

# Yarning Time



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



Issue 8: NAIDOC Week 2020

**Welcome** to the seventh 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.

As we welcome the New Year we are pleased to reflect on a highlight from last year and bring you a special issue celebrating NAIDOC Week 2020.

Thank you to everyone involved in putting together activities and events throughout the State and those who participated.

Please have a read and enjoy.



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.***

## Message from Peter Sharp Executive Director Parks and Visitor Services and RAP Working Group Chair

What a wonderful week of celebrations it was.

Congratulations to all the staff who were involved, they are too numerous to cite. We were fortunate to have some exceptional guest speakers who reminded us of the importance of our work in partnering with Aboriginal people to Care for Country so that the coming generations can benefit in much the same way as past generations.

In our reflections, of which there are many, we might by chance stumble on one or more of the many stories that can be told of hardship and injustice suffered by Aboriginal persons marginalised through no fault of their own, but to whom we have turned a blind eye for too long. But at the same time I feel there is a rising spirit of harmony affecting our agency and all those who work here.

By recognising that the country 'Always Was, Always Will Be' occupied and cared for by Aboriginal people, we can apply a principle of mutual respect for the unifying force connected to caring for country.

Now, within our westernised legal and societal constructs, we can all celebrate and contribute to 'protecting and conserving the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons' as prescribed in s.56(2)(a) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.



*Executive Director Peter Sharp with the NAIDOC Week display in the Keiran McNamara Science Conservation Centre foyer. Photo - Colin Ingram/DBCA.*

It's recognised in our Reconciliation Action Plans, our management plans, our corporate policies and our corporate guidelines. We've come a long way but have only recently truly commenced our shared journey to protect country that 'Always Was, Always Will Be' occupied and cared for by Traditional Owners. We now share joint management responsibility for more than 40 national parks, marine parks and other reserves comprising 4.83 million hectares.

So, thank you to our guest speakers, to our staff across the whole of DBCA, and to our Aboriginal compatriots who have the good grace to accept that we can also play an important role in caring for country that 'Always Was, Always Will Be' the core to the world's oldest living culture, Aboriginal Australia. That's something we should all be proud of and celebrating every day.



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## NAIDOC Week 2020

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s that sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Each year a theme is chosen to reflect the important issues and events for NAIDOC Week.

NAIDOC Week 2020 was postponed from July until 8-15 November due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme was:



NAIDOC Week theme

***Always Was, Always Will Be.*** recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for more than 65,000 years.

We are spiritually and culturally connected to this country.

This country was criss-crossed by generations of brilliant Nations.

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. The First Peoples engraved the world's first maps, made the earliest paintings of ceremony and invented unique technologies. We built and engineered structures on Earth - predating well-known sites such as the Egyptian Pyramids and Stonehenge.

Our adaptation and intimate knowledge of country enabled us to endure climate change, catastrophic droughts and rising sea levels.

***Always Was, Always Will Be.*** acknowledges that hundreds of Nations and our cultures covered this continent. All were managing the land - the biggest estate on Earth - to sustainably provide for their future.

Through Indigenous land management systems like fire stick farming we transformed the harshest habitable continent into a land of bounty.

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.

Our coastal Nations watched and interacted with at least 36 contacts made by Europeans prior to 1770. Many of them resulting in the charting of the northern, western and southern coastlines – of our lands and our waters.

For us, this nation's story began at the dawn of time.

[naidoc.org.au/get-involved/2020-theme](http://naidoc.org.au/get-involved/2020-theme)



DBCA's Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2020 (RAP) supports NAIDOC Week by celebrating and providing opportunities for all staff to engage in cultural and community activities during NAIDOC Week.

The targets to be met include:

- Reviewing human resources policies and procedures to ensure there are no barriers to staff participating in NAIDOC Week events.
- Providing opportunities for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to participate in NAIDOC Week events.
- Supporting all staff who wish to participate in NAIDOC Week events in the local community.
- Holding an internal or public NAIDOC Week event.
- Monitoring the broadcasting of NAIDOC Week events and staff participation.
- Senior staff to providing leadership to acknowledge NAIDOC Week and its importance.
- Supporting an external NAIDOC Week event.

Last year, the RAP Champions came together to plan NAIDOC Week activities. Parks and Wildlife Service and the Statutory Authorities also teamed up to organise events.



## NAIDOC resources / display

In keeping with the theme 'Always Was, Always Will Be', the Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit (AEHU), in partnership with the Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch (PICA), developed and produced a timeline showcasing historical Aboriginal events and DBCA's engagement with Aboriginal people. Former and current staff members from a range of divisions/services contributed information.

The timeline depicts DBCA's (and its predecessors') journey in working with Traditional Owners. Prior to the 1990s, there was minimal involvement. However as the years progressed, and with the recognition of native title in 1994 and implementation of the CALM Act amendments in 2012, partnerships with Aboriginal people increased and are now a strategic priority for DBCA.

The timeline was well received and has been requested to be continued to be displayed. The AEHU plans to build on the timeline for 2021 with a view to the timeline being a possible permanent display.

The AEHU also partnered with the DBCA Library to showcase books relating to the NAIDOC theme and Aboriginal involvement in the department.

Along with other NAIDOC resources, RAP Champions around the State received a copy of the timeline to display in their work centres.

Staff also received links to various videos and documentaries that could be viewed during NAIDOC Week.

An email signature was also designed by PICA and distributed for staff to use during NAIDOC week.



*Parks and Wildlife Service email signature banner.*



*The timeline on display at Kensington.*



## NAIDOC Week launch

DBCAs NAIDOC Week launch was held on 9 November 2020 in the central atrium of the Kieran McNamara Conservation Science Centre (KMCSC) in Kensington.

The day started with a Welcome to Country by Whadjuk Elder Dr Richard Walley OAM.

The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Environment, spoke after this and gave an account of the recent successes of Aboriginal engagement in the department.

National NAIDOC Committee Western Australian member Gordon Cole followed with a keynote speech recognising the importance of Aboriginal involvement in the department.

After the formalities, staff enjoyed a lovely culturally inspired morning tea by Wardandi native food specialist Dale Tilbrook from Maalinup Art Gallery.



**Whadjuk Elder Richard Walley.**



**Director General Mark Webb.**



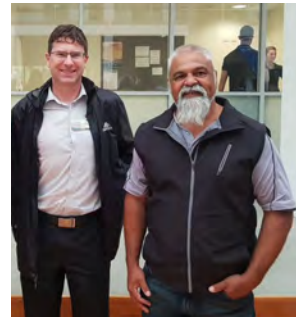
**Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Environment.**



**Gordon Cole (Member of the National NAIDOC Committee).**



### NAIDOC Week 2020 Launch at KMCS





## Rottnest Island Authority

### Rottnest Island Authority and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Rottnest Island Authority (RIA), Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and Parks and Wildlife Service teamed up to host a NAIDOC Week event on 10 November in the KMCSC.

Parks and Visitor Services Executive Director Peter Sharp opened the event with an Acknowledgement of Country. He then invited DPC Policy Officer Ezra Jacobs-Smith to present on the Wadjemup Project.

The project to reconcile the history of Aboriginal people's imprisonment on Rottnest Island is being led by DPC, on behalf of the State Government, which is working in close collaboration with RIA, Whadjuk Noongar Traditional Owners and Aboriginal peoples throughout the State who have been impacted by the former prison.

Rottnest Island was used as a place of incarceration, segregation and forced labour for Aboriginal men and boys from across Western Australia from 1838 to 1931. More than 4000 Aboriginal people from all over WA were forcibly taken there and almost 400 men and boys, who died while imprisoned, were buried in unmarked graves on the Island.

The project will focus on how best to commemorate the Aboriginal men and boys who are buried on the island, and the use of the old prison building at the historic Thomson Bay settlement known as the Quod.

RIA Executive Director Jason Banks then introduced RIA Cultural Heritage Manager Jane Skippington to present on the redevelopment of the Rottnest Island Museum, which aims to create a model regional museum as a significant repository of Island-related historical materials and be more closely integrated with other aspects of the Island's built heritage and social history. The project includes interpretive and curatorial elements that will renew and revitalise the Island heritage displays, collections and immersive experiences.

After formalities participants enjoyed a morning tea and networking session.



**Peter Sharp, Parks and Visitor Services Executive Director.**



**Jason Banks, RIA A/Executive Director.**



**Ezra Jacobs-Smith, DPC Policy Officer.**



**Jane Skippington, RIA Cultural Heritage Manager.**



## The Wadjemup Project presentation

### Wadjemup Project — Truth Telling, Healing and State-wide Reconciliation

Until recently, there has been little recognition of the historical and intergenerational impacts on Aboriginal people across the State of the former prison on Rottnest Island. The Wadjemup Project is an opportunity for Statewide reconciliation, with Whadjuk Noongar cultural values creating a foundation of both ancient Traditional Ownership and contemporary obligations to protect Country, and the former Aboriginal prison history acting as a powerful narrative of historic injustice, truth telling, healing and reconciliation.

The project will be undertaken through partnership between the State Government and people who have been impacted by the former prison. Whadjuk Noongar Traditional Owners and Custodians will play an integral role as host Nation and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) will lead the project on behalf of the State Government. There will also be close collaboration with the Rottnest Island Authority (RIA). Given the Statewide significance of this project, a whole-of-government approach is required to achieve project design and delivery of mutually agreed outcomes. The project will be delivered in the following three stages, building on work undertaken by the RIA and Rottnest Foundation in 2015 supported by Lotterywest funding:

1. Establish project governance structures to enable Aboriginal Elders and Leaders across WA to guide the project and develop strategies for truth telling, healing and ceremony aligned with Aboriginal cultural protocols.
2. Development of memorialisation plans of the Quod and Burial Ground sites and considering long-term strategies for the inclusion of Aboriginal values in the management of Wadjemup, including culturally appropriate opportunities to enable Aboriginal people to develop capacity and build resilience within their communities.
3. Implementation of plans to memorialise the Quod and Burial Ground in one of Australia's first genuine attempts to acknowledge and resolve the impacts of stage colonisation on Aboriginal people.

The project is also a practical demonstration of the recognition of Noongar people as the Traditional Owners of Noongar boodja (Noongar land) through the *Noongar (Koorah, Nitja, Boordahwan) (Past, Present, Future) Recognition Act 2016*, and of the support and recognition of traditional rights as codified by the commitment of the parties to execute and implement the South West Native Title Settlement.

For more information, please click the link: [Reconciliation Week 2020 Ezra Jacobs-Smith](#).



## Museum redevelopment on Rottnest Island

RIA Cultural Heritage Manager Jane Skippington delivered a presentation about the refurbishment of the Museum on Rottnest Island. She gave insight into the processes that Rottnest Island Authority undertook to respectfully showcase the true history of the Island; before, during and after the Rottnest Island Prison.

The Wadjemup Museum was officially opened on 22 December 2020.



*Before the refurbishment.*



*After the redevelopment. Photos — Rottnest Island Authority.*

## Wadjemup Cup

### Rangers triumph in 2020 Wadjemup Cup

The Rangers football team were the 2020 winners of the Wadjemup Cup, the annual football tournament held on Rottnest Island and contested by Clontarf Academies from across Western Australia.

The Rangers team, consisting of students from Esperance, Clontarf (Waterford) and Cecil Andrews academies, prevailed after 10 round-robin matches. More than 100 Year Eight and Nine students took part in the 14<sup>th</sup> Wadjemup Cup, which was part of the Island's NAIDOC Week 2020 celebrations.

The players were also busy off the field learning more about the Aboriginal cultural history of the island (Wadjemup) and coming up with suggestions for a new name for one of Rottnest Island Authority's (RIA) vessels, the Ranger 2.

Kwila, the Noongar word for shark, was judged to be the best name by the Wadjemup Aboriginal Reference Group and RIA.

RIA acknowledges the support of event sponsors Pelagic Marine Services, ADAMS, Programmed Facility Management and Rottnest Express.



## Yarn Bomb installation on Wadjemup

On 6 November 2020, Rottnest Island Authority staff participated in a Yarn Bomb activity to help raise awareness for NAIDOC Week. The activity was run by the Kookaburra Club, a group of Senior Aboriginal women from across the State.

Yarn bombing is a very powerful movement. It is an opportunity to educate people on the strong connection Aboriginal people have with the land we live on today.

Despite the complex history of Wadjemup, the Kookaburra ladies came in good spirit to help with the healing process of the island and attended a smoking ceremony held by Neville Collard. The Kookaburra Club put on a great display for all workers and visitors to the island, while telling some amazing stories from their countries across the State.

Over the last three decades, the Kookaburra Club have developed artworks that are significant to their culture and that reference their childhood experiences growing up on missions, camps and reserves. They also organise regular fundraisers for the wider community including hosting the Biggest Morning Tea for the Cancer Council and Christmas cake baking.

The NAIDOC Week 2020 theme, Always Was, Always Will Be, recognised that First Nations people are and always have been the custodians of this country.



**Top left: Yarn Bomb at Thomson Bay, Wadjemup.**



**Top right: Kookaburra Club members designed and created the yarn artworks.**



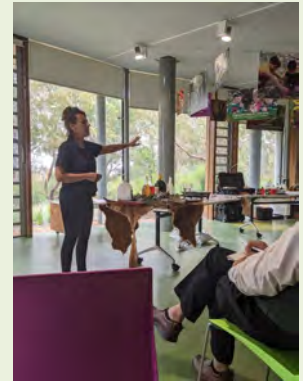
**Left: Trainee Heritage Officer Harry Golding assisting with installation of yarn artwork.**

### Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA)

BGPA and Parks and Wildlife Service worked together to develop and organise a program of NAIDOC Week activities for DBCA staff and members of the general public.

Events included:

- Bush Pharmacy experience with Aboriginal tour operator Belinda Cox (Djirriily Dreaming)
- Cultural experience in Aboriginal language, art and music with Aboriginal tour operator Olman Walley (Boorloo Aboriginal Cultural Experiences)
- Sharing knowledge yarning afternoon tea with Cynthia Garlett and Rickeeta Walley.



*Bush Pharmacy with Aboriginal tour operator Belinda Cox.*

The events were well received by those who attended.

PVS heritage project officer Cate Turk attended the cultural session with Olman Walley. She said: "Olman gave us an entertaining and educational tour of a beautiful part of Kings Park. He shared Noongar ecological and cultural knowledge, language and music, in a lively way."

Rivers and Estuaries environmental officer Michelle Crow attended the Bush Pharmacy event with Belinda Cox. She said "I thought this event offered insight to ancient remedies using Australian plants and opened my mind to think what we actually mean when we say plants are living. I also thought the glorious fragrances were rather intoxicating and a little hard to draw myself away from. It was are really enjoyable workshop that Bel delivered with passion and humour".



*Aboriginal tour operator Olman Walley presenting Boorloo Experience Noongar Culture and Country.*



*Sharing Knowledge, Sharing Culture with Cynthia Garlett and Rickeeta Walley.*



## Zoological Parks Authority

### New education program celebrates Noongar seasons

In celebration of NAIDOC Week 2020, Perth Zoo launched a new education program that honours the changing Noongar seasons.

Gwabba Boodja (Beautiful Bushland) has been designed for Pre-primary to Year 2 to develop a greater connection to the environment thanks to traditional knowledge.

Through costume and storytelling, the program introduces children to the six Noongar seasons and the animals found in the South-West of Western Australia - many of which reside in the zoo's Australian bushwalk.

Developed in conjunction with Justin Martin, owner/operator of Djurandi Dreaming and Perth Zoo's educators, the lessons help children discover more about the animals of the South-West, the importance of country, and how the bush changes to meet the needs of the animals.

Environment Minister Stephen Dawson said he was honoured to help launch Gwabba Boodja at Perth Zoo during NAIDOC Week.

"Perth Zoo plays an important role in educating Western Australians. The zoo sees more than 14 per cent of the State's school children for a formal education lesson every year, so it was important to us that we help our youngest Western Australians discover more about the world around them, thanks to the knowledge of the Whadjuk Noongar people," he said.

"Unlike the European calendar, there are six Noongar seasons in Western Australia's South-West region, which are indicated by changes in local plants and animals.

"Thanks to this new program, students will come to understand that changing seasons are marked by the flowering of many different plants, the hibernation of reptiles and the moulting of swans rather than by looking at the dates on a calendar.

"I have no doubt the lessons will be popular and will help inspire students to learn more about Whadjuk Noongar seasons, whilst developing a greater respect for the land on which the zoo sits."



**Perth Zoo Discovery and Learning team members Sami Mounsey and Beth Kinsela mark the launch of Gwabba Boodja with two young West Aussies.**



**Left: Justin Martin from Djurandi Dreaming during a live cross with Channel 9, explaining the Noongar seasons featured in the new zoo education program, Gwabba Boodja.**



## Parks and Wildlife Service

### Djurandi Dreaming Noongar Culture and River Journeys

(Biodiversity and Conservation Science / Conservation and Ecosystem Management (Rivers and Estuaries Branch) / Swan Region)

On 12 November staff from Biodiversity and Conservation and Science, the Swan Region and Rivers and Estuaries Branch hosted a NAIDOC Week event at the Kent Street Weir to celebrate the beautiful story of the artwork by Aboriginal tour operator Justin Martin from Djurandi Dreaming. Attendees included DBCA staff and special guests from the Sister Kate's Kids Aboriginal Corporation.

The planning and success of the event was attributed to the hidden heroes: Natasha Shanks (REB administration officer), Wayne Needham (Perth Hills conservation employee) and Kerry Trayler (Rivers and Estuaries Science principal scientist).

Kerry Trayler opened the event with an Acknowledgment of Country in Noongar language and English.

Guests were then invited and guided through the healing smoke of a traditional Whadjuk Smoking Ceremony by Elisha Jacobs-Smith (Perth Hills Aboriginal Ranger trainee and Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit project officer).

Local Whadjuk artist Justin Martin followed this with a presentation outlining the meaning of and inspiration for his artwork that features culturally significant important themes, spirituality and stories specific to the site of the recently installed interpretation nodes at Kent Street Weir.

The event concluded with a BBQ including kangaroo meat and a selection of salads for lunch. The BBQ was cooked by Wayne with assistance from Natasha.



*Kerry Trayler.*



*Elisha Jacobs-Smith doing a smoking ceremony for attendees.*



*Justin Martin from Djurandi Dreaming.*

*Justin, Kerry, Elisha.*



## Yanchep National Park (Swan Region)

On 15 November, Yanchep National Park welcomed DBCA staff and members of the public to enjoy a day of NAIDOC Week activities.

Celebrations began by meeting at the Wangi Mia for an opening and Welcome to Country followed by a sand art activity with Aboriginal artist Rebecca Garlett.

Noongar language teacher Judith Birchall held a walk and talk for and shared some interesting cultural facts.

The festivities finished with various cultural activities and stories with Derek Nannup, Yanchep Eco-Education Officer.



**Judith Birchall.**



**Sand art by Rebecca Garlett.**



**Animal board.**

## Culturally inspired morning tea

On 13 November, Rivers and Estuaries Branch, Internal Noongar Working Group and Rivers and Estuaries Science hosted special NAIDOC morning tea in Block 4/10 at Kensington.

About 25 people from various sections of the organisation attended the tea, which featured a special menu that included: emu and crocodile meats, kangaroo sausages, lemon myrtle chicken wings, pepperberry hummous and emu, pepperberry and native thyme sausage rolls.

One of the chefs said that initially the idea of creating a bush-tucker morning tea seemed a bit daunting. "While we knew we could get game meats, we wanted to find a way to create dishes that encompassed bush ingredients.

"Sourcing local herbs proved a bit challenging until we discovered Roogenic at the Freo Markets and online. They have all sorts of herbs, spices, fruits, chutneys and honeys.

"They provided recipes too, which were fun to make, and we combined them with the available meats (emu, kangaroo and crocodile) to cook up a feast for the morning tea. I enjoyed it so much, I plan to have a bush-food theme on my Christmas table."





## Wheatbelt Region

The Wheatbelt Region came together to meet on country with the Badjebup Aboriginal Corporation as part of NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Festivities started with a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony. This was followed by a tour of local important Aboriginal sites.

Participants then enjoyed a lunch of kangaroo tail stew and damper.

Acting Regional Manager Chris Stewart said it was great to meet Julie Hayden (Managing Director, Badjebup Aboriginal Corporation) and the group at Badjebup and hear about their visions for the future and what is important to them.”



## Warren Region

For NAIDOC Week Warren Region Regional Aboriginal Engagement officer Sonya Stewart organised and presented several activities for staff and the public including:

- a NAIDOC quiz for staff
- a display for staff
- talks at the local primary school.



## Pilbara Region

### Karratha

Staff from Karratha held a community event for NAIDOC Week that included a free mini-cultural tour in Murujuga National Park. Three tours were conducted with about 50 participants per tour.

DBCA Karratha also set up a stall at a concert in Roebourne.



## Exmouth District

To celebrate NAIDOC Week the Exmouth District held two events:

- Cultural Advisor Hazel Walgar gave a Welcome to Country and speech at the Royal Australia Air Force base at Learmonth.
- A morning tea was held and Regional Fire Management Services Executive Director Jason Foster joined staff in marking the occasion.



*Mini-cultural tours at Murujuga National Park were part of DBCA Karratha's NAIDOC Week celebrations.*

## Midwest Region

As part of NAIDOC Week, staff from the Moora District joined Kwelena Mambakort Aboriginal Corporation (KMAC) and the Shire of Dandaragan in a celebration of community and culture at the Turquoise Coast Visitor Centre.

DBCA Rangers Assistant Caleb Shaw welcomed attendees with a smoking ceremony as the skies opened and rain began to fall. Traditional Owner Glenn Shaw opened the event by playing the didgeridoo. Annie Shaw and Caleb Shaw shared their knowledge of Aboriginal bush tucker and medicines with the group. A display included examples of local bush tucker and Noongar jewellery. Annie spoke of the importance of the peppermint tree to Noongar women and the many uses it has in Noongar culture.

KMAC also took the opportunity to introduce their new Aboriginal rangers, Chris McPhee and Kain Shaw, who are working on country from the Wedge Reserve under the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) Midwest Aboriginal Ranger Program.



## Kimberley Region

### Kununurra

The 31165 Reserve and the Miriuwung Gajerrong Rangers came together to host a stall at Whitegum Park to Celebrate NAIDOC Week with the community on 9th November.



## West Kimberley

Parks and Wildlife Service, West Kimberley District hosted a special afternoon tea to celebrate NAIDOC Week on 13 November. The Yawuru Ranger team put on a mix of traditional cultural food, including stingray and fish, and modern food.

Yawuru Ranger Preston Manado spoke about the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and what NAIDOC Week means to him.

It was also a good opportunity for Regional Manger Craig Olejnik and District Manager Rob Blok to discuss the importance of joint management, acknowledging that it 'Always Was, Always Will Be' Aboriginal land. Staff were invited to stay for a social event afterwards.



**Always Was,  
Always Will Be.**  
8-15 NOV 2020

NAIDOC 2020 invites all Australians to embrace the true history of this country - a history which dates back thousands of generations.

Parks and Wildlife Service West Kimberley is committed to joint management and recognises the important role Traditional Owners play in planning, managing and protecting conservation in marine and terrestrial environments.

Please join us to celebrate

### NAIDOC WEEK 2020

What: Afternoon tea put on by the Yawuru team, followed by barefoot bowls from 6pm

When: Friday 13 November, 3pm onwards

Where: Conference room and Broome Bowling Club (Herbert Street)

RSVP: [karis.erceg@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:karis.erceg@dbca.wa.gov.au)

by Monday 9 November for catering and bowls booking



## South West Region

The Harvey community enjoyed a full week of NAIDOC celebrations again in 2020, with a variety of displays, activities and demonstrations centered around the NAIDOC Week 2020 theme, 'Always Was, Always Will Be', a statement that highlights and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as people who have occupied and cared for this continent for more than 65,000 years.

Kalgulup Regional Park DBCA rangers, Jonnie Cobby (Ranger) and Ryley Clarke (Trainee Ranger) got involved in the celebrations by running a display and demonstrations of Aboriginal tools and weapons, accompanied by a taxidermy display of native animal found throughout the South West.

Other items available to guests throughout the celebrations included walking tours along the Harvey River lead by Aunty Leslie Ugle, kangaroo stew and damper tasting, Noongar culture and history presentations, arts and craft displays and activities, bush medicine workshop, bush food samples, a movie day mini softball carnival and a yarning circle.

Ranger Jonnie Cobby said the yarning circle was a particularly powerful element of the celebrations. "It brought people together to share stories of themselves and experiences into an open and welcoming environment," he said.

"This really created a cumulative effect in which people were really engaged in the conversations generated. Something as simple as 'what does NAIDOC Week mean to you?' or 'where are you from?' gave an excellent cross section of the people in the circle and created some great synergies. It was a very powerful tool to use with people within the celebrations."



**DBCA display table showcasing Aboriginal tools and weapons and taxidermy native animals.**



**Kalgulup Regional Park DBCA rangers Ryley Clarke and Jonnie Cobby with Harvey NAIDOC committee member and Wellington District MATES Trainee Ranger Shannon Ugle (center).**

## Leeuwen's Lily

### A botanical tribute to Stephen van Leeuwen

Staff at the Western Australian Herbarium marked NAIDOC Week with the publication of Leeuwen's lily (*Arthropodium vanleeuwenii*), named in honour of Stephen van Leeuwen, Curtin University's Indigenous Professor for Biodiversity and Environmental Science.

This delicate species is currently known from two small populations in the Pilbara region — one in Karinjini National Park, the other on a mining tenement — where it can be found on ironstone hillslopes, usually growing under spinifex. First collected for the Western Australian Herbarium by botanical consultants in 2016, the species was confirmed as new to western science by the Herbarium's Pilbara identification botanist Steve Dillon and native lily expert Terry Macfarlane, who were inspired to recognise Stephen's exceptional efforts in increasing our understanding of Pilbara flora.

Formerly a scientist at DBCA, Stephen spearheaded the Pilbara biological survey (2002–07) that resulted in almost 8000 plant voucher specimens being submitted to the Western Australian Herbarium. These specimens, collected by a team of botanists, technical staff and volunteers during 14 separate trips and across 426 survey sites, represent an extraordinary botanical legacy that will have far-reaching benefits for biodiversity conservation in this region. Leeuwen's lily is a nod to this effort and Stephen's enduring contribution to plant science and conservation in Western Australia.

*Arthropodium vanleeuwenii* is one of 50 Western Australian species formally documented in 2020 as part of a golden anniversary edition of the Herbarium's botanical journal *Nuytsia*. Most of these species are threatened or poorly known, with several known only from a single site or fewer than 50 plants. Giving them scientific names and providing descriptions to aid their identification is a critical first step in terms of their conservation and will hopefully lead to the discovery of more plants in the wild.

So be on the lookout for Leeuwen's lily when you're next in the Pilbara – it would be wonderful to locate more occurrences of this delightful rarity.



**Left to right: *Arthropodium vanleeuwenii* is endemic to the Pilbara where it grows on rocky ironstone hillslopes; the delicate blooms of Leeuwen's lily open one after another; Stephen van Leeuwen in action during the Pilbara biological survey. Photos — Steve Dillon and Kate Brown**



## Sharing the Dreaming App

The department's Sharing the Dreaming app enjoyed a major profile boost during NAIDOC Week 2020 when it was featured by Apple on the App Store. Sharing the Dreaming is a window to Aboriginal Australian culture: the culture of the Nyoongar, the Traditional Owners of Australia's South-West.

Assistant Director Parks and Visitor Services Rod Annear said they were contacted by Apple and asked to submit artwork if we wanted the Sharing the Dreaming app to be featured in the App Store. "Getting featured in the App Store by Apple is a big deal – doesn't happen often and usually only for high end apps or something new," he said.

Sharing the Dreaming is an educational package developed more than 15 years ago in consultation with Aboriginal elders by the former Aboriginal Heritage and Training Unit, Yanchep Eco Education Aboriginal Officer Trevor Walley and Gil Field, a former Manager of the Interpretation Unit. The artwork was designed and developed by prominent Aboriginal artist the late Mr Shane Pickett.

The app allows users to:

- listen to Dreamtime stories illustrated by images of paintings in the local style
- discover the meanings of symbols used in those, and other, traditional paintings
- hear and learn Nyoongar words and their English language translations
- see how the six Nyoongar seasons of the year reflect the natural annual rhythms of country.



**We hope you have enjoyed reading Yarning Time's NAIDOC 2020 special.**

**Thank you for your support and we look forward to connecting with you further during 2021.**

