*

## Ranger work in Tasmania — South West Region

During February this year, in response to the Tasmania bushfires, six Parks and Wildlife Service staff were deployed to assist in backfilling ranger roles of Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife staff who were assisting with their bushfire operations.

Staff from the department's Kimberly, South West and Warren regions were deployed to various locations throughout Tasmania including Launceston, Mt Field, Bruny Island, Seven Mile Beach, St Helens and Maria Island.

Roles that the staff undertook included campground compliance, walk trail maintenance, restoration works, and general park maintenance.

It was a great opportunity for staff to experience how things are done by a department in another State that is involved in the same business as WA's Parks and Wildlife Service and there were some great synergies developed during the two-week deployment.

South West Aboriginal ranger Jonnie Cobby shared some time with an Aboriginal ranger from Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania while stationed on Bruny Island, which he said was one of the highlights of his time in Tasmania. Jonnie was fortunate enough to be shown some local shell middens and petroglyphs on the island, which resulted in a cross-cultural exchange between the two Aboriginal rangers.

In total, 54 WA Parks and Wildlife Service employees were deployed to Tasmania to assist with the bushfire relief efforts.



*WA Parks and Wildlife staff with Tasmanian Park and Wildlife staff at the Glenorchy office, Hobart. Jonnie Cobby, second from the left.*

## Reconciliation Week

The National Reconciliation Week (NRW) theme for 2019 was 'Grounded in Truth, Walk together with Courage'. The text below was featured on the department's online shop which sold 354 Park Passes with the NRW Grounded in Truth Logo (pictured right).

NRW is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

NRW runs from 27 May to 3 June each year and commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey — the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

At the heart of reconciliation is the relationship between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. To foster positive race relations, our relationship must be grounded in a foundation of truth.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is committed to the national reconciliation effort by continuing to promote strong working partnerships with Aboriginal people. The department recognises the valuable and significant contribution made by Aboriginal people through their connection with and responsibility for land, water and heritage.

"Here in Australia we're fortunate enough to have one of the richest and oldest continuing cultures in the world. This is something we should all be proud of and celebrate."

**Dr Tom Calma AO** — Reconciliation Australia Co Chair



## Exmouth — Pilbara Region — Welcome of new patrol vessel Mayabula

Traditional Owners, Parks and Wildlife Service staff and Coral Bay community members gathered on a spectacular day in May during National Reconciliation Week to welcome our new Patrol Vessel (PV) Mayabula to its Country, the Ningaloo Marine Park. Members of our Joint Management partners and local Baiyungu Elders, Gwen Peck and Hazel Walgar, gave the vessel Mayabula its name in honor of a Baiyungu hero, the head fisherman of the tribe.

Mrs Hazel Walgar, Traditional Owner of the Ningaloo Coast, explained the importance of the smoking ceremony: "We use it for healing and at family gatherings to rest and pay respect to our spirits at special occasions. Traditional Owners, the people of the land, always need to acknowledge the people of the past, their Elders, and to begin new journeys with a clear mind and be fresh to start the future journey ahead. Mayabula was the name of one of our old Grandfathers, he was a very respected fisherman and he was always on the water."

The PV Mayabula will be used to patrol the Ningaloo Marine Park, facilitate research projects and respond to marine wildlife incidents such as whale entanglements. The naming of the vessel and the story of Mayabula comes at an important time as we move into Joint Management of the Ningaloo Marine Park, Nyngulu Coastal Reserve and the Cape Range National Park. All gathered at nearby Nyarrara Bula (Snapper Headland) after the smoking to share a barbeque lunch and pay our respects on National Reconciliation Week while PV Mayabula rested peacefully at anchor in the turquoise lagoon below.



*Baiyungu Elders Hazel Walgar, Gwen Peck and Charlie Baron alongside Exmouth District Manager Arvid Hogstrom during the smoking of PV Mayabula.*



*PV Mayabula on her maiden voyage through the Coral Bay lagoon with Traditional Owners and DBCA staff.*



*Senior Traditional Owners get ready to board.*

## Reconciliation Week continued ... Broome — Kimberley Region

To celebrate and recognise National Reconciliation Week, Parks and Wildlife Service's Yawuru rangers in the West Kimberley hosted a special morning tea in Minyirr Buru Conservation Park.

Celebrations were started with a Welcome to Country followed by a smoking ceremony, a bush medicine walk, and some tucker.

The department's Kimberly Region is committed to reconciliation which is demonstrated through our joint management partnerships and recognition of the important role traditional owners play in planning, managing and protecting conservation in marine and terrestrial environments.

At the heart of reconciliation is the relationship between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This year's theme 'Grounded in Truth' emphasises that to foster positive race relations, our relationship must be grounded in a foundation of truth.



## Kensington — Bush Tucker Morning Tea

Approximately 40 staff members at Kensington were joined by guest speaker Marissa Verma from Bindi Bindi Dreaming and Derek Nannup, Eco-Education Officer (Yanchep National Park).

Derek did a presentation on Aboriginal history showcasing his personal story and how that has affected and changed his view on life. He brought the show to life with his add-in jokes and ended his talk with a little play on the didgeridoo.

Marissa spoke about Noongar culture including sharing knowledge on native herbs and spices and how they are used today. After the presentations, staff enjoyed a fully catered bush tucker themed morning tea provided by Bindi Bindi Dreaming. The day was well received and enjoyed by all who attended.



## NAIDOC Week

### Bunbury — South West Region — Yaka Dandjoo NAIDOC Week event

To kick off the 2019 NAIDOC celebrations, Parks and Wildlife Service staff attended the flag raising ceremony in Bunbury. There was a strong turnout from the community with highlights being the recognition of the outstanding achievements of the Annual NAIDOC Awards recipients and the very powerful words from local Elder, Uncle Dennis Jetta at the closing of the ceremony. He really sent home the 2019 theme of NAIDOC: VOICE. TREATY. TRUTH. Safe to say that everyone in attendance took something away from his solid message.

In the week before NAIDOC, coinciding with the last week of the school term, a seven-day event in Harvey celebrated the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The event included art workshops, tools and weapons displays, bush tucker sampling and displays from the South West *Nearer to Nature* team and Bunbury Regional Parks Unit Aboriginal Rangers.

Finally, to close out the week of celebrations staff ran two stalls at the Southwest Aboriginal Medical Service and Deadly Jobs expo Family Fun day. A NAIDOC Week event held annually at the Bunbury Trotting Track.

This is a huge event for the local area and our stalls attracted a steady flow of people throughout the day. The stalls included the *Nearer to Nature* trailer with its interactive display, and a tools and weapons stall run by Karim from the Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit, again with assistance from the Regional Parks Aboriginal Rangers.

All the events were a great opportunity to join in the wider community to celebrate NAIDOC week and showcase some of the work we do. Hopefully next year's event is even bigger and brighter!



## NAIDOC Week continued ... Kensington — Danggu Reunion

About 60 Kensington staff and external guests were treated to a presentation by David Woods (A/District Manager, West Kimberley), Joe (Willigan) Ross (Danggu reunion organiser and family member) and Tracy Smith (Danggu family member and reunion participant) on their participation and role in the Danggu Reunion which closed Danggu/Geikie Gorge for three days during peak travel season so that Danggu family members and Traditional Owners could walk back on country.

Marcia McGuire Brownley delivered a Welcome to Country on behalf of May McGuire. This was followed by an address by DBCA Director General Mark Webb. Colin Ingram (Aboriginal Engagement Planning and Lands Branch Manager) was the MC for the event and each presenter was given a tribute photo collage of an old black and white photo of the family taken in 1920 and a group photo taken at the reunion (see below).

After the presentations, guests — some of whom were Danggu family members — enjoyed a light morning tea and refreshments. Many stayed behind to talk about the reunion and many commented on how spectacular the event was.



*Danggu Family: 1920 to now.*



Joe Ross presenting at the event.



Dave Woods



Tracy Smith

## Yanchep National Park — Swan Region

Staff and volunteers at Yanchep National Park were pleased to host the annual NAIDOC Week celebration on Saturday 13 July 2019.

Visitors were welcomed with a beautiful didgeridoo duet performed by Derek Nannup and his son Damien. The Wangi Mia was a hive of activity throughout the day as children and adults came together to create sand art, play traditional games, paint boomerangs, do face painting and enjoy some delicious bush tucker. Derek shared his culture throughout the day with local and international visitors and the Koolungah Waabiny (Children Playing) celebration culminated in an interactive Aboriginal Cultural activity.

As the sun went down, the tone of the day turned more serious, as Derek hosted the Breaking Down Barriers session to help adults understand some of the history of Aboriginal and other Australians, and the policies and practices that considerably affected Australia's Aboriginal community.

Derek said that he was pleased to have the opportunity to sit around the campfire and talk about the true meaning behind this year's theme for NAIDOC, 'Voice, Treaty, Truth'.

Julia Coggins, Park Manager, said: "I attended the evening yarning time and, along with everyone else I spoke to, gained knowledge on a whole new slice of history, the Acts and the impacts these had on the first peoples and how they are still being felt generations later. It was a humbling experience and mixed of course with Derek's humour – I'm so glad I was there"





## Roelands Village Festival — South West Region

*'We collaborate across government and with community, industry and other stakeholders to build long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships.'* — DBCA Strategic Directions 2018-21

With this in mind, earlier this year DBCA staff, including the South West Regional Parks Team (SWRPT), the Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit (AEHU) and other staff attended and helped out at the Roelands Village Festival.

Roelands Village is an organisation looking to create a positive place of healing and development for the children of the mission and their families. Roelands Mission was home to over 500 stolen generation children. The festival was held to create an area where culture can be rediscovered and opportunities can begin to grow.

Tina Bowers (AEHU) with the help of First Class Constable and Youth Crime Intervention Officer Kabe Redfern and fellow police officer Senior Constable Tony Guest cooked up a storm with providing a free sausage sizzle to fellow festival goers.

Jonnie Cobby and Josh Woods (SWRPT) held an information booth showcasing endangered native animals and Karim Khan (AEHU) passed on some traditional knowledge on Aboriginal artefacts and how they were used. He also taught children how to make string from reeds.

It was a great and enjoyable day.



*Left to right: First Class Constable and Youth Crime Intervention Officer Kabe Redfern, DBCA staff Tina Bowers and Senior Constable Tony Guest.*



*DBCA staff Tina Bowers.*



*DBCA Staff Josh Woods (left) and Peter Henderson (right)*



*DBCA staff Jonnie Cobbie (left) and Josh Woods (right).*



*DBCA staff Karim Khan.*



*DBCA staff Jonnie Cobbie (front) and Josh Woods (back) manning the Native Animals booth.*

## Ningaloo Coast Joint Management Body — Pilbara Region

In a historic moment in May this year, the Exmouth District formally entered into Joint Management with Gnulli Traditional Owners. The establishment of the Ningaloo Coast Joint Management Body (JMB) represents the achievement of a shared vision for both District Management and Senior Traditional Owners.

Mrs Hazel Walgar, JMB Member and Senior Traditional Owner said: “Many years ago I was sitting on the veranda at Cardabia Station watching and listening to past Elders talk about their vision for protecting our heritage sites, passing down knowledge, preserving our language and looking after and working on country. Today we come together to fulfil our past Elder’s vision with the Joint Management Agreement between DBCA and Traditional Owners, working together creating opportunities for younger generations through employment, traineeships, learning about cultural values and connecting to country.”

The JMB is made up of four Traditional Owner representatives from the Gnulli Native Title Claimants and three senior DBCA Staff from the Pilbara Region and meets four times per year. The JMB is a collaborative decision-making body that draws on cultural knowledge and western scientific expertise to protect and conserve the immense cultural significance and the World Heritage values of Ningaloo Coast for present and future generations. The JMB is tasked with guiding the management of the Cape Range National Park, Ningaloo Marine Park and the Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves.

The Ningaloo Coast JMB met for the first time in May and again recently in July and has focused on progressing the creation of the Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves including management interventions to protect threatened heritage sites and sensitive coastal vegetation whilst still maintaining the much valued Nyinggulu Coast visitor experience of low key, self-sufficient bush camping.

*“The idea of working hand in hand with Traditional Owners to manage the Ningaloo Coast has long been an aspiration of the department and we have been working closely together for almost 20 years to achieve this outcome. I am proud to have been involved with this process to date and I am so happy to work alongside the likes of Gwen, Paul, Brenda and Hazel to ensure Ningaloo is managed to the highest possible standard. The whole program is built off a long relationship of trust, respect and friendship that can only grow stronger over time.” — Arvid Hogstrom, Exmouth District Manager*



*Traditional Owners and DBCA staff outside the Exmouth District Office after the completion of the first JMB meeting in May 2019. From the left: Scott Thompson, Ethan Cooyou, Sarah Johnstone, Hazel Walgar, Gwen Peck, Ray De Jong, Tom Nagle, Simon Choo, Arvid Hogstrom, Paul Baron, Charlie Baron, Ailsa Johnstone, Jermaine Baron and Cody Farrell.*

## Nyinggulu Coastal Reserve — Pilbara Region — Heritage Surveys

After a monumental planning effort, Exmouth District staff finally got out onto country and completed thorough Aboriginal Heritage Surveys along the Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves and Cape Range National Park coastline in June 2019.

With the assistance of archaeologists from Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) and 12 Gnulli Traditional Owners, 21 sites ranging in size from 100m<sup>2</sup> to 15 hectares were covered. The group were looking for physical or ethnographic evidence of Aboriginal use and occupation of the area ahead of proposed capital works and visitor management initiatives.

Once the evidence was located (in the form of stone tools, middens and other artefacts), avoidance boundaries around the sites were recorded. This means that when carparks and picnic areas are redeveloped and access tracks are realigned these works won't disturb or damage Aboriginal heritage or the heritage values of the area. This is a major priority of the Ningaloo Coast Joint Management Body.

It ended up being 10 straight days of travelling and surveying from Red Bluff in the south to as far north as the Cape Range entry gate to the north. Throw in a bit of rain, some closed roads and plenty of good yarns and it all contributed to a really enjoyable and productive project with some great outcomes for the District and the Gnulli mob.



*Grinding stones on the Nyinggulu Coastal Reserve.*



*Survey team working along a transect on the Nyinggulu Coastal Reserve.*



*Chert chips from stone tools observed at an artefact scatter on the Nyinggulu Coastal Reserve.*



*Cape Range National Park Heritage Survey team ready to begin a transect.*



## Kalbarri Skywalk and Infrastructure Project — Midwest Region

The Kalbarri Skywalk and Infrastructure Project will see the development of tourism infrastructure and sealed roads and carparks to three sites in Kalbarri National Park. These include Z Bend, Meanarra Hill and the Skywalk site, thanks to *Royalties for Regions* funding. The major tourism development will be two steel skywalks projecting beyond the gorge rim more than 100m above the Murchison Gorge.

The project team from the Midwest office have been working closely with the Nanda traditional owners to ensure the site is promoting an understanding of Aboriginal culture through interpretive and artistic elements. Input was sought from a representative Nanda Advisory group who meet regularly with the project team to discuss what stories to tell and what images can be used to tell this story. The groups' first meeting was on-site mid-2017 followed by workshops, sharing of ideas and supplying photographs, Nanda language through regular meetings.

The project team also provide an overview of the project developments to the Yamatji Aboriginal corporation representative group YMAC. Interpretation signage at the site will include the many registered Aboriginal sites found in the visitors' panoramic view. Perth graphic design company Creative Spaces is working with the project team to ensure all three sites provide visitors with an understanding from a natural, geological and cultural perspective.

The development will include a variety of artwork by talented Nanda artists: mainly Kayla Hampton, Colleen and Mauretta Drage plus smaller pieces from local Nanda people, both young and old. On entry to the Skywalk site visitors will be welcomed with an impressive entry sign stating *Kaju Yatka*, the Nanda words for Sky Walk and a Welcome to Country. Kayla's 'Coming Together' design will be sand blasted into concrete at the entry carpark. This design tells the story of people from all walks of life coming together, pathways show different directions where people come and go, the hands represent people's strength and unity and the dots represent the people from all around the world who come to learn the Nanda stories from their Ancestors. Kayla has drawn a Beemarra, the snake of the Nanda people, which will also be sandblasted through sections of the pathway leading visitors from the carpark to the Skywalk. And her painting of the Beemarra features throughout three interpretive Nanda walls that will show visitors who the Nanda people are, their past and present, their traditional life, dreamtime and language. Colleen and Mauretta's works feature at the Skywalk through message sticks and stone carvings of cultural designs.

The development of the Z Bend and Meanarra Hill sites are almost complete and highlight to visitors the connections of Nanda people to their country via interpretive signage and oral stories. The Skywalk site is expected to open in early 2020. Project Manager Rory Chapple is the RAP representative for the Geraldton office and hopes visitors will come away with a true understanding and knowledge of the Nanda people.



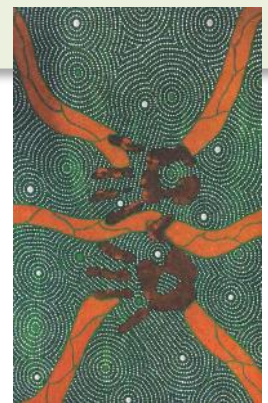
Message sticks.



Stone carvings.



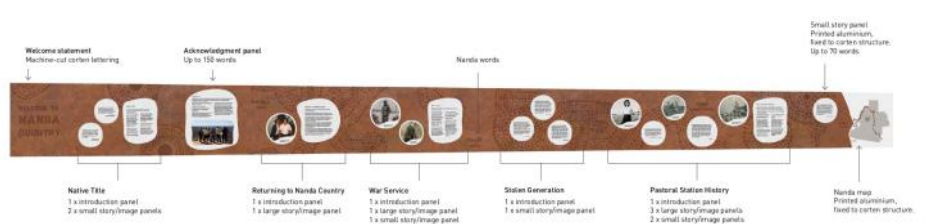
Beemarra story painting by Kayla Hampton.



Coming Together.



Advisory Group on site.



Nanda Wall face.



## Toolibin Revegetation Project — Wheatbelt Region

In early July 2019, Parks and Wildlife Service staff from the Wheatbelt Region partnered with the Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) to complete revegetation work on a recently purchased block of former agricultural land adjacent to Toolibin Lake Nature Reserve.

Toolibin Lake is a Ramsar registered wetland within the Toolibin Catchment where over 90 percent of the native vegetation has been cleared. The revegetation project was part funded by South West Catchments Council aims to reduce the affects of altered hydrology in the form of rising saline ground water levels and waterlogging, along with increasing the biodiversity of the area.

Johnnie Rodd (Ngoolark Ranger Team Leader) and Kerry Rodd (Ngoolark Ranger) and their team of rangers worked under the direction of Toolibin staff. Rain in the days just prior to planting made perfect conditions for planting new seedlings but made for very muddy and wet conditions to work in. Fortunately, the sun shone for most of the time, keeping the rangers in high spirits.

The BAC rangers approached the work enthusiastically, enjoying their time at Toolibin Lake, undertaking warm up stretches each morning and happily going about their task. In total they managed to plant 20,000 seedlings over an area of about 12 ha, including 17 different species of plants local to the area.

While they were working the rangers were visited by Les Eades, a local Aboriginal Elder to the area who grew up just a short distance from the lake at Toolibin townsite. Les undertook a smoking ceremony with the rangers to welcome them to country and help look after them while they undertook their work. Les shared stories of his time growing up in the area, how the lake and surrounding country had changed, and the importance of the work being undertaken by the rangers and the department. It was also a great opportunity to get Les back out to country which he hadn't had the chance to see for a number of years.

The project provided a great opportunity for DBCA and the BAC to work together to provide employment opportunities and achieve conservation goals, with both groups looking to continue to work together into the future.



## Daisy Farmer — Wheatbelt Region

Daisy Farmer joined the department under the Noongar Boodja Mentored Employment and Training Partnership project and is in the final months of her training.

During her time at Parks and Wildlife Service, Wheatbelt Region Daisy has participated in a range of activities over the parks, conservation and fire services throughout the Wheatbelt. She has enjoyed the practical tasks and gained experience in working the kanga, chainsaw work and recreation run.

With the dedication of her training coordinator, Shannon Wilson and her work supervisor, Charlie Myres, and the support of staff from the Wheatbelt, Daisy completed the program and attended the graduation ceremony in August. Well done Daisy from all your colleagues in the Wheatbelt.



Left to right: Shannon Wilson and Daisy Farmer.

## Ngadju Signage — South Coast Region

Helen Langley from the Ngadju Conservation Aboriginal Corporation (NCAC) worked with Jacki Baxter from the Visitor Communication Unit to develop signage for two places on Ngadju country in the Great Western Woodlands.

The learning opportunity will enable Helen to work on other signs that the Corporation want to install on Ngadju country so that visitors are aware of how to care for the place.

In May this year Ngadju Rangers installed the signs at Buldania and Ten Mile.

A few words from Helen:

*“Thank you to the DBCA team for designing the signs and organising the build and delivery.*

*“Gwendolen, thank you for the excellent design work and putting up with me and all the small changes I made. Also thanks for liaising with Jason Signs to get the signs made.*

*“Jacki, wonderful to meet you and work with you, and thanks so much for all the advice and suggestions.*

*And finally Ian, thank you for offering DBCA’s design team assistance. We now have a great template to work off for future signage, and also when you offered to have Jason’s Signs bill DBCA for the build and delivery, it saved NCAC thousands of dollars.”*



Rangers William Newchurch and Andrew Brown.

## Trainees get involved in Geraldton Revegetation Project — Midwest Region

In July/August this year, six trainees from the Midwest area came together to assist with the third stage of a major revegetation project in the Moresby Conservation Park, about 10km north of Geraldton.

Moresby Conservation Park was previously part of a freehold agricultural property that was predominantly farmed for sheep and grain crops, resulting in clearing of portions of the lower slopes and flat top. In 2001, the then Department of Conservation and Land Management purchased the land. Since then the property has been managed for conservation and is now formally Moresby Conservation Park R 71376 managed by DBCA. The Conservation Park tenure indicates the reserve is managed for flora and fauna conservation while allowing for future recreational development.

Once they had gathered in Geraldton, the trainees — Caleb Shaw (Cervantes), Christine Drayton and Jordan Jackamarra (Jurien), Steven Eley and Victor Mourambine (Kalbarri) and Kailah Dodd (Geraldton) — undertook a review of the written activity of their CERT III unit Implement Revegetation Works, a further review of the Job Safety Analysis, and completed the day with a video and demonstration of the use of the potti-putki planting tool.

The following day they hit the ground running, getting straight into planting a share of 56,000 seedlings. The seedlings had been propagated at a nursery east of Narrogin and the seed had all been collected from the Moresby area. With the extra assistance, the planting was completed in no time. The group of trainees planted at least 28,000 seedlings in three-and-a-half days. Despite the warm conditions and the huge effort, all were still smiling at the completion of the planting. An excellent outcome for all.



*Victor Mourambine sets a steady pace.*



*Seedlings getting selected and loaded.*



*Christine Drayton and Jordan Jackamarra enjoying the sunshine and planting.*



*Caleb Shaw loading up with seedlings.*



**Above:** trainees gather to discuss which seedlings need to be loaded. From the left: Victor Mourambine, Kailah Dodd, Jordan Jackamarra, Christine Drayton, Steven Eley, Project coordinator Alanna Chant, Caleb Shaw.

**Left,** from the left: Kailah Dodd (Geraldton), Christine Drayton (Jurien Bay), Caleb Shaw (Cervantes), Victor Mourambine (Kalbarri), Steven Eley (Kalbarri), Jordan Jackamarra (Jurien Bay).

### Aboriginal Cultural tours — a new addition to Kings Park and Botanic Garden

Today in Kings Park and Botanic Garden, visitors can immerse themselves in Nyoongar culture on walking tours, self-guided trails, in Kings Park Education programs for school students and by exploring public artwork. Or simply stand on the scarp of Kaarta Koomba, look out and imagine what the view would have been like for the Wadjuk Nyoongar people before the city was established.

Recently Kings Park and Botanic Garden (Kaarta Koomba) welcomed two new Aboriginal cultural tourism operators to deliver tours in Kings Park. These tourism-targeted tours in Kings Park are presented by Nyungar Tours (Kerri-Ann Winmar) and Go Cultural Aboriginal Tours and Experiences (Walter and Meg McGuire). These owner-operated businesses offer a different perspective and both are proving popular with tourists from around the world.

With a long Aboriginal history and deep spiritual connections for the Wadjuk Noongar people, Kaarta Koomba is an ideal location for visitors to experience this ancient element of Western Australian culture.

With more visitors to Western Australia looking to immerse themselves in the world’s oldest living culture, Kings Park is excited to promote these new tours and products and help grow local Aboriginal businesses. According to recent Tourism WA data, 78 percent of visitors to Western Australia seek an Aboriginal cultural experience of some kind.



*Kerri-Ann Winmar—Nyungar Tours.*



*Walter McGuire—Go Cultural Aboriginal Tours.*



### Yued Ponar Trail Open Day — Midwest Region

On 22 July DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) staff were delighted to be joined by Yued elders and other stakeholders for the official opening of the Yued Ponar Trail (Yued ‘Seasons’ Trail) in Lesueur National Park. The 7.1km trail features interpretive signage of the six Yued seasons. Joined by his grandson and PWS ranger’s assistant, Caleb Shaw, Elder Charlie Shaw gave a Welcome to Country and cut a bush ribbon to mark the opening. Yued artists Fatima Drayton and Mary Nannup provided most of the artwork for the signage, with Charlie Shaw and Margaret Drayton assisting with the wording and Yued language.

The four-year project relied on efforts from local Moora District PWS staff, Yued representatives, work crews from PWS Blackwood District, DBCA Sign Design Studio, DBCA Recreation and Landscape Unit, Cervantes Aluminium and Steel and trail contractors. The artwork and signage was developed over two years, resulting in unique and beautiful site specific information. The trail itself takes visitors across several vegetation types, culminating in sweeping views of Lesueur and the distant ocean from the breakaway country and Mount Peron.

For information contact Dave Henke or Brad Rushforth on 9688 6000.





## Round 2 Aboriginal Ranger Program funding announced

Environment Minister Stephen Dawson and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ben Wyatt recently announced the recipients of the second round of the Aboriginal Ranger Program. Round 2 funding has been allocated to 14 projects across WA

A total of \$9.25 million was available in this round for single or multi-year projects up to three years. It followed funding of \$8.45 million allocated in the first round of the program.

The second round of funding has resulted in the creation of 42 full-time or part-time positions for Aboriginal people, including 21 female ranger positions. A further 55 casual positions and 87 training opportunities have been created in this round.

Under the program, new and existing Aboriginal organisations can employ and train rangers to carry out land and sea management and tourism activities across a range of tenures in remote and regional Western Australia.

Environment Minister Stephen Dawson said:

*The McGowan Labor Government's Aboriginal Ranger Program is creating opportunities for Aboriginal communities across Western Australia. The funding delivered last year under the first round of the program is already having positive social, cultural, economic and environmental outcomes. More than 100 Aboriginal people have gained employment, of which 60 percent were women. At least 70 people are undertaking some form of training, ranging from developing land management skills, to Aboriginal site work and tourism guiding. The projects funded under round two will create further pathways for Aboriginal people to develop careers in land and sea management while also providing long-term cultural and conservation outcomes.*

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ben Wyatt said:

*The Aboriginal Ranger Program is helping to build stronger, more resilient communities. By creating more opportunities across Western Australia, the program is enabling Aboriginal men and women to manage country and help build community leadership, wellbeing and resilience. After talking to people involved in Aboriginal ranger groups, it's clear that these groups are helping to strengthen connection to country and are contributing to greater community identity and pride. It's great to see this program going from strength to strength and I look forward to seeing more positive outcomes as a result of this funding.*

For more information about the [Aboriginal Ranger Program](#) and successful applicants, please go to:

- ★ [dbca.wa.gov.au/aboriginalrangerprogram](http://dbca.wa.gov.au/aboriginalrangerprogram)



Round 1 SWALSC Aboriginal Ranger Program participants.



Bardi Jawi Rangers.



Spinifex Seed Woman  
— Pila Nguru  
Aboriginal Corporation.



Nyul Nyul Rangers.

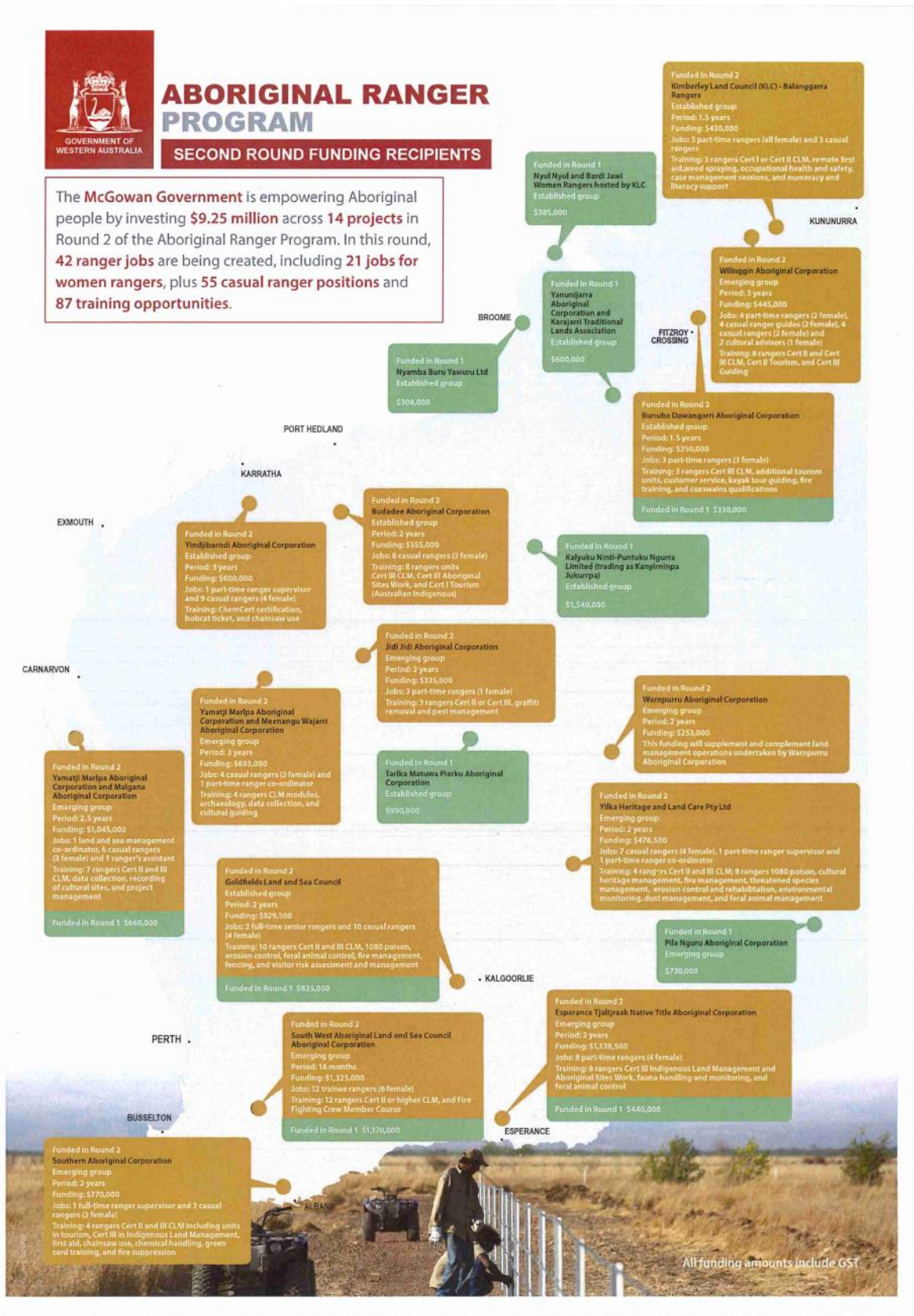
## Round 2 Aboriginal Ranger Program funding continued...



# ABORIGINAL RANGER PROGRAM

## SECOND ROUND FUNDING RECIPIENTS

The McGowan Government is empowering Aboriginal people by investing \$9.25 million across 14 projects in Round 2 of the Aboriginal Ranger Program. In this round, 42 ranger jobs are being created, including 21 jobs for women rangers, plus 55 casual ranger positions and 87 training opportunities.



## Aboriginal Connections Workshop — Kimberley Region

The Aboriginal staff in the Kimberley Region are valued for their professionalism and contribution to the work of the region. A special workshop was held to focus on team building and reviewing employment in the department. The staff from AEHU were invited to facilitate a workshop with staff from the East and West Kimberley Districts.

### Welcome

Danggu Geikie Gorge Traditional Owner and elder Mary Aiken gave a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony for the departmental employees.

### Team Building

After the welcome, staff from the Broome campus of the North Regional TAFE facilitated some fun team building activities:

#### Day 1

- Problem solving as a team (the water measuring task)
- Numeracy activities combined with team work (the tennis ball game)
- Problem solving/communication (the rubber band/string/cup game)
- Time/speed/distance solving and communication/teamwork (the race on the wooden planks)
- Camp oven cook-off
- Bird ID "twitch-a-thon" competition

The evening finished with a camp oven cook-off. The food was delicious with a huge variety including: curries, chicken soup, damper and a beef brisket.

#### Day 2

- The amazing race
- Communication and problem solving (blindfold and puzzle game)
- Communication and problem solving (wooden-plank-across-the-lava race)
- Communication skills (screwdriver game)
- Jam night

The Aboriginal staff also got to experience the DBCA-run Geikie Gorge Boat tour, presented by Traditional Owner Mary Aiken. History and traditional knowledge was shared and enjoyed by all.



Traditional Owner Mary Aiken performing the Welcome to Country.



Smoking Ceremony.



Race on wooden planks.



Water measuring.



Screwdriver game.



Wooden-plank-across-lava race.



Blindfold and puzzle game.

### Aboriginal Connections Workshop — Kimberley Region continued ...



*Camp oven cook-off.*



*Above and below: Ms Casey Ross Geikie Gorge Boat Tour.*



*The connections workshop group.*



### Aboriginal Connections Workshop continued...

On day two staff from the department’s Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit facilitated a workshop for all Aboriginal staff in the Kimberley region to catch up and share experiences gained in their roles and provide a forum for discussion on how the region is supporting Aboriginal staff regarding their employment conditions.

Similar networking had occurred in the past, however these were for rangers only. This workshop was an opportunity for employees in a range of roles to come together.

Aboriginal staff were able to provide feedback to management on how they were feeling, what’s working, what’s not working, are there things that can be done better and overall working conditions. Discussions were also held with individual supervisors and managers.

The morning after the workshop, Jason Richardson and Henry Corpus provided feedback to the Regional Manager and District Managers of behalf of their colleagues. The fact regional management leaders wanted to hear and listened to the feedback with everyone together was really important to the Aboriginal staff.

Staff appreciated the workshop being held and acknowledged the work of management to support Aboriginal staff in the Kimberley Region. The opportunity for all staff to network, have discussions and share ideas was also appreciated.

The general consensus was that the Aboriginal staff like working for the department, enjoyed their roles, feel valued and their culture is respected. There are areas that could be improved, and they would like to have input into making these changes.



*Above and below: Review and discussion of key points from the workshop.*



#### Next Edition:

- ✦ Esperance Tjaltjraak NTAC
- ✦ Work at Pargurr in the Western Desert
- ✦ Perth Water Precinct Plan
- ✦ Indigenous Conservation Employee promoted to Ranger after six years service
- ✦ Murujuga World Heritage List nomination
- ✦ Revegetation in the Moresby Range
- ✦ Plan for Our Parks
- ✦ Regional Aboriginal Engagement Strategies
- ✦ Gibson Desert Traditional Owner trip to Miriuwung and Gajerrong country
- ✦ Pilbara Region construction — carpark and Deep Gorge

### We hope you enjoyed reading Yarning Time



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



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