

Yarning Time



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Issue 11: November 2021 - Joint Management Special



Welcome to the 11th 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.



In this issue:

Joint management special	2
How joint management works	2
Map of formal Joint Management Agreements	3
Plan for Our Parks	4
South West Native Title Settlement	4
Joint management and management planning	5
Joint management perspectives from Aboriginal staff	6
Regional round-up	7
Positions to support joint management	15
Contact	15



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



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

Joint management special

This special issue has a focus on joint management, and includes stories and updates about new and existing management partnerships with Traditional Owners.

In the past decade, DBCA has invested significantly in establishing management partnerships with Traditional Owners across the State. This partnership approach is a major shift in the management of protected areas and the way the department conducts its business. More than 40 parks and reserves are now managed together with Aboriginal people, covering more than 18 percent of WA's conservation estate.

There are many obvious benefits to working jointly with Traditional Owners as management partners. The involvement of Aboriginal people in the management of their traditional lands and waters contributes to improved protection of biodiversity and cultural and heritage values and plays an important role in advancing the reconciliation process. Cross-cultural exchange and communication are key aspects of joint management, to enrich understanding and build the capacities of both DBCA staff and partner groups. Joint management also plays a role in supporting the broader Aboriginal community to get out on country, with the department facilitating trips for customary activities and sharing knowledge.

Under the State Government's [Plan for Our Parks](#) initiative, DBCA will work closely with Traditional Owners to create and jointly manage additions to the conservation estate in the Kimberley, the Pilbara, the Midwest, the Goldfields, the South West and the South Coast. Further, as part of the South West Native Title Settlement, DBCA will enter into cooperative and joint management arrangements with Noongar people.

How joint management works

Joint management is a partnership between the department and Traditional Owners to work together to care for Country. It can be achieved through both informal and formal management partnerships.

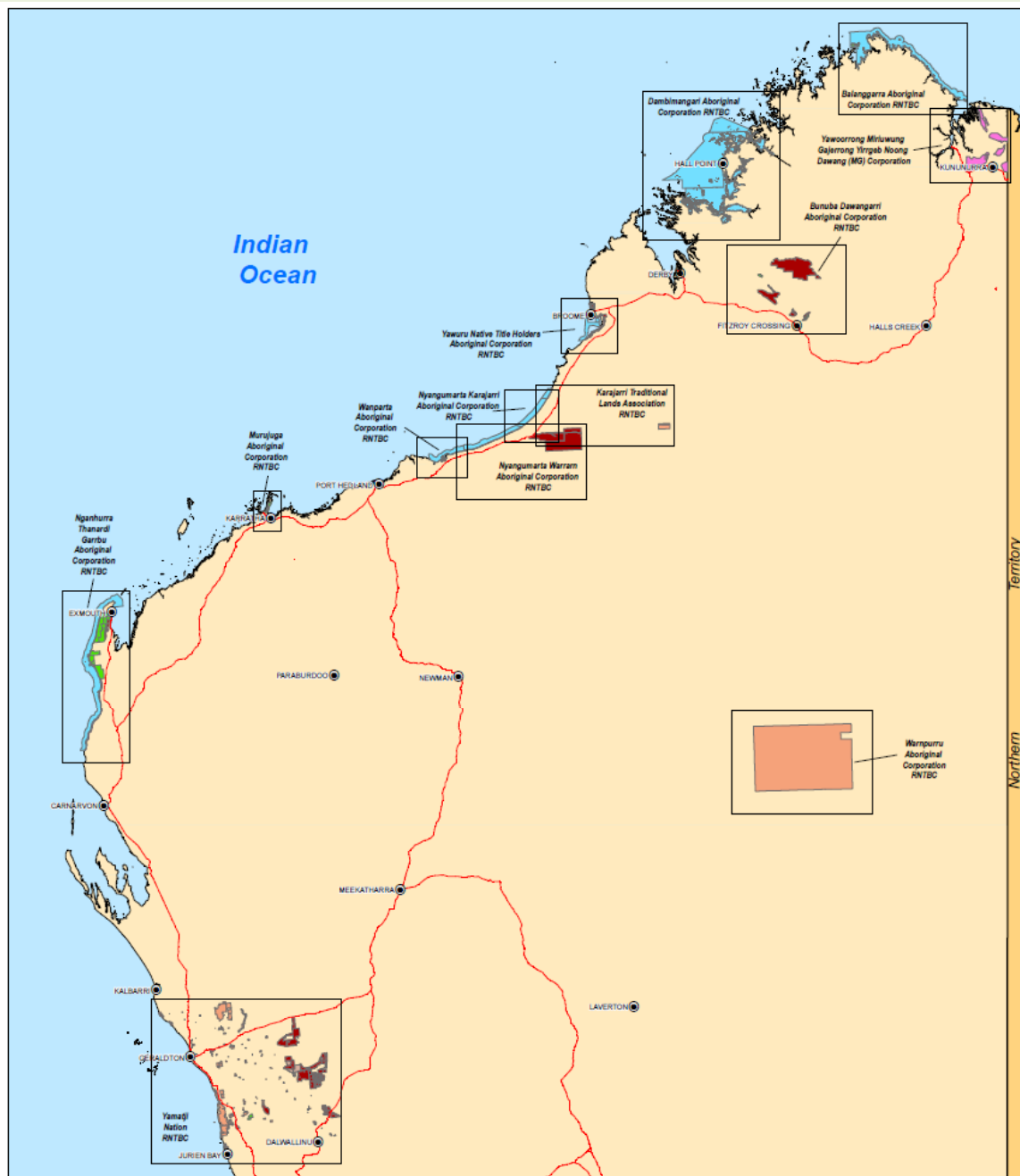
Formal partnerships are captured through a Joint Management Agreement (JMA), which can also include other groups such as private landowners and local shires. The JMA sets out how DBCA and Traditional Owners make decisions regarding land management, and provides clarification surrounding objectives, roles and responsibilities, and decision making about how the conservation estate is managed. The JMA sets up a Joint Management Body (JMB) of Traditional Owner members and senior DBCA staff. The chairperson of the JMB is a Traditional Owner.

A JMB with representatives from these groups will be established, and provide guidance, advice, and recommendations on how to manage the land. The JMB meets regularly to provide recommendations, advice, and guidance on managing the conservation estate. DBCA staff and Aboriginal rangers are responsible for on-ground management of jointly managed parks and reserves.

The aim of joint management is to reach decisions that everyone is happy with. Decisions need to be made unanimously, or with the support of the majority of Traditional Owner and majority of DBCA representatives.

The department currently has 12 JMAs in place and continues to enjoy strong relationships with Traditional Owner groups in WA.

Map of current formal Joint Management Agreements

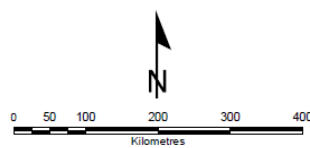


Legend

- National Park
- Nature Reserve
- Conservation Park
- Marine Park
- Section 5(1)(g) reserve
- Section 5(1)(h) reserve
- Timber reserve

Townsites

- BROOME



Produced by the
Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions



Roads and tracks on land managed by DBCA may contain unmarked hazards and their surface condition is variable. Exercise caution and drive to conditions on all roads.

The Dept. of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions does not guarantee that this map is without flaw of any kind and disclaims all liability for any errors, loss or other consequence which may arise from relying on any information depicted.

Plan for Our Parks

In 2019, the State Government announced a plan to create five million hectares of new national and marine parks and conservation reserves across WA.

[Plan for Our Parks](#) will see new and expanded parks from the Kimberley in the north, across WA's Rangelands, through population centres in Perth and Bunbury, to our south-west forests and along our southern coastline. This is creating more opportunities for nature-based and cultural tourism, provides enhanced biodiversity conservation and will lead to new joint

management arrangements across the State. The plan will deliver on a number of existing strategic priorities and commitments, and create new visionary opportunities for parks and reserves.

Since Plan for Our Parks was announced by the Premier in February 2019, the State Government has identified the need for additional areas for reservation to ensure the five million hectare target is met. Around 830,000 hectares of additional areas have been identified following a consultation and refinement process undertaken throughout 2020. In the first two years of the initiative, Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) have been agreed with the Bardi and Jawi, Dambimangari and Mayala Native Title Holders for marine parks at the Buccaneer Archipelago and for the Bunuba and Gooniyandi portions of a proposed national park in the Fitzroy River. An ILUA is a voluntary agreement between Native Title parties and other people or bodies about the use and management of areas of land and/or waters.

The Working Together Project component of Plan for Our Parks enables opportunities to build relationships and resource on-Country trips and projects.



PLAN FOR OUR PARKS

SECURING 5 MILLION HECTARES OVER 5 YEARS

South West Native Title Settlement

The department is preparing for cooperative and joint management with Noongar people over the south west conservation estate. The South West Native Title Settlement (SWNTS) is the most comprehensive agreement to ever be negotiated in Australia, covering a total of 220,000 square kilometers of the south west of WA and affecting more than 30,000 Noongar people.

Last year, the Noongar Regional Corporations negotiated with the State to register six ILUAs.

The department's SWNT team, including Senior Project Officers Karim Khan, Zoe Moon and Justin McAllister, has been developing resources and delivering information sessions to regional staff on the SWNTS.

These sessions cover an overview of Native Title, the department's responsibilities in implementing the SWNTS and the Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement. Feedback has been positive from attendees.

This is an exciting time to see joint management extended to the Noongar Country.

Joint management and management planning

Aboriginal involvement in management of conservation reserves has been an aspiration of management planning in the department for many years, with various forms of informal joint management arrangements and Aboriginal engagement taking place for over 20 years. This has included Traditional Owners' involvement in advisory committees, park councils and consultation.

Management planning within the department has evolved to have a much greater emphasis on Aboriginal culture and heritage with more of a collaborative partnership approach valuing the traditional knowledge of the planning area. Previously the focus was on cultural heritage sites and activities whereas now there is a broader consideration of tangible and intangible cultural heritage with cultural values intertwined throughout the management plan.



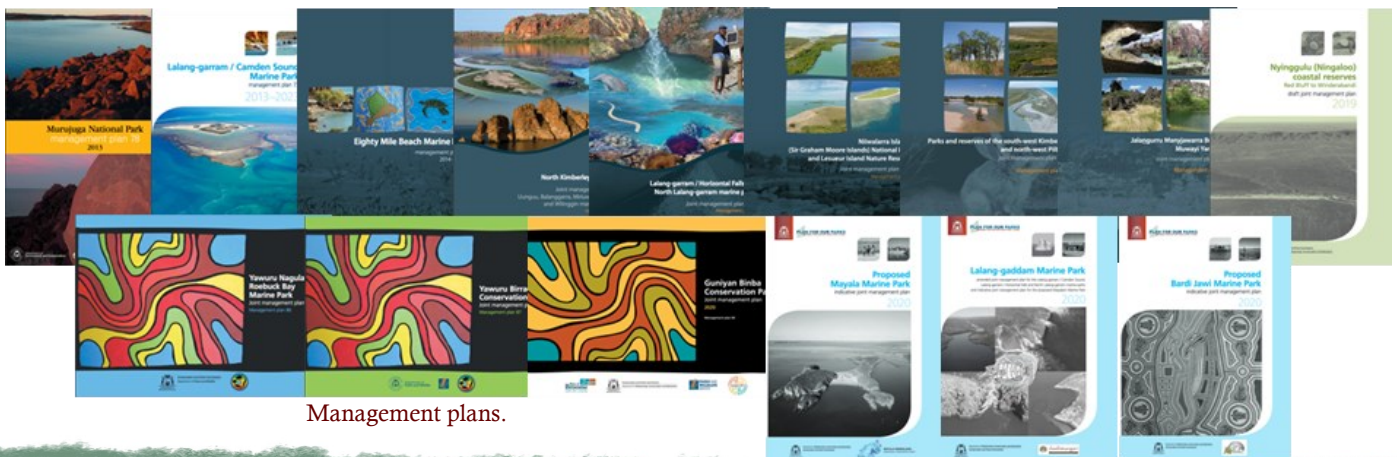
Joint management planning in the Exmouth District.

It is also important that joint management partners are more involved in developing the objectives and strategies of the management plans (e.g. Traditional Owners have informed reserve zoning within marine parks such as special purpose zones within Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park and North Kimberley Marine Park as well as discussing appropriate areas and levels of recreation in terrestrial reserves).

During planning processes, multiple on-Country trips are facilitated where much knowledge is shared and relationships are developed and strengthened.

Each new management partnership brings new learnings and knowledge to the department. Management planners are continually learning how to incorporate this, along with Traditional Owner aspirations, into management plans.

Formal joint management of conservation reserves occurs through attaching a JMA to the gazetted final management plan. Since 2013, there have been 11 joint management plans gazetted for marine and terrestrial reserves, four indicative or draft plans out for public comment with a further 17 joint management plans in various stages of preparation. Busy and exciting times ahead!



Management plans.

Joint management perspective from Aboriginal staff

Pilbara Region

Reflections on two years in the Cultural Advisor role - Hazel Walgar

My name is Hazel Walgar, I am a Baiyungu woman. My traditional country takes in the entire Ningaloo coastline. My connection to this Country is through my grandmother Yingagurru. Yingagurru belongs to the Nyingalara clan which is now known as Ningaloo.

It's 2019 and the beginning of a new and interesting relationship between Traditional Owners and DBCA as we start formally working together on a two-way learning journey, traditional knowledge and western scientific to look after Nyinggulu.

Many years ago I sat on the veranda at Cardabia Station watching and listening to past Elders talk about their vision for protecting our heritage sites, passing down knowledge, preserving our language and looking after and working on Country.

A brand new role; the Cultural Advisor position was a vision of Nyinggulu Coast Joint Management Body and I am proud to have been appointed to it.

My role as a Cultural Advisor in the department is to deliver cultural education to the public and community, interpretation programs, Aboriginal cultural awareness across the Exmouth District and assist with two-way transfer knowledge between Traditional Owners and the department. I also mentor and support our Trainee Rangers who work with all staff to develop strong working relationship with Traditional Owners and help with the development of resources like cultural mapping.

Two years in the job has been an interesting journey, personally as a proud Baiyungu woman working on traditional Country, I am happy and also grateful making a difference for my people, I am following my heart, dreams and be guided by my old people my ancestors of Nyinggulu - Ningaloo.



Cultural Advisor Hazel Walgar on her first day with former Exmouth District Manager Arvid Hogstrom and Joint Management Officer Tom Nagle.

Regional round-up

Pilbara Region

'Country Talking' Nyinggulu interpretive signage journey

'Nyinggulu' is known as a special place: a place of significance, culture, heritage, beauty and uniqueness.

It was always up to the Traditional Owners to look after this place. But now, through Nyinggulu joint management arrangements, Traditional Owners work together with DBCA to educate visitors in specific areas of the park. There are many locations within Nyinggulu where people can come to learn about why this place is so important. For Traditional Owners, this is 'ngarrari wanggayi' (Country talking). There are many places of significance including the ecosystems, habitats and landscapes. As Nyinggulu is rich in biodiversity, cultural and heritage values, it attracts many visitors, and Traditional Owners want to make sure their visitors are aware and safe.

As the development of interpretive signage is an important aspect of joint management, joint management partners and DBCA are embarking on a major project to install interpretive signage throughout jointly managed parks and reserves. In the Exmouth District, stories are being passed down and traditional knowledge shared to future generations and visitors. Some examples of interpretive signage include:

Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves entry point signage: Traditional Owners wanted to capture the sense of arrival and safety on traditional Baiyungu Country. This project represents two-way learning to work together in partnership with DBCA.

Majun Malinmayi signage project: Majun Malinmayi (Turtle Dreaming) provides cultural interpretation at the most highly visited turtle nesting and hatching site at Nyinggulu - a Dreaming site where all female turtles return to their birthplace. It is a place for women's business.

Seasonal calendar project: Work is underway to develop a Nyinggulu seasonal calendar, which will contain easy-to-read and valuable information about the local seasons. The Traditional Owners' favorite season is nyarlba (springtime) as Country is flourishing including the sea, all living creatures in Nyinggulu become healthy. It's time to stock up and prepare for the biyarda (dry time) and Thubayurri (hot time). The seasons are an important guide to what nature is doing at every stage of the year.

"Learning about Country from Hazel and working together to create culturally interpretive projects to share traditional knowledge has been some of the most rewarding work I have done in my career so far." Felicity Kelly, Exmouth District Interpretation Officer.



Nyinggulu seasonal calendar, nearly finished!



Turtle Dreaming. Nyinggulu JMB visit newly installed signage project at the most highly visited turtle nesting and hatching site at Nyinggulu.



Majun Sign.

Regional round-up

Pilbara Region

Honoring Elders and keeping our language alive - A personal account by Hazel Walgar

In the late 1970s - early 80s, Peter Austin and Alan Dench, both young linguists, came out of La Trobe University to do recordings on languages spoken in the Gascoyne and Pilbara. They were Yinngarda, Thardgari, Thalanyji, Budurna and Payungu (Baiyungu) both recording Payungu - Baiyungu language with two of our senior Elders my aunt Dolly Butler and my dear old dad George Cooyou Snr.

Still to this day, I have Peter's recording on cassette tapes which now needs to be transferred by digitisation and archived for future generations. Baiyungu, Thalanyji and Budurna belong to the Ganyara family of languages of the Pilbara.

Only a few of us speak the Baiyungu language with some of our younger ones understand but cannot speak Baiyungu. Since working as a language worker and doing studies in linguistics with Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre many years ago in South Hedland I too authored Baiyungu publications: Baiyungu Sketch Grammar, Baiyungu Picture Dictionary, Baiyungu Dictionary English- Baiyungu Wordlist and Thematic Wordlist, Baiyungu Phrase Book in language and English and a Baiyungu information booklet on our ways and culture.

I use the Baiyungu Dictionary every day in my cultural advisor role by doing this I am honoring the legacy and keeping that work and the language alive.

Language is important. Growing up around our old people, English was a second language. You had to understand what was being said as they rarely spoke English. In my role as a Cultural Advisor, I will be working closely with our new rangers teaching and guiding them do language lessons on Country, cultural learning and helping with future projects.

With the support of the Joint Management Body I am proud to see cultural projects being completed and to be working alongside our trainee rangers and staff with short- and long-term goals. My vision for the future – Traditional Owners, the Baiyungu people are recognised, develop and inspire leadership and the younger generation to be taught their cultural heritage.

"Hazel has a unique skillset being both a linguist by training but also a speaker of her traditional language of Baiyungu. The dedication she brings to her role as Cultural Advisor is inspirational as is the level of trust that she affords the Exmouth District through her contribution of traditional knowledge." Tom Nagle, Nynggulu Joint Management Officer.



Cultural mapping project for the Nynggulu Coast.



Peter Austin visits from the UK and the very first Nynggulu seasonal calendar workshop at Cardabia Station.

Regional round-up

Kimberley Region

2021 Kimberley Joint Management Forum

About 30 Parks and Wildlife Service staff gathered at Fitzroy Crossing in June 2021 for a two-day forum on joint management in the Kimberley. Most participants were from the Kimberley Region, with a small number of staff from Perth, the Midwest and the Goldfields also attending. The forum provided an important opportunity for staff to reflect on joint management in the region, share experiences, and to identify priorities to strengthen existing partnerships and prepare for new joint management arrangements.

Bunuba perspective on joint management

Aboriginal Elders Joe Ross and June Oscar set the scene by providing some valuable observations and insights of joint management from a Traditional Owner perspective. They recognised that joint management provided new and exciting opportunities for Aboriginal people in the Kimberley, but emphasised the need to have Bunuba input and involvement as equal partners. Through their engagement in park management, the group are establishing a “functional social and economic base” for Bunuba people. Facilitating access back to Country is a critical aspect of joint management, and June spoke to the significance of this as part of the healing process.

New way of doing business

The Kimberley Region has been leading the State in joint management planning and implementation. There are Joint Management Arrangements in place with no less than nine Aboriginal partner groups, with management partnerships in the process of being formalised with a further four groups of Native Title holders as part of the creation of new marine and national parks in the Buccaneer Archipelago and the Fitzroy River catchment. A large number of successes, challenges, opportunities and lessons were shared and captured during group discussions on the first day of the forum.

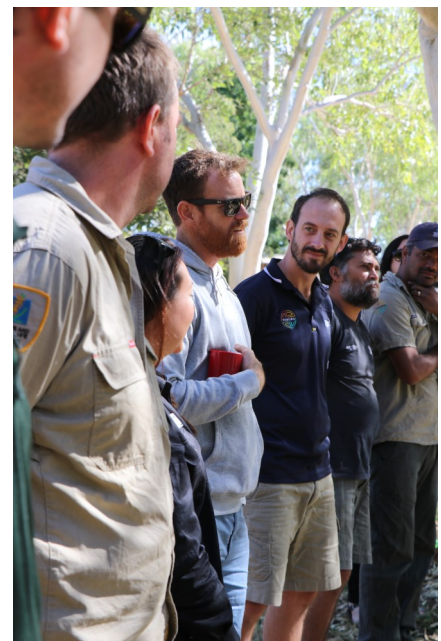
Priority work areas

The major challenges and opportunities for joint management in the region were further explored on day two, and participants considered and voted on the recommendations from the department’s 2019 joint management review most critical to improving outcomes in the Kimberley. A total of eight priority work areas were identified, most of which address both key challenges and opportunities, as well as specific recommendations from the review.

Special thanks to Gina Lincoln and Naomi Findlay for organising the forum, Will Bessen from Tuna Blue for his expert facilitation and the Bunuba Traditional Owners for their support and allowing staff to meet on Bunuba Country.



June Oscar (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and Bunuba Senior Traditional Owner)



Parks and Wildlife Service staff from across the Kimberley Region reflect on their joint management experiences.

Regional round-up

Kimberley Region

Co-designing national and marine parks

As part of State Government’s 2017 Plan for the Kimberley and Plan for Our Parks initiatives, DBCA’s Kimberley Region team, the Land Services Unit and the Native Title Unit have worked in partnership with the Bunuba and Gooniyandi Native Title groups to co-design two jointly vested and jointly managed national parks along the Fitzroy and Margaret rivers. The establishment of these national parks, expected mid-2021, required the negotiation of ILUAs with both the Bunuba and Gooniyandi Native Title groups. Both groups authorised their ILUAs late last year.

Kimberley Regional Manager Craig Olejnik said co-designing the national parks and the subsequent respectful negotiation of the ILUAs by DBCA and the Native Title groups sets a clear benchmark for joint management, conservation and cultural protection of Country. “The national parks will protect Country and provide land management jobs and economic development opportunities for our joint management partners,” Craig said.

Bunuba Fitzroy River National Park

The establishment of Bunuba Fitzroy River National Park will see substantial sections of the Fitzroy River between Danggu National Park, near Fitzroy Crossing, and Dimond Gorge to the north reserved as national park which will protect the Fitzroy River from damming and mining. The national park will also see over 170,000 hectares of Bunuba exclusive possession native title country reserved as jointly vested, jointly managed national and conservation park.

Gooniyandi Warlibirri National Park

Gooniyandi Warlibirri National Park will see large sections, approximately 70 kilometres, of the Margaret River to the east of Fitzroy Crossing reserved as jointly vested, jointly managed national park. ‘Warlibirri’ means river in Gooniyandi language.

More than 12,000 hectares of Gooniyandi Native Title land and waters will be reserved as national park. The national park will create ongoing Gooniyandi land management jobs and economic development opportunities and also protect Gooniyandi cultural and environmental values over the Warlibirri River and surrounding areas.

Buccaneer Archipelago

Traditional Owners from the Mayala and Bardi Jawi Native Title groups joined DBCA planners and joint management staff from the Kimberley Region on a five-day trip across the Buccaneer Archipelago. Set to a spectacular backdrop of stunning Sea Country and islands, and an ancient coastline of immense cultural value, the group undertook planning critical to the creation of the proposed marine park. This trip builds upon a genuine two-way partnership of marine park planning, bringing together traditional knowledge and western science to co-design the park and its three indicative joint management plans.



Bunuba Chairperson Kevin Oscar, National Park Area confirmation meeting, 2019.



Gooniyandi DBCA National Park Design Trip, 2019.



Mayala and Bardi Jawi Traditional Owners with DBCA staff considering public submissions on the proposed Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park.

Regional round-up

Kimberley Region

Co-designing national and marine parks continued...

Attendees came together to hear the results of an intensive period of public submissions and stakeholder consultations on the draft marine park management plans across the six months preceding. Traditional Owners drove the decision-making process and worked hard to develop solutions to a number of complicated issues and competing uses across their Sea Country.

Throughout the week, Traditional Owners also shared cultural stories, undertook cultural activities, and connected with Country while visiting important cultural sites.

Adding significant value to the trip, several fisheries management staff from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) also participated in the trip, bringing their expertise to the table, including complementary tools to assist in the management of the proposed marine park.

Recommendations made by Mayala and Bardi Jawi Traditional Owners, and interim Joint Management Body members will be tabled at the next meetings of their Native Title Representative Body Corporates before going out to stakeholders for a final round of consultation.

Dambeemangardee Traditional Owners will join DBCA staff to undertake a similar process in a few weeks' time.

The co-design process being undertaken by the department with Traditional Owners from Mayala, Bardi Jawi and Dambeemangardee has attracted both national and international attention as a world-class, Indigenous-led process of protected area development.



Traditional Owners enjoying a visit to one of the many significant cultural sites throughout the Buccaneer Archipelago.



Senior Traditional Owners Mervyn Davey and Violet Carter on Mayala Sea Country.



Bardi Jawi and Mayala Traditional Owners with DBCA and DPIRD staff celebrating a fantastic week together.

Regional round-up

Midwest Region

Staff from the Midwest Region are busily working with Traditional Owners across the region, from the Yued people in the south to the Nharnuwangga Wajarri Ngarlawangga people in the north. Here are just a few of the things that have been happening in the Midwest.

Badimia

DBCA now has informal joint management with Badimia Bandi Barna Aboriginal Corporation following the creation of the Badimia reserves, and is working on developing a joint management plan. Staff recently undertook cultural mapping with Traditional Owners during an on-Country trip. Four Aboriginal trainee positions will be advertised soon with two based in Geraldton and two working in a drive-in, drive-out arrangement to Thundelarra.



Group photo of Barnabinmah - Badimia Traditional Owners.

Yinggarda

In late June, DBCA staff accompanied Yinggarda Traditional Owners on a learning exchange to Broome. The group met with Nyamba Buru Yawuru, Yawuru Elders, Yawuru Country Managers and staff from the Kimberly Region, including Yawuru Rangers, to learn more about joint management. It was an inspiring week for all involved and the group came away with a stronger understanding of what a joint management arrangement between Yinggarda and DBCA could look like. DBCA and Yinggarda will commence negotiating an ILUA in the next few months for additions to Kennedy Range (Mundatharda) National Park with Aboriginal trainee rangers, Anthony Turner and Jason Windie, starting their new roles in Gascoyne Junction in August 2021.



Yinggarda Yawuru learning exchange.



Yinggarda Traditional Owners with Yawuru Country Managers at Roebuck Plains.

Malgana

In May 2021, DBCA and Malgana Elders held a community meeting in Shark Bay seeking feedback on the possible creation of a national park in South Peron and other Malgana lands. The meeting was well attended with more than 40 members of the community sharing their views with the team over several hours. Further to this, Malgana have recently endorsed the employment of four trainee rangers at Shark Bay to work with DBCA via a Working Together Project. It is hoped that ILUA negotiations with Malgana will start later this year.

Regional round-up

Midwest Region

Wajarri Yamatji

As part of the Working Together Project component of Plan for Our Parks, there are now four trainee rangers working at Mount Augustus. The rangers are based at Burringurrah and are working on managing the national park while exploring options in the broader Burringurrah lands that are being considered for joint management under Plan for Our Parks. Tyrone Hill, Stanley Hill, Charles Snowball and Wesley Snowball have been working alongside acting Senior Ranger Shaun McHenry and other staff from the Gascoyne District. Senior Ranger Peter Sainsbury joined us from the Northern Territory in August.



Burringurrah Rangers bollard replacement.



Burringurrah Rangers tyre drag.

Nanda

DBCA has been working with the Nanda people around Kalbarri. Cyclone Seroja unfortunately prevented us from undertaking several planned on-Country trips. This has not stopped the employment of an additional Aboriginal ranger and two trainee rangers under the Working Together Project component of Plan for Our Parks. Trainee Ranger Victor Mourambine was successfully appointed to the ranger position and Steven Eley has been appointed to the Lucky Bay Ranger position effectively creating a further two trainee ranger positions. The successful applicants (Gary Graham, Samuel Danischewsky, Kurt Wright and Cory Mallard) commenced in Kalbarri National Park in August. It is hoped that ILUA negotiations with Nanda will start later this year.

Yamatji Nation

The Yamatji Nation ILUA is a settlement of four Native Title claims over 48,000 square kilometres of land and waters in the Geraldton Region. The settlement includes joint vesting and joint management between Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation and DBCA for approximately 470,000 hectares of conservation estate including the employment of 10 Aboriginal ranger positions. DBCA has been actively working with Southern Yamatji to progress joint management and is currently managing Lucky Bay via an interim arrangement with trainee ranger Steven Eley winning the ranger position for Lucky Bay.



Trainee Rangers Victor Mourambine (Nanda) and Steven Eley (Yamatji) with DBCA staff on a fire truck.

Regional round-up

Warren Region

Journey towards joint management

Three years ago, the Warren Region committed to pursue the implementation of the Warren Region *Aboriginal Engagement Strategy 2018-2021*.

The intent of this strategy was to lay the foundation of genuine, cooperative and collaborative management of Country with Aboriginal people in the Warren Region. This focus was to enable the region to prepare for formalised joint management arrangements through the South West Native Title Settlement.

The focused effort in Aboriginal engagement has steadily increased to realise new partnerships and strengthen others; promote culture; improve access to information; train staff; protect sites and values; and improve processes.



Some of the highlights include:

- Nurtured relationships between Warren Region staff and Traditional Owners out on Country.
- Upskilled Warren Region staff in new heritage protection processes through the Disturbance Approval System, Noongar Standard Heritage Agreements and Activity Notice Process, and improving other planning processes.
- Development of specific welcomes in Noongar language for park signage and brochures.
- Major progress in the consideration of Aboriginal cultural values and sites within prescribed burn planning including conducting a pre-burn field survey with Traditional Owners; embedding knowledge of cultural landscapes into planning; discussing the burn program with Native Title working parties; conducting an on-Country trip to discuss fire management; incorporating recommendations from Traditional Owners into burn prescriptions; and physically protecting Aboriginal sites and objects during prescribed burning.
- Aboriginal rangers from both Albany and Esperance trained as fire crew members to enable them to safely support DBCA to conduct prescribed burns in culturally sensitive areas.
- Mapped unregistered sites to allow improved planning and management of these sites on DBCA estate.
- Physical on-site protection works of Aboriginal heritage places in collaboration with Elders and Aboriginal corporations.
- Organised a pop-up Aboriginal art shop and show at the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk run by a local Traditional Owner family.
- Supported major and minor Welcome to Country events throughout the region.
- Developed Aboriginal stories and sourced Noongar artwork to be incorporated into interpretation.
- Development extensive partnerships with Traditional Owners in all facets of Parks and Visitor Services projects.
- Initiated cultural mapping projects.
- Supported three DBCA staff to obtain Certificate III in Aboriginal Site Works as well as another two staff partially completing the course.

Positions to support joint management

Increased number of positions to support joint management

DBCA is committed to implementation of joint management of conservation reserves with Traditional Owners. On-ground delivery is evolving within DBCA through the State Government's Plan for Our Parks initiative and the South West Native Title Settlement being implemented. Diversity in decision-making is a core value and DBCA is committed to increasing the diversity of its workforce to improve joint management and Aboriginal employment outcomes.

DBCA has been an employer of choice for Aboriginal people through DBCA's Aboriginal MATES trainee program, however there are now a number of different employment structures and arrangements in place to facilitate joint management and Aboriginal employment. From coordinator and works programming roles: Regional Leader Joint Management, Joint Management Coordinator and Senior Operations Officer Joint Management; to on-ground delivery roles: Operations Officer – Joint Management, and Project Officer Joint Management. DBCA now has a variety of job descriptions and classifications to support employment succession for Aboriginal people and to facilitate joint management outcomes throughout WA.

These positions undertake a range of roles including contributing to negotiations of ILUAs and JMAs, coordinating meetings with Aboriginal corporations, Traditional Owners and regional stakeholders, developing communications strategies, assessing policy gaps and contributing to guidelines and standards for joint management and Traditional Owner engagement, preparing annual works programs, managing ranger workforces, coordinating assets and materials for works program implementation, liaising with park councils, committees and stakeholders, supervision of trainee rangers and other staff.

The Aboriginal Engagement, Planning and Lands Branch in the Parks and Visitor Service Division of DBCA helps to support the department's commitment to joint management through the development of management plans, negotiating ILUAs, handling Native Title and land tenure issues, the implementation of the Aboriginal Ranger Program and supporting the South West Native Title Settlement.

We hope you have enjoyed reading *Yarning Time*.

