

Yarning Time



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Issue 5: December 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
- 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



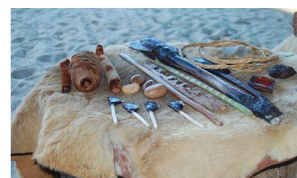
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters it manages, and recognises their continuing connection to land, water and community.

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Rivers and Estuaries Science Unit - Swan Region

The Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES) supports career development for Aboriginal staff through training and acting opportunities. Veronica Wilson is a Wongi woman from country around Kalgoorlie. She has a degree in Conservation Biology and Botany and completed the Public Sector Commission Aboriginal Traineeship Program. Veronica was given an opportunity for a secondment within the department.

In July 2019, the Rivers and Estuaries Science Unit was created within Biodiversity and Conservation Science. This is a very busy unit with over 20 projects on the go and with its creation came responsibility for the Swan Canning Water Quality Monitoring Program, which had previously been outsourced to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Staff were initially seconded from existing roles to undertake the monitoring until positions could be filled through an externally advertised recruitment process.

“We were fortunate to secure Veronica Wilson on a 4-month secondment from the Swan Region. Veronica is a self-motivated, quiet achiever, who fitted into our unit at a time of orderly chaos, as we scrambled to build the unit and the many projects within it, into a credible force. Our success (the bits you see) is underpinned by the hard work, dedication, discipline, persistence and a learning culture of all the staff involved and Veronica’s contribution to getting this program rolling cannot be underestimated. We greatly appreciate her efforts and time. Her story and a perfect analogy of her time with us are found on the next page” Dr Kerry Trayler (*Principle Scientist, Rivers and Estuaries Branch*)



*Rivers and Estuaries Science Program team with the Executive Director of Biodiversity Conservation Science
(Back: Peter Howie, Jeff Cosgrove, Josh Baker, Peter Novak, Sam Robinson, Jake Watsham, Steeg Hoeksema)
(Front: Suzanne Thompson; Margaret Byrne, Veronica Wilson; Kerry Trayler)
Photo credits: Miranda Jackson*



Rivers and Estuaries Unit - Swan Region Continued...

Over the months of June to September I was assisting the Rivers and Estuaries Science (RES) team with the river and catchment monitoring program. For those of you unfamiliar with this program I like to describe it as a “water sampling iceberg”. The RES team can be seen out on the departmental boats or hanging around a drain simply collecting water; thus the “tip of the iceberg”.

Is it really that simple you ask yourself?

My answer in short would be; no, It is not that simple! There is by far, A LOT MORE work that goes on under the surface. Lurking just below the water’s surface was a comprehensive list of tasks. These range from preparing for the sampling run, maintaining and calibrating the sondes, ordering and maintaining equipment used to collect and filter the water sample and... Stop.. Breath... have we forgotten anything?

That would be a yes, and we go on; reversing the boat trailer and launching the boat, collecting and identifying phytoplankton, completing paperwork both before and after, record keeping, lab chemistry analysis, downloading data, creating graphs... the list goes on. I cut that short for ease of understanding. Hopefully you managed to make it to the end, and you now understand why I view these jobs as the rest of the iceberg; the many unseen and hidden tasks taking place below the surface.

My section of the iceberg was mainly the on-ground collection of the samples. This involved; calibrating the sondes and gathering all the equipment needed for that specific run and loading it on to the boat or car. Then we would either go out on the boat or car and record the field observations, collect the water samples (anywhere from 2 to 9 bottles at a site, depending on the run) and if on a boat run collect the phytoplankton sample.

Once returning from the sampling run we would have to do a post calibration of the sonde, downloading and editing the data the instrument had collected. Next we would complete the paper work, get the samples to the lab for analysis or ready for pick up, and then clean and wash down all the equipment that had been used that day. Lastly we would return the equipment to its place, so it was ready for the next sampling run!

I’ve had a great time on board the ‘RES Titanic’, navigating the water sampling iceberg. You have been an awesome team to work with and I have learnt a heap! I have even developed an appreciation of fish, despite my initial reluctance. In my defence, my training and experience has previously been botany focussed. As you know, fish and land plants are quite different. What can I say? Ultimately, the pet office fish got me hook, line and sinker!

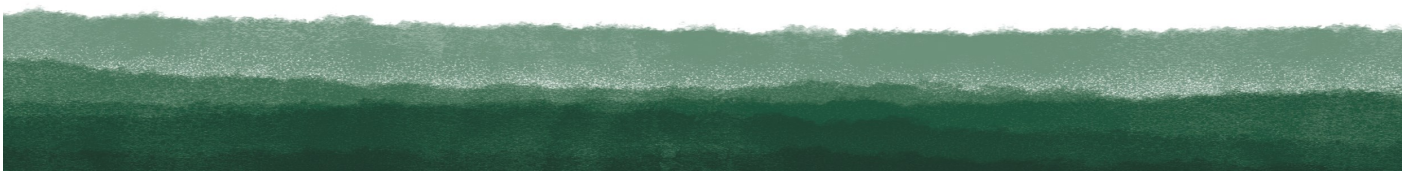
Veronica Wilson



*Veronica using sonde to take physico-chemical profile of river site
Photo credit: Suzanne Thompson*



*Veronica taking water sample of drain as part of catchment water
quality assessment
Photo credits: Suzanne Thompson*



Regional Parks Unit site visit with Bunbury Elders Group - South West Region

On Thursday the 5th of September, DBCA's Bunbury Regional Parks Unit was joined by the Greater Bunbury Aboriginal Community Elders Group to visit some areas of interest in the proposed Preston River to Ocean and Leschenault Regional Parks in the Greater Bunbury area.

The focus of the day was to show the Elders Group some of the areas that the Regional Parks team have been focusing on, the work that is being undertaken by the team, any issues associated with certain areas, such as access or weed management, potential future projects and development of some areas as well as strengthening the relationship between the two groups.

The first stop on the tour was along the Brunswick River. The Regional Parks team showed areas that are highly weed infested and other areas that had been sprayed, the difference that the ongoing weed management had was clearly visible. Also, while we sat at the Brunswick River, the Elders shared some local knowledge about the area's cultural significance and other historical uses. This would prove to shape the rest of the days site visits, where the Regional Parks team would talk about current works and other relevant site-specific information, then the discussion was complimented by the Elders Group sharing their knowledge of the area.

The information that was shared was extremely valuable to the Regional Parks team, as the nature of the information shared isn't something you can easily find in a book or online, the team knew then that this was going to be a special day.

The next stop on the tour was to an area affectionately known as 'Twin Rivers', the junction of the Brunswick and the Collie River. The area is only accessible from four-wheel drive vehicles, so with a bit of shuffling around the group was taken in convoy down to the two rivers.

Once again, the discussions began about current land uses, environmental issues and future aspirations for the site. While there, some of the Elders expressed that they had not been to the area in over thirty years.

It is such a relaxed and beautiful setting sitting down at Twin Rivers, sharing a yarn and a cuppa sitting on the sand, throwing sand in the river to let the spirits know that we were there and who we are. The time simply evaporated while there, and no one was bothered at all.

Mangrove Cove was the next place to visit and enjoy some lunch. There was a fantastic spread put on, but the favourite dish was definitely the kangaroo stew prepared by the Regional Parks resident master chef Drew. This was another great opportunity to show the Elders Group what the Regional Parks team have been up to, as the reserve has been a focus for the team since the Regional Parks Unit was formed late last year.

Following on from lunch and before the food comas kicked in, we travelled back out to the mouth of the Collie River to Point Douro. Point Douro has an interesting history, it is a well-loved recreation area for locals, was the site of a small speedway track in years past and is also an international hotspot for bird watchers.

Unfortunately, years of neglect and people not doing the right thing have left the area highly degraded. The Regional Parks team explained that there is a clean-up day planned before the end of the year, which was well received by the Elders Group, as the area is culturally significant and was used as ceremonial grounds. This information was something we had not heard before either, again highlighting the value of site visits.

Finally, the group made its way to Maiden Reserve, in the proposed Preston River to Ocean Regional Park. The idea of some capital works and other plans for the area were discussed and then it was time to part ways, until next time anyway.

It was obvious how much everyone had enjoyed themselves as we discussed the day's events in a couple of casual debriefs the following day back in the office and although these type of field trips take considerable planning and effort, the rewards of the day spent with the local Elders Group benefited the Regional Parks team immeasurably. I trust that the next time will be the same if not better.



Back Row L to R: DBCA staff Jonnie Cobby, Drew Griffiths, Aminya Ennis, Josh Woods, Tim Hutton, Ryley Clarke and Paul Roberts. Front Row L to R: Elders Bill Turner, Dennis Jetta, Yvonne Garrett, Marjorie Ugle, Melba Wallam.

Parnngurr Field Trip - Biodiversity Conservation and Science

DBCA spatial scientists are collaborating with Kanyirninpa Jukurpa (KJ) to map broadscale land cover classes over part of the Martu native title determination and Karlamilyi National Park.

The pilot project will help inform fire management by providing a greater understanding of the land covers and vegetation types that occur across the vast landscape of the Western Desert. Early results have mapped eight broad land cover types in the classification, including spinifex and mulga, which have very different fire resilience and fire regime requirements.

In May 2019 DBCA Research Officer Jane Chapman flew from Perth to Newman where she was met by Tristan Cole from KJ, they bought supplies then headed to Parnngurr, a community 370 km east of Newman, to meet the team of rangers and collect validation data.



Kara Taylor, Noelene Oats, Alwyn Booth, Carol Williams, Natasha Williams, Franklin Vanbee, in the left hand front seat Carlo Wongawol and Jane Chapman front right.



Brayden Richards, Kara Taylor, Jane Chapman, Kylie Butt and Tionne Gibson.

Parngurr Field Trip - Biodiversity and Conservation Science



Alwyn Booth, Carol Williams, Tionne Gibson and Kylie Butt with the GPS tablet and Drone.



Rangers out on country with Wuukarta (honey ant) place behind.

The team of 20 KJ Rangers and staff spent 4 days on country visiting field sites and collecting data. Field work involved 4-wheel driving to get to remote field sites. The rangers used their extensive local knowledge of tracks and a GPS enabled tablet loaded up with satellite imagery to navigate to the field sites. Carol Williams said that "it was good to take the younger rangers out and walk around and look at the different trees and rocks".

The field sites were chosen to sample the 8 different land cover types produced in the land cover maps. Field data was collected, and a drone was flown over the sites. The photos taken by the drone will be used to assess the accuracy of the land cover maps that were produced. "It was really good to learn a bit more about the work and talk about the drone and to see the pictures from the Honey Ant site"- Carol Williams.



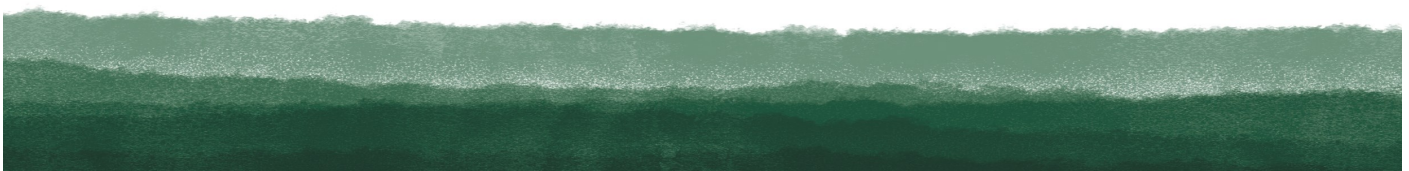
Jane Chapman, Carol Williams, Tionne Gibson and Kylie Butt off to capture more field data.



Spinifex in the afternoon light, photo captured with the drone by Jane Chapman

The conditions in the field were ideal for the first 2 days, with cool evenings and warm days, however the wind picked up on the 4th day and dust made visibility poor for flying the drone. Despite this, 32 field sites were captured, and the field work was a success. The data will be analysed back in the office and if successful the developed methodology could be applied across the Western Desert, with adaptations to allow for varying landscapes from the pilot project area.

"I've been working with KJ for 5 years carrying out the fire mapping over their management areas using satellite imagery, it was amazing to finally get out there on Country and to meet everyone. The land cover maps produced from this work will be a resource KJ can use alongside the fire mapping to help with fire management in the desert."- Jane Chapman



Parks and Wildlife Service Graduation Ceremony 2019

Recognising and promoting the achievements of Aboriginal staff is a key element to the Aboriginal Employment Strategy. Staff members were formally recognised during the 2019 Graduation and Awards Ceremony. Environment Minister Stephen Dawson joined Director General Mark Webb at the Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre in Kensington to congratulate the graduates and award winners.

Congratulation to all.

Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme

CERTIFICATE II IN CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

- Jermaine Barron, Exmouth
- Daisy Farmer, Narrogin
- Cody Farrell, Exmouth

CERTIFICATE III IN CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

- Augustine Badal, Broome
- Geoffrey Dean, Albany
- Nathan Hunter, Broome
- Wesley Sibosado, Geraldton
- Natasha Ugle, Collie
- Phillip Ugle, Collie

Awards

Aboriginal Trainee of the Year - is awarded to a MATES trainee who has demonstrated a high level of achievement through their traineeship in both practical and theoretical tasks.

- Geoffrey Dean, Albany

Kwabalitch Award - Recognises a trainee who has demonstrated an admirable level of dedication throughout their studies and a commitment to personal and professional development.

- Kailah Dodd, Geraldton

Aboriginal Trainee Supervisor of the Year

- Richard Reid, Mundaring

Scholarships - The DBCA Scholarship Program offers staff the opportunity to further develop their careers within the department by providing financial assistance to those wanting to undertake professional development opportunities and/or further studies.

Director General's Scholarship for Career Development and Study Assistance

- John Snowden, Diploma of Conservation and Land Management, Swan Region



Left to right: Minister for Environment Hon Stephen Dawson, Kailah Dodd and Director General Mark Webb



Minister of Environment Hon Stephen Dawson, Director General Mark Webb, Geoffrey Dean and his family



Minister of Environment Hon Stephen Dawson, Director General Mark Webb, and MATES trainees



Minister of Environment Hon Stephen Dawson, Director General Mark Webb, SWALSC Chair Jeanice Krakouer and Noongar Boodjah Rangers



Geoffrey Dean and his family

Culture in the Parks - WA Tourism Conference

Last month, Ray de Jong, Regional PVS Leader Pilbara and Laurence Riley, Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit presented at the WA Tourism Conference in Karratha about the work the department is doing in Aboriginal tourism and partnerships with Aboriginal people. “The event was a great opportunity to catch up with tourism operators and receive feedback on how the industry is travelling, as well as to provide an update from the department” Jacinta Overman (Coordinator, Tourism and Concessions).

The presentation recognised that parks provide ideal settings for visitors to experience Aboriginal culture and explained how the department works to promote and support Aboriginal tourism businesses and events.

“Laurence did a stellar job and spoke like an old hand, particularly given he had only joined the department two weeks prior. Ray gave a strong performance as always and gave a local focus by talking about the excellent work being done in the Pilbara with Aboriginal operators and groups” Jacinta Overman (Coordinator, Tourism and Concessions).

“The conference was well attended and there are some wonderful things happening in the Aboriginal Tourism space. The level of quality that exists at this present time certainly is something to look forward to for future years. Aboriginal tourism has much room for growth and with additional supports and revolutionisation of technology, I have no doubt that the industry will flourish. I look forward to next year’s conference”. Laurence Riley (Project Officer - Aboriginal Programs).



DBCA Staff Jacinta Overman and Laurence Riley



Conference Dinner



Left to right: Doc Reynolds, DBCA Staff Laurence Riley, Meg McGuire, Walter McGuire and Nick Abraham

Aboriginal Employment Strategy Target Reached

DBCA is committed to improving employment opportunities for Aboriginal people. The achievements of departmental responsibilities, functions and objectives will be attained and enhanced by the participation and contribution of Aboriginal people.

The department aims to increase the representation of Aboriginal employees working within the agency at all levels, occupations and locations.

The 2017-19 Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES) guides DBCA in its efforts to achieve Aboriginal employment of 6 per cent of its workforce by 2019.

In July 2017, DBCA 5.49 per cent of departmental staff identified as Aboriginal. As of June 2019 the Aboriginal employment percentage not only reached the target of 6 per cent, however surpassed it with a percentage of 6.45%.

This is a great achievement by the department - with the highest percentage of Aboriginal employment since the department started recording back in 2010. In 2020 a new AES will be developed to build on the progress of the current strategy.



John Snowden - Swan Region



Kimberley Aboriginal Employees



South West Regional Parks Team

New Aboriginal Leaders - Nearer to Nature

Nearer to Nature has provided schools and community groups with Eco-Education based, hands on experiences in the natural bush for over 20 years. The program aligns with the Australian curriculum priorities including – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history which is a fundamental requirement for teachers who take students on excursions. More information can be found here <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-histories-and-cultures/>

Nearer to Nature believes in the importance of Aboriginal leaders to teach about culture as the wisdom, uniqueness and history is embedded in each individual leader. This cannot be replicated by just anyone.

The department is very lucky to have the following staff to deliver the cultural components of the Nearer to Nature program. Please welcome Karen Hayward, Bobbi Henry and Rhys Paddick to the Nearer to Nature team.



Karan Hayward is the daughter of Aboriginal Elder Denis Hayward. Karan and her father were honoured at the 2018 Volunteer service Awards for their dedication to community service organisations in Western Australia. Karan is passionate about teaching her Noongar culture and sharing Noongar ways. She especially enjoys being with children and is loving her work with Nearer to Nature.



Bobbi Henry is a Noongar of the Wadjuk Clan from the South-west of Western Australia. She has a background in film and theatre and has worked in both Indigenous and other theatre projects. Bobbi has an enthusiasm for communicating her culture and is now turning her presenting skills to engaging young people in learning about her culture with Nearer to Nature.

Rhys Paddick is an advocate of cultural leadership. Having worked extensively with Aboriginal peoples, communities and cultures Rhys feels that the culture of our First Nations peoples can enhance many facets of the wider Australian community. His focus is to bring a modern adaptation of traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander to connect Australians with “our common culture – people culture”. Like Bobbi, Rhys has a background in Aboriginal theatre. He has a passion for storytelling, holding that Aboriginal people walk in *two worlds*, one traditional, one modern, and if we all step into our traditional roots we’ll see that we all aren’t that different to one another.

Rhys.



Gibson Desert Traditional Owners Trip to Miriuwung Gajerrong (MG) Country - Kimberley Region

In August this year, six key Warnpurru directors and negotiation team representatives (Dorothy Ward, Clarabelle Ward, Andrew Jones, Paul Carnegie, Ben Brown and Leese Giles) flew up via charter plane from Warburton, and were joined by Ian Rawlings (Central Desert Native Title Services (CDNTS) CEO), Rob Thomas (Desert Support Services (DSS) General Manager), and David Reger (CDNTS lawyer) for an on Country knowledge exchange trip by the Warnpurru, CDNTS and DSS representatives to Kununurra.

Following a welcome to country and a visit to some sites in and around Kununurra (and the DBCA works depot and ranger base) on the first day meeting with key MG representatives. The next two days were spent out on the banks of the Ord River.

The MG rangers were able to show off their skills by setting up camp and showing the Warnpurru representatives around, this included taking them out on the boat to spot crocs. Warnpurru representatives, and Ian, David and Rob were fortunate to have the MG Park Council Chair and Vice Chair come and camp out for the whole trip. They were able to have direct discussions with them and the rangers about how things were tracking and operated on the ground.

There was also a more formal session on one morning where there was a discussion by Trent Stillman (District Manager), Joanie Simon (MG Park Council) and Margaret Moore (MG Park Council) and rangers on how joint management works there. With questions, answers and discussion, including some frank conversations on the challenges of recruitment, retention and dealing with intra-group issues.

"Much appreciation to Trent Stillman (District Manager) and his team in Kununurra for the organising things at his end, and Jewell Crossberg (Senior Operations Officer) for getting the crew up from Warburton.

I think it is fair to say that some real and meaningful connections were made between the MG crew and Warnpurru, such that there were discussions on the potential for a reciprocal visit to Gibson Desert Nature Reserve (GDNT) coupled with some joint works in the future

The ability for Warnpurru directors to see first hand what joint management looks like in the flesh, and have frank, candid and discrete conversations directly with MG Park Council representatives and rangers was invaluable and did more for getting a real understanding of what joint management is and how it operates than any amount of PowerPoints in negotiation meetings can do." Simon Choo (Coordinator Native Title Unit).

The trust and high regard that MG have for DBCA's joint management team in Kununurra was also of great assistance, and went some way to breaking down perceptions of potential power imbalances, controlling of agendas etc... that may have been in place prior to the visit.

Similarly, the benefits of direct employment of the MG rangers was apparent through the trip, including the organisational support that DBCA can offer. At the end of the trip, in the context of the Aboriginal Ranger Program funding, discussion turned to the potential to have a Warnpurru representative directly engaged by the Department.

"Thanks once again Trent/Jewell, this trip sets DBCA up nicely for when formal negotiations with the Warnpurru team kick off. As you will see from the note from David Reger (CDNTS Lawyer) below, the trip went beyond expectation" Simon Choo (Manager Native Title Unit).

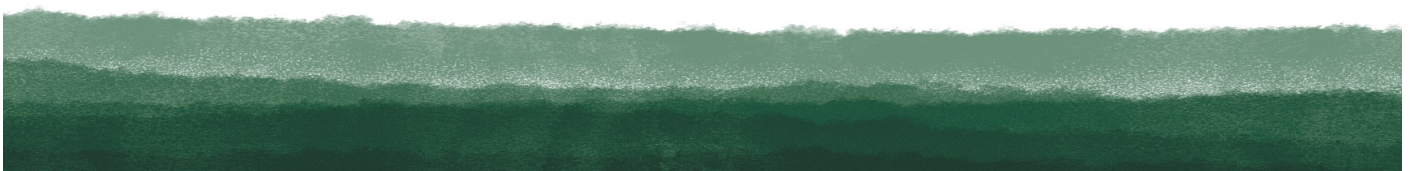


Gibson Desert Traditional Owners Trip to Miriwung Gajerrong (MG) Country - Kimberley Region continued...

“On behalf of the Gibson Desert Traditional Owners and Central Desert / Desert Support Services staff, I would like to reiterate our thanks to Trent, Bozzo, the MG ranger team and Parks Council members in Kununurra for hosting us on MG country and looking after us so well last week. Also a massive thanks to Jewell for your coordination efforts from the Kalgoorlie end to assist in making all of this happen.

Speaking with the Gibson Desert Traditional Owners before they flew back to Warburton, it was clear that people felt extremely positive, energised and inspired by what they saw and learned while camped on the banks of the beautiful Ord River about the joint management program underway on MG country.

Thanks again for assisting to create an environment conducive to free-flowing discussion and learning, for both the Traditional Owners and staff. It really was a fantastic trip” David Reger, (CDNTS Lawyer)



Culture in the Parks Forum - Mandurah - Swan Region

DBCA recently facilitated a community forum in Mandurah to highlight opportunities that existed for Aboriginal Tour Operators within the departments national parks and reserves. This event was supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, Indigenous Business Australia, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation and the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

All agencies and services delivered presentations with information on products, processes and opportunities to support business prospects or expansion of already existing ventures. DBCA provided information about Culture in the Parks and how the department was striving towards increasing cultural activities and tourism operations in local parks and reserves as well as identifying the processes involved in applying for a Commercial Operators License.

During presentations agencies provided an overview of current products available to business operators including access to Business Advisers and supports who would be available to new and existing operators which would support the business development components of administration and planning.

DBCA will support further roadshows to showcase Culture in the Parks in the coming year.



Elder George Walley conducting the Welcome to Country

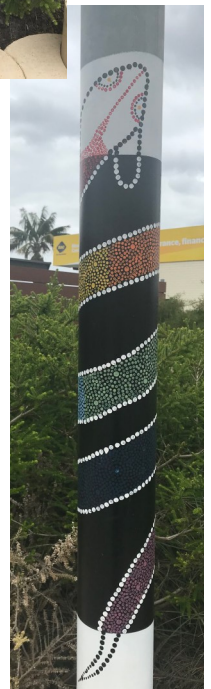


Aboriginal Art Brightens up the Albany DBCA Office Facade - South Coast Region

At the beginning of the year funding was allocated to the Parks and Wildlife Service South Coast Region to undertake much needed improvements to the Albany Regional & District office complex. The works included the modernising and improving of the front office façade on the Albany Highway to make it a more appealing and inviting for visiting public. The only constraints in achieving an improved façade were two hideous electrical switch boxes and an electrical pole near the entrance to the building. It was decided to display local Aboriginal art to promote and acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands and waters the department manages. At the same time, the artwork disguised the electrical infrastructure.

Local Noongar artists Shandelle Cummins and Jessikah Woods were commissioned to develop the artistic symbolism and undertake the art works. The symbolic painting on the electrical boxes were of a whale (representing marine life) and a black cockatoo (representing terrestrial wildlife). A rainbow serpent (Wagyl/ Waugal) was painted around the electrical pole which is recognised by Noongar as the giver of life, maintaining all fresh water sources and giving the Noongar people custody of the land. Shandelle and Jessikah were assisted at times by other family members including the well-respected Noongar elder, author and storyteller Lynette Knapp.

The paintings turned out really well and have drawn attention of not only visitors to the office but also passing pedestrians who are often seen stopping to look at the artwork. What started out as an attempt to improve the look of the building has developed into a symbolic recognition of the traditional owners of the national parks and reserves DBCA manages and fosters the ideology of working together on country.



Murujuga World Heritage Listing Process - Pilbara Region

It's been a busy year for the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), who are partnering together to progress a World Heritage nomination for Murujuga (the traditional name for the Dampier Archipelago and surrounds, including the Burrup Peninsula and Murujuga National Park).

With more than one million images, Murujuga has one of the world's largest, densest and most diverse concentrations of petroglyphs, or rock art, in the world. These capture at least 47,000 years of human existence and provide a fascinating archaeological record of traditional use of the area over this time.



The rock art of Murujuga, which depicts show human images, extinct animal species such as megafauna and Thylacines (Tasmanian tiger), as well as existing avian, land and sea animals.



Murujuga is home to the *Ngurra-ra Ngarli*, a collective term for the five Traditional Owner groups of the area, collectively represented by the MAC. The rock art has deep meaning for *Ngurra-ra Ngarli*, providing a tangible link to stories, customs and knowledge of their land and resources and connecting them to the events and people of the past and their beliefs today.

There has been sustained and ongoing advocacy for a World Heritage listing to have the outstanding cultural, spiritual and archaeological values of Murujuga internationally recognised at the highest level.

Significant progress has been made toward this goal in 2019, with the preparation of a World Heritage Tentative List Submission to have Murujuga added to Australia's World Heritage Tentative List in 2020, the first required step in the nomination process. MAC and DBCA will now begin to prepare the formal nomination dossier. This is a much lengthier document that must comprehensively demonstrates that Murujuga has 'Outstanding Universal Value' that can be adequately protected and conserved through a thorough management framework and appropriate boundary.



The Murujuga Heritage Committee met for the first time in March 2019. The committee includes representatives from MAC and the five Traditional Owner groups of Murujuga, State and Federal governments and The University of Western Australia's Centre for Rock Art Research and Management. In June 2019, the Heritage Committee met with the Chair of the Environmental Protection Authority, and Directors General from DBCA, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation and Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, to discuss how industry can coexist with the cultural values of Murujuga.





Engagement with stakeholders and the community has taken place throughout the year to provide information about the World heritage nomination process. 2019 Karratha FeNaCING Festival. MAC and the Pilbara Region's Parks and Wildlife Service hosted a community information stall providing information about the Murujuga National Park and World Heritage nomination process.

The addition of an area to the World Heritage list can produce many benefits at local, State and national levels. In Australia, World Heritage places are strongly promoted, and many receive increased tourism visitation. World Heritage listing also brings a commitment to protect, manage and promote the site for present and future generations.

In August 2019, MAC and the State Government also celebrated the addition of 'Site L' to the Murujuga National Park, an addition of 221 hectares. The transfer demonstrates the State Government's commitment to protecting Murujuga and complements the World Heritage nomination process.



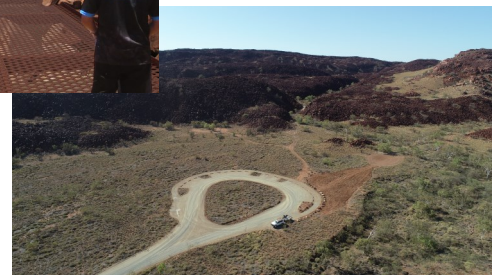
Signing ceremony formalising the transfer of 'site L' to the Murujuga National Park.

Ngurra-ra Ngarli Construction stage 1: Car Park - Pilbara Region

Recently the Parks and Wildlife Service, together with our joint management partners, the Ngurra-ra Ngarli (Represented as the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC)), have completed construction of stage 1 of the Ngajarli Trail within Murujuga National Park. Stage 1 of this project comprised of the installation of a carpark that holds 19 car bays and 2 long vehicle bays. Stage 2, planned for early 2020 includes the construction of a cultural walk trail with raised platforms that will protect the amazing petroglyphs, whilst also enriching the visitor experience through interpretation of the area and it's significance to Ngarda-Ngarli. The site, formally known as "Deep Gorge" has been renamed to Ngajarli (pronounced Nah-jar-li) and means 'secret/sacred place' in the local language.

This site is very significant to the Ngurra-ra Ngarli, and every care has been taken to ensure the protection of cultural artefacts during the construction. Elders from MAC contributed to the site design and also monitored all the ground disturbing activities. The construction of this site is significant as it marks the first recreation site to be developed within the National Park. Ngajarli, expected to be completed by mid-2020, will be the best place for viewing rock art and learning more about the values for which the wider area is currently being nominated for world heritage.

For more information on the World Heritage please visit: <https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/parks-and-wildlife-service/world-heritage-areas/murujuga-world-heritage-nomination>



Next Edition:

- ✦ Kalbarri Skywalk Project with the Nanda people
- ✦ Conservation Employees in the South West
- ✦ Perth Water Precinct Project
- ✦ Aboriginal Ranger Program Recipients
- ✦ Joint Management Plan for the Walyarta people
- ✦ Workplace Supervisor Training
- ✦ Esperance Tjaltjraak NTAC
- ✦ Wirra Kids reward camp to Thevenard Island

We hope you have enjoyed reading Yarning Time.