

Yarning Time

Issue 12: January 2022



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Welcome to the twelfth 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:

Ngadju rangers - fauna training	2
Celebrating 10 years of World Heritage - Ningaloo Coast	4
Finding Patanja - a return to Country trip	5
Aboriginal Business Expo	7
Sharing knowledge and experience	8
Helping rangers reconnect to Boodja	9
Celebrating 25 years of bush ranger cadets	10
Cultural stories at Nowergup Wetlands	11
Badimia people return to Country	12
Wadjemup (Rottnest Island) Reconciliation Action Plan launch	13
Public Sector Trainee - Nikita Quartermaine	15
Wadjemup national tourism icons event - Rottnest Island	16
Graduation ceremony	18
Contact	19



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.

Ngadju rangers: fauna trapping - South Coast Region

In late August, DBCA staff from Biodiversity and Conservation Science (BCS) and the South Coast Region worked with the Ngadju ranger team to deliver the DBCA Fauna Management Course at *Binneringie*, in the area proposed as Woodline Hills Nature Reserve in the late 1980's. Although logged as part of the woodlines (company owned train lines harvesting timber for firewood and other commercial uses for the Goldfields) up until the mid-1960's, this area remains long unburnt and contains a number of distinctive vegetation communities in addition to granite outcrops, freshwater springs and a quartzite formation known as the Woodline Hills.

In 1979 a number of fauna monitoring sites were established in the area as part of the Eastern Goldfields Biological survey, but since that time there has been no systematic survey and very little recorded on the biodiversity values of the area. When we were asked to deliver the DBCA Fauna Management Course to the Ngadju rangers, this provided not only a great opportunity to work collaboratively with the rangers on their country but also to revisit this area and undertake surveys 40 years on from the original work.

In July pit traps and drift fences were re-established to capture four of the sites and vegetation communities originally sampled. The Ngadju ranger team joined DBCA staff in late September for a week of trapping and learning in this amazing environment. A field camp which included kitchen, classrooms and facilities was established and manned by DBCA staff and volunteers, and a fabulous cook.

Rangers were split into teams to clear traps, record birds, and service cameras and sandpads each morning. Several hours were spent working through keys to identify the species caught and enter camera and trapping data into databases. In addition to the trapping (with pits, cage and Elliott traps), the ranger team used a range of other techniques to record mammals (including bats), reptiles, birds and invertebrates. These included autonomous recording units (ARUs) to record birds and bats. Afternoons were either occupied with some of the formal lessons on animal ethics and welfare, survey design and monitoring equipment, or exploration of the local surrounds including hand capturing or searching for tracks and signs of other animals.



Setting a harp trap to catch bats (Photo Abby Thomas, DBCA)



Setting a harp trap to catch bats (Photo Abby Thomas, DBCA)

Ngadju rangers: fauna trapping - South Coast Region

Several spotlighting sessions were conducted after dinner, which added a couple of nocturnal birds to the bird list. Two harp traps were also set for bats, and a range of different acoustic recorders used to record bat calls. A drone was used to capture images of each of the trapping sites, with this information providing a baseline from which structural vegetation changes can be monitored through time.

The vertebrate captures from traps didn't yield any big surprises, but it was great to get good numbers of mallee ningau (*Ningau yvonneae*), and single captures of the pygmy possum (*Cercartetus conncinus*) and little long-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis dolichura*). Fifteen reptile species were caught on the trap sites or hand collected which was a good effort given the cooler weather. Rangers used keys to identify all vertebrate captures and this not only provided an opportunity to acquire an understanding of the diagnostic characters for different species but also to further develop animal handling skills.

A few of the invertebrates collected by the team were quite exciting. A male open-holed trapdoor spider of the genus *Aname* that was found in a pitfall trap has got the spider specialist from the WA Museum very excited. It is related to *Aname mellosa*, which is only found in the Pilbara. Other species of this group have been found across Western Australia, and there appears to be about 12 new species. The Museum staff will be closely examining it to see if it is yet another new species. A land snail in the Bothryembrion group that was collected from Woodline Hills area by the team is also a new, undescribed species.

The original survey of the Woodline Hills sampled fauna in nine sites, and combined with opportunistic collecting recorded three amphibians, 39 reptiles, 12 native mammals and 61 birds. In the four vegetation communities resurveyed on this occasion 15 reptiles and three native mammals were trapped, and at least four species of bats recorded. The Ngadju fauna training was conducted in spring, and although the weather was quite cool the group trapped or observed many of the species previously recorded in the area.

The opportunity to have the Ngadju rangers complete the Fauna Management Course in such a wonderful place was a privilege, and the DBCA facilitators are looking forward to working with the ranger team again in Binnering in autumn 2022.



The Ngadju ranger team and DBCA staff (Photo Sarah Comer, DBCA)



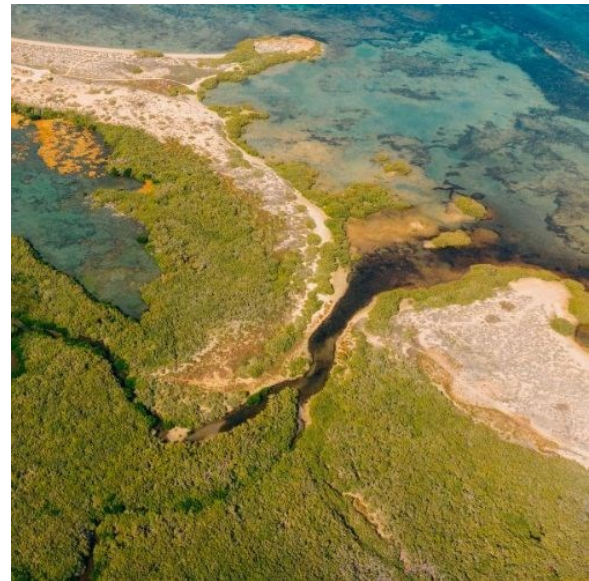
Using a drone to map vegetation at trapping sites (Photo Sarah Comer, DBCA)

Article by Sarah Comer (Regional Ecologist)

Celebrating 10 years of World Heritage at the Ningaloo Coast - Pilbara Region

Recognised as one of the most natural places on earth, the Ningaloo Coast is an irreplaceable legacy. Ningaloo Coast is celebrating 10 years of World Heritage, which is a huge achievement for the community and one we should all be proud of.

World Heritage properties represent the most significant and unique examples of the world's cultural and natural heritage. These places are considered to be of outstanding universal value, which is expressed through attributes, more commonly called features. Attributes are those elements and processes of features that convey the outstanding universal value. Identification and understanding of attributes and their interrelationships are crucial to understanding the outstanding universal value of the Ningaloo Coast.



Mangroves represent a unique community within the Ningaloo Reef system, a key attribute in expressing the outstanding universal value. **Photo** - Blue Media Exmouth

In the Baiyungu language, the lands and waters of the Ningaloo Coast are known as 'Nyinggulu'. We acknowledge the Nyinggulu Ganyarajarri (the people who belong to the Ningaloo Coast) and the inherent link between the immense cultural heritage and unique ecological values along the Ningaloo Coast.



Sharing knowledge on country with Traditional Owners.

Article by Tegan Gourlay (A/World Heritage Program Manager)

Finding Patantja: a return to Country trip - Goldfields Region

James Piper (Operations Officer - Joint Management) from the Goldfields Region shares his experiences of working on Country.

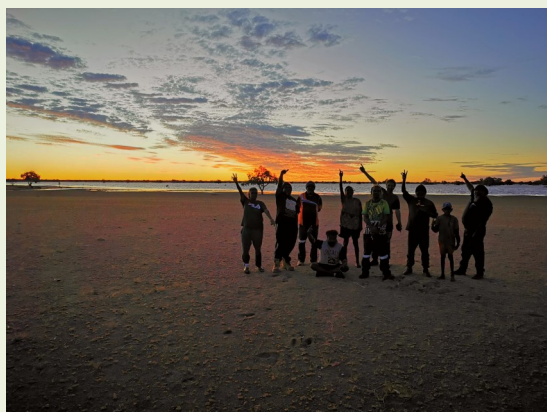
“Understanding the connection that Mantjiltjarra people have to their Country is something I will probably never fully comprehend. Being given the opportunity to assist people in spending time on Country is a true blessing and seeing people crying for their Country after being away for generations or a whole lifetime is something beyond my words.”

A recent on-Country trip run between Warnpurru Aboriginal Corporation and Parks and Wildlife Service aimed to carry out vital land management works in Pila Nature Reserve, whilst also returning people to the Country that is so overwhelmingly important to them. Our aim was to make it all the way through the nature reserve to a claypan that hadn't been visited for so long the only tracks to it were long forgotten and overgrown.

As part of the joint management team in the Goldfields I was fortunate enough to run the trip with fellow Parks and Wildlife Service employee Ben Brown, who is also a Traditional Owner of the area. Located in the Gibson Desert and covering nearly 1.9 million hectares, Pila is one of the largest and most remote reserves that the department is responsible for managing in the Goldfields and a prime example of how joint management can be not only successful but essential to carry out land management on such a vast scale.

Mission of a journey

After a solid one and a half days sharing the road with stray cattle, road trains and massive *walawarru* (wedge tailed eagles) perched along the roadside, we completed the 900km slog from Kalgoorlie to Warburton and picked up the Warnpurru Rangers and some last-minute supplies. The journey had only just begun as we set off on another three-hour drive further north along rutted, sandy roads where one of the many wild camels would offer a smoother ride than a Landcruiser, before finally turning into the Pila Nature Reserve.



Arriving at Patantja after an epic two-day journey.



Ben Brown undertaking a cultural burn.

Finding Patantja: A return to Country trip - Goldfields Region

Mission of a journey cont...

As we travelled west through the reserve, opportunities were taken to trim overgrown vegetation from the few tracks that exist and clean out any *yinta* (soakages) that were a lifeline for people who walked these lands. Keeping the rock holes and soakages clean of debris and sand helps to hold more water after rains, in turn providing vital water sources for countless birds as well as *marlu* (kangaroo) and *karlaya* (emu) to name but a few.

Cultural burning

With the desert warming up and the winds following suit during the day but falling to nothing more than a breath overnight, the rangers identified areas of vast open spinifex that were suitable for burning and introduced some fire along the tracks as we drove further into the wind towards our camp for the night. After La Niña brought widespread and much valued rain to vast areas of the desert, the older fire scars have shown their value, bursting with flowering plants and their subsequent fruit providing the ideal habitat for *tinka* (goanna), *ninu* (bilby) and many species of desert dwelling birds. Not only do the burns promote this increase in overall species diversity and improved hunting grounds, but they also provide a natural fire break to any summer wildfires that would be unmanageable from over a thousand kilometres away in Kalgoorlie.

A desert oasis

Our final stopping point was the claypan, Patantja, that many of the rangers have only heard about in stories from their Elders yet still hold a deep connection with the area that I can only marvel at. The wide-open depression makes a huge wetland after big rains and provided a vital source of drinking water and hunting grounds as well as a meeting place for people of different families who walked the lands for generations before we visited. Finding the claypan full of water filled everyone's hearts, while finding emus and goanna relishing the water also filled our bellies with fresh *kuka* (meat). As we made our way back toward Warburton we continued to prune the tracks where the vehicles struggled to fit and tidied up the 'shed tanks' that have since replaced the rock holes as the best source of reliable, clean water for people spending time on Country. Some would argue that seven days swagging it in the dusty red centre and driving several hundred kilometres on slow rough tracks is hard, hard work, but seeing the appreciation in people's faces and knowing we are working towards healthier Country turns all that into a happy blur that makes me keen for the next adventure on-Country.



Ben Brown and Paul Carnegie with freshly caught goanna.



Ben Brown, Paul Carnegie and Steven Giles cleaning a rock hole.

Article by James Piper (Operations Officer, Joint Management)

Aboriginal Business Expo

The third Aboriginal Business Expo was held at Optus Stadium on 27 October. DBCA was represented by Craig Simpson (Manager, Fleet, Procurement and Facilities Management) and Ray Halse (Senior Procurement Officer) from Fleet Procurement and Facilities Management, and Barb Culbong (Project Officer, Aboriginal Programs) from the Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit.

The previous Expo attracted over 280 Aboriginal businesses and more than 40 State Government agencies. Building on this momentum, the 2021 Expo was just as successful. The Expo also builds on the success of the [Aboriginal Procurement Policy](#) (APP), which aims to deliver government contracts to Aboriginal people in business.

With this year's theme 'Yarn Together', the Expo provided an opportunity for Aboriginal businesses and government agencies to meet and learn about potential opportunities for supplying goods and contracting services.

This year, Aboriginal businesses were matched with government agencies they expressed an interest in conducting potential business with. In a whirlwind of introductions and small breakout sessions, DBCA staff met and spoke with numerous Aboriginal businesses from regional WA, providing information and general advice on upcoming works, and networking in general.

Since the endorsement of the State Government's APP in 2018, DBCA has invested over \$7.4 million in Aboriginal procurement contracts between 2018 and 2021.

If you would like more information about the APP, please click on the link above or contact Craig Simpson (Manager Fleet Procurement and Facilities Management), craig.simpson@dbca.wa.gov.au.



Ray Halse (Senior Procurement Officer), Barb Culbong (Project Officer, Aboriginal Programs) and Craig Simpson (Manager, Fleet Procurement, and Facilities Management).

Article by Barbara Culbong (Project Officer, Aboriginal Programs)

Sharing knowledge and experience - fire on Country

Over the past four years, DBCA fire crews from the Swan Coastal District and Martu Rangers from Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (KJ) in the Pilbara Region have been working in partnership in preparation for the upcoming bushfire season.

This year four KJ rangers and KJ Jigalong Ranger Coordinator Jowel Hyne made the trip from the Great Sandy Desert and Little Sandy Desert regions and worked on prescribed burns north of Perth in Moore River National Park and Moore River State Forest.

This collaboration on prescribed burning means that KJ rangers can learn contemporary fire management techniques and the DBCA fire crews can also learn about the Martu Rangers intimate knowledge of fire on Country.



Article by PICA branch, DBCA

Helping rangers to reconnect to Boodja - South Coast Region

Today's ranger program that we have got continues the aspirations of the old people for looking after and caring for country..."

Tjaltjraak Elder

In the recently published *LANDSCOPE* article ***Connection to Boodja... a healing process*** (Spring 2021), it highlighted the important role the Aboriginal Ranger Program (ARP) has played in supporting the development of the Esperance Tjaltjraak Rangers.

As a part of the evaluation of the social benefits of the ARP, it recognised the opportunity for the younger generations to reconnect to culture and Country through the sharing of knowledge within the Esperance Nyungar community.

The increased access to Country and opportunity to work on Country through the ARP is a part of the healing process by allowing the younger generations to reconnect to Boodja.

"...it feels humble and good that I'm actually protecting and caring for Country that my grandmother and pops fought hard to get back. Makes me feel a sense of belonging and that I'm accomplishing something" (Esperance Tjaltjraak ARP Ranger).

Learn more about the [Aboriginal Ranger Program](#).



Undertaking interviews on Country



Cultural dig at Duke of Orleans Bay

Article by Dr Kate Rodger (Research Scientist) and Dr Amanda Smith (Social Science Coordinator)

Celebrating 25 years of bush ranger cadets

Recently, John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School (JSRACS) celebrated 25 years of successfully running the department's Bush Ranger Cadet Program. The program supports young Western Australians to take an active role in the conservation of the natural environment and better understand the mechanisms for its management. It offers young people opportunities to undertake personal development training while developing their conservation skills and knowledge through involvement in practical nature conservation projects. Projects undertaken can be school-based, within the local community, while others take them to some amazing locations and landscapes across the state!

Bush ranger units are supported by Cadets WA and the Department of Local Government and Communities, and are located throughout Western Australia in a range of educational settings including metropolitan, regional and remote schools, Education Support Units and Indigenous Community Schools across the independent, Catholic and State education sectors. Bush Rangers WA encourages young people to take action for positive change!

Aboriginal participation in the Bush Rangers Cadets Program continues to be very strong and this year 698 of the 3072 cadets (22%) are Aboriginal. The program is very successful in remote and regional schools where cadet units work closely with Aboriginal Rangers on projects on Country. In more urban areas cadet units include Aboriginal culture in most aspects of the program, especially by using Aboriginal operators to deliver excursions and incursions. Of the 59 schools doing Bush Rangers, 44 have Aboriginal cadets.

Carleen Edwards (Unit Leader, JSRACS Bush Rangers) was awarded for contributing 25 years of her life to the Bush Ranger Program. Also in attendance was DBCA's Richard Olive (Coordinator Environment Education and Behaviour Change) and Tina Bowers (Project Officer, Aboriginal Programs). Tina participated in the JSRACS Bush Ranger Program for nearly 14 years and was a speaker on the night.

"For me, the Bush Ranger program changed my life. If it wasn't for the program and Carleen Edwards, I would not have the job that I have today. The program increased my confidence within myself, and taught me leadership and team building skills. It allowed me to travel around the state and participate in many memorable camping activities. The celebration was a lovely night to attend and be able to catch up and reminisce with old friends" Tina Bowers.

Article by Tina Bowers (Project Officer, Aboriginal Programs) and Richard Olive (Coordinator Environmental Education and Behaviour Change)



Tina Bowers (Project Officer, Aboriginal Programs), Richard Olive (Coordinator Environmental Education and Behaviour Change) and Carleen Edwards (JSRACS Bushrangers Unit Leader)



Bush Ranger Cadets from Fitzroy Crossing conducting biodiversity surveys on Canning Stock Route with Ngurrara Rangers.

Cultural stories at Nowergup Wetlands - Swan Region

Yanchep National Park has developed new interpretation signage which was recently installed at Lake Nowergup. The interpretation signage has been funded by Local Projects, Local Jobs, which is a State Government initiative that provides grants to community organisations to deliver important upgrades to facilities and programs.

The signage tells the dream time story of how the emu was born. The story was provided by Noongar Elder Ken Colbung and the artwork was designed by Derek Nannup, Interpretation Guide at Yanchep National Park.



The walk trail highlights the environmental, historical and cultural significance of the lake system on the Swan Coastal plain.



Article by David Charles (Parks and Visitor Co-ordinator)

Badimia people return to Country - Midwest Region

ABC News Mid West and Wheatbelt [ran a story](#) recently on our consultation with the Badimia people, Traditional Owners of former pastoral stations and unallocated Crown land in the Murchison. Emma Hazelton, Midwest Region has been involved in this consultation and engagement efforts and is featured in the story.

"Both DBCA and the Badimia Elders hope the joint management of Badimia Country will spark new opportunities for younger Badimia people. DBCA already plans to recruit Aboriginal rangers to work on Country, based at the former Thundelarra Station pastoral lease. They've begun cultural mapping to identify and protect important sites. And they hope to kickstart plans for Aboriginal tourism."

[The story](#) contains a powerful 7 minute video with Badimia people talking about protecting Country and sharing stories.



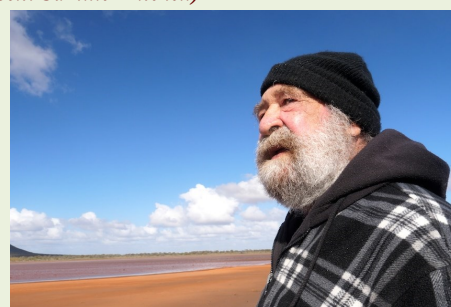
Badimia Elder Bev Slater feels privileged to return to Country. (ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt: Samille Mitchell)



Former pastoral properties like Thundelarra Station are included in the new jointly managed nature reserves. (ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt: Samille Mitchell)

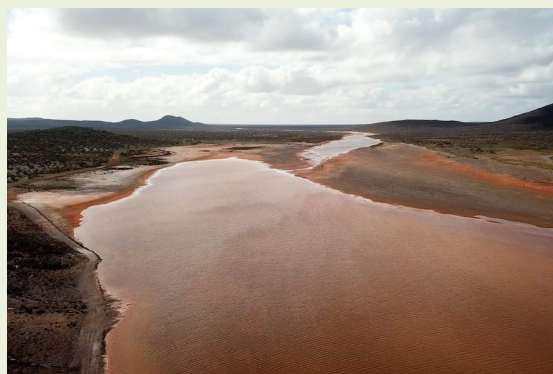


DBCA staff are working together with Badimia Elders to manage a new conservation reserve in the Murchison. (ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt: Samille Mitchell)



Badimia Elder Darryl Fogarty says Badimia Country is rich in Dreaming stories and cultural sites. (ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt: Samille Mitchell)

Article by Samille Mitchell (ABC) and Matt Fossey (Policy and Project Officer - Aboriginal Joint Management, Heritage and Engagement)



The Badimia see the unusually good winter rains this year as a sign their ancestors are rejoicing. (ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt: Samille Mitchell)

Wadjemup Reconciliation Action Plan launch - Rottnest Island

On Saturday 6th November 2021, Wadjemup, Rottnest Island Authority, launched their fourth Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2021-23.

Brief history

From 1838 to 1931, Rottnest Island was established as an Aboriginal prison. 4000 Aboriginal men and boys from all over Western Australia were incarcerated, with approximately 373 deaths in custody over this period. Prisoners were forced into building and constructing many of the facilities that are there today. As Rottnest Island became a popular tourist attraction, its history was hidden, enabling the burial ground to be utilised as a camp ground and the prison as a hostel for many years.

RAP launch

The day started with a minute's silence on-board the ferry, acknowledging the history of Wadjemup. This was followed by a morning tea and networking before the formalities of the launch began. A Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony was given by Whadjuk Elder Neville Collard.

Former Western Australian Minister for Tourism, Culture and the Arts, and Heritage, David Templeman, apologised on behalf of the Western Australian Government and Rottnest Island Authority for the mistakes of the past. These past mistakes were recognised as causing pain and anguish to all Aboriginal people. This apology has been land marked as an important step forward for the RIA reconciliation journey.

Pam Thorley (Wadjemup Aboriginal Reference Group Chair) and Brendan Moore (Member of the Wadjemup Aboriginal Reference Group) talked about the apology and the important steps forward for Wadjemup.

See the [full story on the apology](#) by Aaron Bloch from National Indigenous Times.

To view the RAP: [Reconciliation Action Plan](#).



Wadjemup Reconciliation Action Plan launch - Rottnest Island



Wadjemup Cup

The day finished with lunch and the annual Wadjemup Cup.

Clontarf Football Academy students from across the state played in a round robin Australian Football League (AFL) football competition, competing to win the Wadjemup Cup. Held on the sports oval, this event is presented in partnership between the Clontarf Foundation and the Rottnest Island Authority.

The Cup showcase a lot of talent for future AFL football.



Article by Tina Bowers (Project Officer, Aboriginal Programs)

Public Sector Commission Aboriginal Trainee - Nikita Quartermaine

The Public Sector Commission Aboriginal Traineeship Program ‘Solid Futures’ gives young Aboriginal people formal training, prospective employment opportunities and support while completing a Certificate III in Government, and helps agencies to build diverse, talented and inclusive workforces. The program is run in metropolitan and regional areas each year by matching interested host agencies with trainees and providing ongoing support throughout the traineeship.

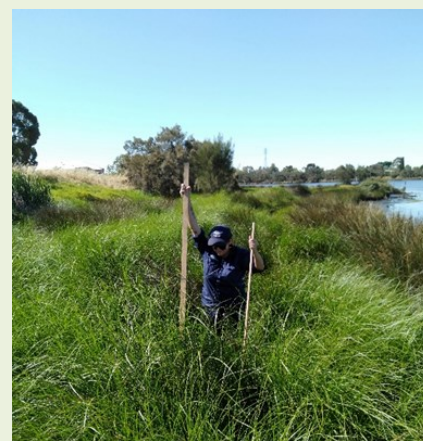
Nikita Quartermaine shares her experience of undergoing a Certificate III in Government in the Rivers and Estuaries Science branch of the Biodiversity and Conservation Science (BCS) division of DBCA.

My time working with the group has taught me so many things and has given me so many opportunities. I have helped with lots of the fieldwork such as completing the regular Water Quality Monitoring, I also have helped with completing fieldwork for the Plastics project. I also have had the opportunity to be in the office and learn from so many great admin officers and complete the admin for the Rivers and Estuaries Science team. Having a mix of work both in-office and out really made me excited as there are so many things to do and learn. Working with such a great team has been so rewarding.

Being at Rivers and Estuaries Science has given me the chance to be involved in the Emerging Aboriginal Leadership Program. Being in that program has taught me so much about my background and the great things our culture does. We had the opportunity to meet Elders and complete an on-Country tour at Kings Park. I felt like I have learnt so much in the 10 short weeks the program was held but I know there is still so much to learn and it will be so rewarding.



2021 Aboriginal Emerging Leaders Graduates (Nikita Quartermaine third from the left)



Nikita Quartermaine completing the Plastics project fieldwork

Article by Nikita Quartermaine (Administrative Trainee - Rivers and Estuaries, BCS)

Wadjemup National Tourism Icons event - Rottnest Island

Rottnest Island Authority launched a spectacular new sculpture to welcome visitors to Wadjemup on Thursday 9th December. The day started with a Welcome to Country and Sand Ceremony from Whadjuk Noongar Elder Walter McGuire followed by presentations by former Tourism Minister David Templeman and Federal Member for Stirling Vince Connelly MP, representing the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, the Hon Dan Tehan MP.

The sculpture is the work of Western Australian artists Sharyn Egan and Jahne Rees with significant input from the Whadjuk Noongar community. The artists described how the nine-metre-high sculpture depicts a Noongar warrior with a shield and spear, a humpback whale representing the ancient Noongar story of the whale which transports spirits to the other end of the island, metal bars to signify the bars of the prison, and the story of the Emu of the sky.

The sculpture has been named Koora-Yeye-Boordawan-Kalyakoorkl (Past-Present-Future-Forever) and is part of a joint investment by the State and Commonwealth Governments funded by a \$17.2 million commitment from the Commonwealth Government's National Tourism Icons program.



Aboriginal Elder Walter McGuire giving a Welcome to Country



Attendees participating in the Aboriginal Sand Ceremony



Western Australian artists Sharyn Egan and Jahne Rees



Minister for Tourism David Templeman



Unveiling the plaque

Wadjemup National Tourism Icons event - Rottnest Island



Welcome to Country plaque



Welcome to Country sculpture



Minister for Tourism
David Templeman and
Federal Member for
Stirling Vince Connelly
MP



Welcome to Country sculpture and engravings



Article by Karis Erceg (Project Officer, Aboriginal Programs)

Graduation Ceremony

On the 27th August 2021, DBCA celebrated the graduation of participants for the department’s Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES). The MATES program is now in its 19th year and each year throughout its evolution, there have been many outstanding Indigenous trainees completing various certificate levels and going on to achieve lengthy careers within DBCA or with external agencies. This year’s graduation ceremony recognised graduates from 2020 and 2021.

2020 MATES graduates

Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management

Cowan Ryan
Edmund Calwatt
Klaas Liezenga
Jeremy Moore
David Newry
William Simon

2021 MATES graduates

Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management

Amber Eades
Michael Hood
Victor Mourambine
Danny Riley
Janette Steadman
Shannon Ugle
Vincent Edwards

Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management

Bruce Bradfield
Ryley Clarke
Kailah Dodd
Christine Drayton
Jordan Drayton-Jackamarra
Steven Eley
Elisha Jacobs-Smith
Tristan Jessell
Klaas Liezenga
Caleb Shaw
Joshua Woods

Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management

Kieren Cross

Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management

Ryley Clarke
Elisha Jacobs-Smith



DBCA MATES graduates

Graduation ceremony

2020 MATES Awards

Aboriginal Trainee of the year, Elisha Jacobs-Smith (Perth Hills)

Elisha was awarded for his high standard of work across parks and visitor services, fire management through prescribed burning and a variety of nature conservation works.

Aboriginal Trainee Supervisor of the Year, Brett Hansen (Geraldton)

Brett was awarded for creating an excellent learning environment for his trainees, ensuring they had ample opportunities for learning and personal development. He also set a new benchmark for the completion of third-party reviews and observation checklists.

Kwabalitch Award, Josh Woods (Albany)

Josh was awarded for his diligence and ability to independently manage projects, contractors and works programs.

2021 MATES Awards

Aboriginal Trainee of the year, Shannon Ugle (Harvey)

The Aboriginal Trainee of the Year is awarded to a MATES trainee who has demonstrated an exceptionally high level of achievement and excellence throughout their traineeship in both practical and theoretical tasks.

Aboriginal Trainee Supervisor of the Year, Tom Nagle (Exmouth)

The Aboriginal Trainee Supervisor of the Year is awarded to a supervisor of a MATES trainee who has demonstrated the highest level of support and commitment to the development of the trainee or trainees under their supervision.

Kwabalitch Award, Ryley Clarke (Bunbury)

The Kwabalitch Award has been established to recognise a trainee who has demonstrated a high level of dedication and excellence throughout their studies and a commitment to personal and professional development.

Article by Kathryn Wilkinson (Workforce Development Consultant) and Tina Bowers (Project Officer, Aboriginal Programs)

We hope you have enjoyed reading *Yarning Time*.



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit
17 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington WA 6151
Email: yarning.time@dbca.wa.gov.au
Web: dbca.wa.gov.au
Subscribe: <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/news/newsletters>