

Issue 7: September 2020

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

We are pleased to bring you news and information that showcases some of the important work that has been undertaken by DBCA and Traditional Owners in recent months.

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

Yarning Time:

- shares information about the department's engagement with Aboriginal people
- provides updates on the specific DBCA Aboriginal strategies and programs
- informs the community, our partners and staff of the developments in Aboriginal affairs in the department.



Please have a read and enjoy.





Department of **Biodiversity**, **Conservation and Attractions**

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

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Swan Canning Riverpark 'River Journeys' Interpretation Nodes (Rivers and Estuaries)

In early 2020, Parks and Wildlife Service completed the design and construction of another 'River Journeys' Interpretation Node at Kent Street Weir on the Canning River. This marks the completion of the seventh node within the larger 'River Journeys' interpretation project, following those at Heathcote, Point Walter, Bicton Baths, Brentwood, Bicentennial Adenia Park, and John Tonkin Reserve.

'River Journeys' aims to enrich the experience for visitors of the Swan Canning Riverpark through the use of interpretation signage and art elements, and by providing new recreation facilities which enhance the connectivity of the river foreshores to the river. The structures comprise of concrete pathways, aluminium framing, jarrah decking and seating, and provide important information and stories which reflect the historic, ecological, and Noongar cultural values of the Riverpark. The Kent Street Weir interpretation node project was jointly funded by DBCA, the City of Canning, and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER).

Continued on page 3



Above and below: Aboriginal trainees gaining practical experience for their Certificate II in Construction. Photo – CareyMC Pty Ltd.



Local Whadjuk artist Justin Martin's design sandblasted on the new concrete path, with engraved text on aluminium strip. Photo – Sean Renner, Riverpark Project Officer, DBCA.

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Following a competitive process, Aboriginal business CareyMC Pty Ltd was awarded the contract for construction and six Aboriginal trainees completed their Certificate II in Construction as part of the works of this project through CareyMC's in-house training program. One of those trainees was successful in attaining employment with CareyMC as a result.

DBCA closely consulted with Whadjuk elder Doolan-Leisha Eates and with staff from the Sister Kate's Children's Home for the Aboriginal cultural stories, staff from the City of Canning for local historical information, and DBCA and DWER provided environmental information relating to the weir and Canning River. Local Whadjuk artist Justin Martin created a unique art design for the project which was sandblasted into the new concrete and jarrah pathway. Justin describes his inspiration for the design as coming from the connection to country, and relates the art story as below:

"The name of the artwork is Ballap Moort Boodja (their families' country).

Moieties are spirit animals that are spiritually connected to Nyungar people. A Nyungar elder or leader would appoint Nyungar children their moieties or spirit animals which would be based on similarities and characteristics a child would share with their moieties. Bird species were common moieties like the Wardong (crow), Kulbardie (magpie), Koolark (white tail cockatoo) and Weitch (emu). Moieties' feathers were used as head cresses by individuals and people who were highly respected.

All Nyungar tribes and skin groups of the south west are based on the prime moieties of the Wardong (crow) and the monarch (white cockatoo). In the Perth region and Canning waterway, the four skin groups of Perth would respect each other's country and also commonly meet on shared grounds for hunting and gathering. The hunting and gathering would also create the mood for ceremony and dance.

This artwork is a representation of the connection that the four skins group of Perth had to country."

Aboriginal traditional owners were central to this project in providing input and advice on culturally significant important themes, spirituality, and stories specific to the site. The signage also includes recent and historical information about the weir, its environmental benefits of managing water quality and the site's recreational value.

An official launch event for the Kent Street Weir interpretation node facility is being planned for the near future. DBCA is continuing to work with Riverpark foreshore managers to develop more interpretation nodes, including ones planned at Matilda Bay Reserve, South Perth, and Deep Water Point.



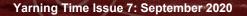
Completed Kent Street Weir node with interpretive signage. All photos—Sean Renner, Riverpark project officer.



Jarrah seating, concrete path and trees. .



The Aboriginal cultural interpretation signage with Justin Martin's art design.



On country trip to Yoondaddup and Bonganup (Warren Region)

Just before the COVID-19 restrictions came into force and face-to-face contact with many of our Elders was temporarily ceased, the Warren Region fire team managed to get out on country to discuss their proposed prescribed burn at *Yoondaddup* (Lake Jasper).

Yoondaddup is a very significant cultural landscape and still has a Dreamtime story of its creation known by local Elders. The lake itself is the largest submerged archaeological site in the southern hemisphere with thousands of artefacts on the lake shore and bed from years ago before the lake was flooded.

The weather turned on a magic day to complete the big 4WD trip out to *Yoondaddup* and beyond to *Bonganup* (Black Point). Elders and the younger family members present discussed how the prescribed burn was planned to be conducted and provided information to help protect the array of registered sites, archaeological sites and the cultural landscape as a whole. This included general information on the value of the area as well as specific requests for adjustments to the way the burn will be conducted. A commitment to facilitate post-burn inspections was also made. These specific instructions have now been integrated into the prescribed burn.

It is anticipated that more on country trips with traditional owners to specifically discuss planned prescribed burns within culturally important landscapes will be conducted each year, to build the relationship and share knowledge between Traditional Owners and the DBCA fire team in the Warren Region.



Traditional Owners visiting Lake Wilson.



DBCA staff providing an overview of the proposed prescribe burn.

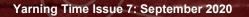


Traditional Owners and DBCA staff at Bonganup (Black Point).



Traditional Owners discussing the proposed prescribed burn.





The story of the Nyinggulu joint management logo (Pilbara Region)

Recently, a logo was created by the Nyinggulu Joint Management Body (JMB) in partnership with DBCA. This is the story of what the logo means to the Traditional Owners

What's on Country — The story of our JMB logo

The Ningaloo Coast is known to the first Australians as Nyinggulu!! Nyinggulu Ganyarajarri are the People who belong to the Nyinggulu Coast and Baiyungu is the main language spoken today– Ganyara is the name for the greater language group of people in the Gascoyne/Pilbara.

> Our Nyinggulu joint management logo represents our three main animals to the Nyinggulu coast The Emu, Green Turtle and the long/pointy nose Emperor. In our Baiyungu language we call the long/pointy nose Emperor '*Nyinggulu Jurirri*' The Green Turtle '*Majun*' And the Emu '*Gajalbu*'

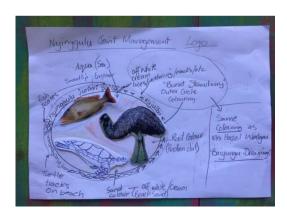
The Gajalbu - Emu is one of our totems. The Gajalbu is sacred, he belongs to the sky, we call the star constellation Jirndinhungu, the Gajalbu in the night sky. The malanmayi gajalbu manggarn – this is the Emu spirit dreaming place!! We Baiyungu people believe that Warnangura – Cape Range/Exmouth is the place where this site is situated. The Majun - green turtle and the Nyinggulu Jurirri long/pointy nose emperor is our main food source.

Learning Baiyungu Language

Baiyungu spelling and pronunciation of *Gajalbu* Pronunciation is inbetween English 'k' and 'g' Linguistic spelling is with the 'k' – *Kajalbu* (Emu) Our language spelling is with the 'g' – *Gajalbu* (Emu) We don't use 'oo' in our language We use 'u' as in 'put'

Pronunciation: Ga/jal/bu

The JMB logo was designed by Rachael Cooyou and myself (Hazel Walgar) together with DBCA staff Natalie Curtis and Tom Nagle. We Traditional Owners wanted to share with DBCA our Baiyungu knowledge. We hope you like it and wear it with pride.



Draft JMB logo.



Department of **Biodiversity**, Conservation and Attractions





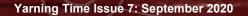
k

Majun _

IYINGGULU

JOINT MANAGEMENT

Final JMB logo.



Aboriginal Ranger Program - South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC)

A short film has been developed to showcase the success of the Aboriginal Ranger Program. Elisha Jacobs-Smith (*Noongar Boodjar Trainee*) was accepted as part of funding in round 1 and 2 of the program. SWALSC applied for the funding for their Noongar Boodjar Ranger Program in partnership with DBCA.

Elisha said the "film was a great opportunity to give the wider community an understanding of the work that I do as a young carer of Country through the Noongar Boodjar Ranger Program. Jai Wilson, from the SWALSC, came to visit me on Country at work and brought along his camera and filming materials."

The filming took place in John Forrest National Park as it is one of the parks that Elisha often works in, but, more importantly, it is a very highly significant place to the Whadjuk Noongar people who are the Traditional Owners of that place. In the short film some important sacred sites were visited and Elisha gave a brief explanation of the work that he is able to do as a Noongar Boodjar Ranger.

The film was published on the SWALSC Facebook page and has received 19,000 views to-date. Another short film will be developed from the same footage and will be on display at the Western Australian Museum in an exhibition on Indigenous Rangers.

Elisha is now helping to organize filming opportunities for other Noongar Boodjar Rangers, and is really happy to be able to use his experience to help the process along.

To view the video lease click on this link: https://www.facebook.com/swalsc/videos/552913155365436/



Elisha Jacobs-Smith (trainee ranger - Perth Hills) filming for the Noongar Boodjar Ranger Program.





Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES) - Exmouth (Pilbara Region)

Sub 40 degree temps?! Get your field work on!!

Exmouth MATES trainee Cowan Ryan has been taking advantage of the friendlier field work temperatures and getting stuck into some trapping and weeding the last couple of weeks. He's currently doing a rotation with the Parks and Visitor Services team in Cape Range National Park but has been jumping in with the Nature Conservation team when they have been doing field projects to build his skill repertoire.

Up first was some early morning black-flanked rock-wallaby trapping which involved Cowan heading out to some of the gorges in Cape Range. Traps had been set the night before by the Nature Conservation team and Cowan assisted clearing the trapped animals and recording data about these specimens, some of which had pouch young. It seems we have some healthy populations of the wallaby in Cape Range National Park!

Next up was servicing camera traps used to record data each year about the feral cat population before and after 1080 baiting. This involved Cowan heading out to various sites around Cape Range where cameras are located to change their batteries and memory cards, record these details and ensure that the "Catastrophic" (horrific smelling, dry-retch-worthy substance) lure containers were full and at the correct height for cats.

Lastly, Cowan has been out to some of the islands in the southern area of the Exmouth Gulf to assist with weed management. Three different islands were visited and numerous kapok specimens were manually removed on a beautiful glassy day. Tough gig for this trainee ranger!

All of these experiences and skills building will help him work towards units within his Certificate II of Conservation and Land Management.



Cowan Ryan doing data entry.

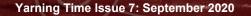


Cowan busy with GPS work.



Cowan helping with black-flanked rock-wallaby trapping.





Reburial Project (Hutt River Claim area) - Nanda Rangers (Midwest Region)

Two DBCA Nanda Rangers, Victor Mourambine Jnr and Steven Eley, both ranger assistants at Kalbarri National Park ,were involved in a reburial project within the Hutt River Claim area. This project has been decades in the making, but has finally been completed this year. The projects included reclaiming and reburial of Ancestral remains at Chilominey Farm, Lucky Bay and Wagoe Farm.

Each project included lengthy traditional owner consultation and private landholder negotiations for the location of the reburials. Consultation started in 1989 with Victor Mourambine Snr when the remains on Wagoe Ridge were first discovered. His son Victor Mourambine Jnr was part of the repatriations more than 30 years later.

The Chilominey remains were discovered in 1984 in a river bed with skeletal material; the Lucky Bay remains were discovered in 1976 in sand dunes, encrusted with sand and mostly broken and fragmented; and the Wagoe remains were discovered in 1989 after a member of the public handed the skull in to the Kalbarri Police Station.

The remains were held by the West Australian Museum after exhumation until they were released to Evereve funeral home, and then transported to their reburial locations. DBCA Nanda Rangers Victor and Steven dug the graves, which were then smoked by Elder Paul Eley. After the remains were laid to rest, each person present was called to place some sand in the graves as a sign of respect and smoked to free and spirits. The burials were layered appropriately so that disturbance would not happen again. The Ancestral remains are now back on country at rest where they belong.

The owner of the Chilominey Farm welcomed the return of the Ancestral remains back to country. The other two locations were on unmanaged reserves. No objections were made from the internal enquiries for these two locations.

Repatriation of ancestral remains and secret sacred objects to communities of origin helps create healing, justice and reconciliation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Steven stated that "it brings great self-satisfaction learning from our Elders on how to care for and monitor our culturally significant sites so we can preserve them for generations to come."





V. Mourambine Jnr, P. Eley, S. Eley, K. Suckling and K. Hampton with the completed burial at Wagoe Farm in front of them.



Above: Preparing the smoking bucket under the watchful eye of P. Eley at Wagoe Farm.

Above left: Chilominey Farm burial site V. Mourambine Jnr, K. Hampton, P. Eley and S. Eley . 28 January 2020.



S. Eley and V. Mourambine Jnr pay their respects by placing sand in the grave at Lucky Bay.

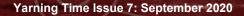


K. Hampton, P. Eley , V. Mourambine Jnr and S. Eley.



S. Eley and V. Mourambine Jnr digging the burial pit at Wagoe Farm.





Joining forces for Burra Rock restoration — GLSC Rangers (Goldfields Region)

Parks and Wildlife Service's Goldfields Region has completed a three-day restoration project at Burra Rock Campground, working closely with Goldfields Land and Sea Council (GLSC) Rangers and the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison.

A bushfire swept through Burra Rock Conservation Park during November 2019, damaging the camping and picnic area.

At 795 hectares, Burra Rock is a small reserve with an interesting past. It was an important water source for Aboriginal people and early European settlers. European history can be traced back to the 1920s and 30s when a catchment wall and dam were built on the edge of a large granite outcrop. This was built to collect water for the steam trains that supplied timber to Kalgoorlie for the mines and domestic use. By the 1960s, the area became a small farm for a short time before being managed for conservation and recreation.

Following the bushfire in late 2019, the Parks and Wildlife Service Goldfields team began repairing and replacing damaged infrastructure and recreational facilities. The first task was to replace damaged, missing and burnt wooden bollards with new bollards to help designate the camping and picnic areas. Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison was kind enough to bring a skid steer and auger to remove

damaged bollards and auger new holes.

The highlights of the three days' work included good communication, interaction, and banter between the prisoners, GLSC Rangers and DBCA staff and a great opportunity to meet and interact with new people. The team achieved the installation of a significant number of bollards.

The Goldfields Regional Prison organised a barbecue for the last day – another good opportunity for the crews to interact and build relationships. The prisoners brought out a yabbie net and the group were able to add some yabbies to the barbecue for all to enjoy.



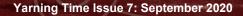


GLSWC Rangers and prisoners at work.



Unloading bollards





Historic moment for Gnulli Native Title (Pilbara Region)

Twenty-two years after the initial Native Title claim was lodged, the Baiyungu, Yinggarda and Thalanyji people have achieved their Native Title determination.

The Gnulli Native Title claim area covers 71,354 square kilometres of land and sea in the Yamatji Region including the shires of Exmouth, Carnarvon, Ashburton, Upper Gascoyne, Murchison and Shark Bay.

The determination area spans over several pastoral leases, mining tenements, roads and reserves as well as portions of the Kennedy Range and Cape Range National Parks, Ningaloo Marine Park, Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves, Lake MacLeod and waters of the Exmouth Gulf.

Traditional Owner Hazel Walgar expressed that it was a special day, uniting the Traditional Owners of the land, who can now pass on that responsibility to future generations.

Parks and Wildlife Service Exmouth District Manager Arvid Hogstrom said "the determination gives long overdue recognition to the rights of the Traditional Owners of this area."

"It's a credit to the passion, dedication and belief of all involved, particularly Gwen Peck who has been a key driver in this process over the entire 22 years," he said.



Gnulli Native Title Holders at the Determination in December 2019.





DBCA attends the 2020 Aboriginal Business Expo

On 4 March this year, DBCA staff participated in the Aboriginal Business Expo, in support of the WA Government's Aboriginal Procurement Policy.

This meet-the-buyer-expo provided Aboriginal businesses the opportunity to network with about 40 government agencies. The agencies provided information about typically purchases and showcased future contracting opportunities. The event will also celebrated the contracting achievements of the first 12 months of the Aboriginal Procurement Policy.

DBCA representatives were able to interact and promote a range of supply and organisational needs, and encourage Aboriginal businesses to apply for the opportunity to deliver and meet the department's supply-and-demand needs.

This approach aligns with DBCA's Reconciliation Action Plan, specifically the action that aims to 'Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supplier diversity'.



Laurence Riley (Project

Officer, Aboriginal

Programs) and Connie

Honczarenko.

Paul McCluskey

Paul McCluskey (Capital Works and Roads Coordinator) and Craig Simpson.

DBCA Manager Fleets, Works and Facilities Craig Simpson said the department presented information on contracts undertaken by Aboriginal businesses over the past 12 months and about anticipated projects.

"This information provided Aboriginal businesses the opportunity to discuss the department's functions and contract opportunities they may be positioned to undertake. DBCA continues to work actively with Aboriginal businesses to maximise contract opportunities," he said.

"The Aboriginal Business Expo 2020 was very well organised, and I felt that businesses being able to approach agencies worked very well" – Connie Honczarenko, DBCA Procurement Manager.

Acknowledgement of Country signs

The 2012 amendments to the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) established a primary objective of 'protecting and conserving the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons'. The formal recognition of Aboriginal heritage protection in the CALM Act has accelerated a growing acknowledgment that the department's engagement with, and development of, effective partnerships with Aboriginal people across the State is integral to achieving its long-term goals.

In order to maintain and strengthen these integral partnerships and relationships and to further advance the department's commitment conserving Aboriginal cultural heritage, DBCA Director General Mark Webb proposed the upgrade and development of Acknowledgement of Country signs to be written in English and the traditional language of the area, with current departmental branding.

In consultation with Traditional Owners, Acknowledgement of Country signs are to be installed in DBCA office buildings and properties, as well as significant parks and reserves, to welcome visitors and other guests. The Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit will coordinate the roll-out. This project, which has been endorsed by the department's Corporate Executive, is quite extensive as outlined below:

and 17 marine parks as well as visitor centres, office buildings and work centres.language groups• Rottnest Island	Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks pological Parks Authority will also be
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Worl Wangkiny (Sky Talking) opening (Perth Observatory)

In March this year, DBCA Director General Mark Webb attended the opening of the Worl Wangkiny fire pit and picturesque mural at the Perth Observatory in Bickley. Other distinguished guests and DBCA staff included: the Governor of Western Australia the Hon. Kim Beazley AC; the Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians the Hon. Ken Wyatt AM MP, local Elders Mr Mort Hansen and Mrs Vivienne Hansen, DBCA Executive Director of Science Margaret Byrne and DBCA Project Officer Aboriginal Programs Laurence Riley.

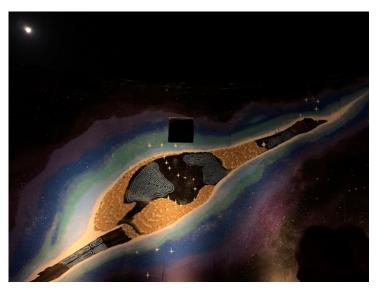
Elder Vivian Hansen did a fabulous Welcome to Country and Worl Wangkiny was officially opened to acknowledge the cultural stories of the sky and the Milky Way that have been around since time immemorial.

The partnership and hard work of Aboriginal Nature Trekz, through Koya Aboriginal Corporation, and the Perth Observatory took the elements of both ancient and contemporary storytelling to a whole new level. This comes as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding that DBCA has with the Perth Observatory, which has partnered with Koya Aboriginal Corporation to establish a permanent inclusion of Aboriginal Dreamtime and stories of the Milky Way.

The event was well attended with local Aboriginal bush tucker being provided by the exceptional team from Bindi Bindi Dreaming, and some soothing entertainment from the Internationally renowned Phil Walley-Stack.

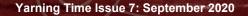
Worl Wangkiny is a new highlight for evening tourism opportunities at the Perth Observatory, particularly with the amazing artworks lighting and display which offers a piece of tranquility alongside a nice warm fire sharing some stunning stories of the night sky.

It's important to keep the stories of our old people and is very significant to Aboriginal people throughout Australia. Not only has it been an opportunity to design and create a mural. It has been an opportunity to bring older and younger Aboriginal people together to be part of history, and to be proud of our culture." — Quentin Tucker, Koya Aboriginal Corporation "



Mural of the Emu in the Milky Way.





Noongar name announced for new regional park in the South West

A proposed new regional park in the greater Bunbury area has been formally named Kalgulup Regional Park in recognition of the area's significance to the Pinjarup, Wadandi, Kaneang and Wiilmen people.

Parks and Wildlife Service staff from the department's Visitor Communication Unit and South West Region held a series of workshops with representatives from the Gnaala Karla Booja Native Title Working Party, with the aim of identifying a Noongar name for the proposed regional park.

Kalgulup, pronounced Kaal-gool-up, is a Noongar word meaning 'place of fire' or 'place of burning camp'. The significance of the name Kalgulup derives from fire and its elements (smoke, coals, ash) being at the *koort* (heart) of Noongar culture and symbolises:

- the importance of fire in supporting life (warmth, light, cooking, healing, protection)
- that fire was carried along pathways from camp to camp
- that stories, wisdom and lore were shared around campfires
- that fire was used in hunting, ceremony and caring for country.

The park name has received support from other State and local government agencies that manage land within the regional park, including the City of Bunbury and shires of Dardanup, Harvey and Capel.

In consultation with Gnaala Karla Booja representatives, a motif and colour has been designed for Kalgulup Regional Park (see above), this being the distinctive woody spike and leaves of the *mungite* or bull banksia (*Banksia grandis*). This tree is typically found in the jarrah forest of the Darling Range and coastal tuart woodlands and Noongars make a sweet drink and suck the nectar directly from the large flower-spikes.

The motif provides a powerful and meaningful connection to the name Kalgalup, as when mature, the woody spikes of *mungite* can be used as fire sticks when travelling.

The vertical lines on the left of the motif represent smoke from the smoldering fire stick and from the campfires that were common around the estuary and rivers when Noongar people camped there in large numbers and practiced seasonal customary activities in their country as they have for thousands of years and continue to do.



Left to right: DBCA staff Paul Roberts and Aminya Ennis, Working Party representatives Annette Garlett, Murray Collard, Lera Bennell, Bill Bennell, Joe Northover and DBCA staff Lorna Charlton.

The colour of the motif represents fire and other red elements found in the natural landscape, including wildflowers and the feathers of the *karrak* or forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*).

Kalgulup Regional Park is home to important areas of tuart and banksia woodland as well as a number of threatened plant and animal species, such as the western ring-tailed possum and black cockatoo species.

With the new park name, the motif and colour will be used on signage and other materials for the regional park.

The <u>draft management plan</u> for the proposed Kalgulup Regional Park was released by the Minister for Environment on 13 August 2020 and is open for public comment until 15 October 2020.





New DBCA vessels (Kimberley Region)

DBCA in partnership with several joint management bodies have recently acquired two new patrol vessels to service the Kimberley Region.

Woonbalu (right)

There's a new boat in the North!

The new patrol vessel for the North Kimberley Marine Park is called *Woonbalu*, which means blue bone in Balanggarra language.

The local community was invited by the Woonbalu – North Kimberley Marine Park Joint Management Body, Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation and DBCA to the official Welcome to Country for the new patrol vessel at Anton's Landing Recreational Fishing Jetty, Wyndham on the 14 August 2020. DBCA held a free barbeque and short tours through the patrol vessel *Woonbalu*.



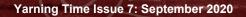
Jurrwayi (below)

Jurrwayi, the new vessel commissioned for the management of Yawuru Nagulagun/ Roebuck Bay Marine Park was welcomed, smoked and blessed on 6 August, 2020, at Nyamba Buru Yawuru, Broome.

The Yawuru Nagulagun Joint Management Body commissioned the vessel to enable Yawuru Traditional Owners and joint management partners DBCA to access the Nagulagun Marine Park to look after cultural, ecological and internationally significant values of Roebuck Bay.

It will also enable scientific research and monitoring to take place including water quality, seagrass, shorebirds, turtles, fish, dugong together with improved patrols of activity in the Bay.





NAIDOC Week 2020 — 8-15 November

The Theme for NAIDOC Week 2020 is *Always Was, Always Will Be.* This recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for more than 65,000 years and have an ongoing spiritual and cultural connection to country.

NAIDOC Week 2020 acknowledges and celebrates that our nation's story didn't begin with documented European contact whether in 1770 or 1606 with the arrival of the Dutch on the western coast of the Cape York



Peninsula. The very first footprints on this continent were those belonging to First Nations peoples. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists. Australia has the world's oldest oral stories.

NAIDOC 2020 invites all Australians to embrace the true history of this country; a history which dates back thousands of generations. It's about seeing, hearing and learning the First Nations' 65,000+ year history of this country, which is Australian history. It is an invitation for all Australians to celebrate that we have the oldest continuing cultures on the planet — *Always Was, Always Will Be.*

NAIDOC Week is held annually to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. While normally held each year in July, this year a decision was made by the National NAIDOC Committee to postpone NAIDOC Week until November 8-15, due to the impacts and uncertainty from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to protect Elders and those most at risk in our communities. For more information about NAIDOC Week visit https://www.naidoc.org.au/get-involved/naidoc-week-events

Across the State, DBCA is planning to host and participate in events that will celebrate the unique and ongoing connection Traditional Owners have to country, and the important and increasing role they play as our joint management partners.

- ✦ Perth Water Buneenboro precinct plan
- Kalbarri Skywalk Traditional Owner involvement
- Kings Park
 - Aboriginal Engagement Strategy
 - Aboriginal Ranger Program Third Round
- Joint Management Review
- Plan for Our Parks
- NAIDOC Week Celebrations
- Graduation Ceremony

We hope you have enjoyed reading Yarning Time



Next Edition:



Department of **Biodiversity**, Conservation and Attractions





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