

Yarning Time

Issue 14: May 2022



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Welcome to the fourteenth 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.

We are pleased to bring you news and information that showcases the important work that has been undertaken by DBCA and Traditional Owners. *Yarning Time* informs the community, our partners and staff of developments in Aboriginal engagement across the State.

Aboriginal engagement involves almost every aspect of the department's work including reserve creation, science, recreation, tourism operations, conservation land management, fire management, wildlife management and heritage protection, much of which is being enabled through formal and informal joint managements and partnership initiatives.

Please have a read and enjoy.



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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

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Bardi Jawi Oorany Ranger Team - West Kimberley Region

The Bardi Jawi Oorany ranger team based at Ardyaloon (One Arm Point) community have been busy collecting seeds, propagating and revegetating plants from their native plant nursery. Ardyaloon is located on the Dampier Peninsula in the Kimberley region and is home to the Bardi people.

With funding received under the Aboriginal Ranger Program, rangers Henny Rex, Tamara Moore, Tiayana Edgar, Natasha George, Vivien Hunter and Chenielle George protect the endangered monsoon vine thickets (mayi boordan) of the Dampier Peninsula.

The women collect seed from over 30 species of plants, and store it in the seedbank or propagate it in the nursery. To protect the revegetation sites on Bardi Country, the rangers have also constructed and installed pine log bollards and installed tree guards.



Bardi Jawi Rangers



Seed collection for protection of species



Seed propagation

Article by: DBCA

Cane Toad Muster Success - East Kimberley Region

Recently, with the help of the Police, Community Youth Centre and volunteers, over 1200 cane toads were collected as part of the Kimberley Cane Toad Muster. The collected toads will be humanely euthanized, before meat from their legs is removed and processed into sausages. The sausages are then laced with a nausea-inducing chemical and distributed to areas populated with the northern quoll to encourage taste aversion, preventing the native species from being poisoned by the pest.

A live toad box was placed outside the Parks and Wildlife Service, Kununurra depot for two weeks for volunteers to drop off collected toads.

Local Dambimangari Rangers helped to process the toads to make the toad sausages as part of the taste aversion program.



Volunteers of the Cane Toad Muster



Cane Toad Processing Station

Article by: DBCA

Ancient Empire Walkway - Warren Region

DBCA has been working closely with the local Minang and Pibelman Traditional Owners as part of a project to lengthen and improve accessibility to the Ancient Empire walkway. This will include an extension of the pathway by 280 metres which will cater for wheelchair access.

Take a wander amongst the great karri and tingle trees of the Valley of the Giants in Walpole-Nornalup National Park, located within the heart of the Walpole Wilderness in the Warren region.

Watch the video [here](#).

You can also subscribe to Landscape and see the full article here: <https://shop.dbca.wa.gov.au/collections/landscape>



The Ancient Empire Walkway - Walpole.



DBCA Consulting with Minang and Pibelman Traditional Owners

Article by: DBCA

Celebrating DBCA Aboriginal Female Staff For International Women’s Day

Tuesday, March 8 was International Women’s Day. This year’s theme was #breakthebias which looked at celebrating women’s achievements, raising awareness against bias, and taking action for equality.

DBCA took this opportunity to celebrate Aboriginal women in the department by producing a short video and profiles of various Aboriginal women at DBCA, sharing their insights on the positive things they have experienced in the workplace, some of the challenges they have faced along the way, and the strong women who have influenced them personally and in their career.

In March 2022, there are 33 female Aboriginal staff in DBCA in a variety of roles, from the quiet achievers to those in the field, corporate, and elsewhere - all equally doing amazing things.

A common theme among the women was the hope for more Aboriginal women in higher up roles across the department.

“I see Aboriginal women in the department being stronger with numbers throughout Western Australia and to have more influence on the works and the programs that are happening. I see us helping others and each other understand the significance of the land and country we look after”-
Ryley Clarke, Regional Parks Ranger

Along with the positive changes happening in the State.

“I’m constantly seeing positive things happening –whether its individuals quietly being champions or the big picture programs, strategies, and commitments that enable ‘from little things, big things grow’ ”- Rhonda Murphy, Coordinator Aboriginal, Engagement and Heritage Unit

“The opportunity to work with other Aboriginal people throughout different areas of the state, listen to their stories, and be shown areas of significance has been such a positive experience for me. I enjoy my exchanges and feel exceptionally lucky that I have met so many different and interesting people as part of my job”- Zoe Moon, Acting Regional Parks Manager

There was also a week-long display in the Atrium at DBCA Kensington which celebrated not only Aboriginal women at DBCA but also Aboriginal women in conservation, women who work alongside Aboriginal women, famous Aboriginal women, and showcased books and art by Aboriginal women.

Thank you to all of those who contributed their time and hearts in sharing their stories with us. By celebrating Aboriginal women, we hope to inspire people out there to #breakthebias

[Watch the video here.](#)

Article by: Karis Erceg (Project Officer - Aboriginal Programs)



Display at Kensington



Cultural Mapping



Onslow Bushranger Cadets



Esperence Tjaltjraak Aboriginal Rangers



Jigalong Aboriginal Rangers

Tjaltjraak and Yawuru Knowledge Exchange

At the lookout of Taandatitjy (Dempster Head), a special gathering of Saltwater people from opposite ends of the western half of the continent was held. Yawuru representatives met with Elders and Tjaltjraak Rangers to share connections and experiences.

The group toured significant cultural places and landscapes of Kepa Kurl (Esperance) and shared cultural stories, including the Kepwari Dreaming (wetland systems). The team gathered for a lunch near the newly restructured town jetty and shared stories and observations including their experiences of past injustices related to colonial oppression.

The team toured the Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ETNTAC) offices to see the operation headquarters and the range of work programs underway as part of the Tjaltjraak Healthy Country Plan. Many similarities were discussed between Yawuru and Tjaltjraak, Broome and Esperance, pressures and opportunities.

The following day Yawuru gave an excellent, high-level, and detailed presentation to the team at the ETNTAC offices. The presentation included an overview of Yawuru Country, as well as details on their structures, goals, programs and experiences with joint management. This was highly valuable to the ETNTAC team, embarking as they are, on their own joint management journey, and there was a great deal of discussion and sharing.

The team then headed out for an on-Country trip where the Tjaltjraak rangers showed the Yawuru team significant cultural areas, a heritage presentation, and land care projects they are currently involved in. The trip focused on the Wharton Beach and Victoria Harbour area, on the eastern edge of Cape le Grand National Park. The trip out on Country provided information sharing between ETNTAC, DBCA and Yawuru regarding impacts from increasing visitation to key attractions both within the Broome and Esperance parks and reserves, and management tools that have been used in both locations to protect culturally and environmentally sensitive areas. Discussions also included the design, layout and infrastructure development of the Lucky Bay Campground and Day Use Area which was improved to address on-going pressures from increased visitor use, improve visitor satisfaction, reduce visitor risks, upgrade tired and worn facilities and assist staff in improved day-to-day management of the area. After a long day of discussions and workshops on Country, the Yawuru representatives were treated to a feast of local kangaroo and fish, hosted by Traditional Owner Doc Reynolds.



Tjaltjraak and Yawuru Rangers. ETNTAC supplied



The group touring landscapes of Kepa Kurl (Esperance). ETNTAC supplied

Tjaltjraak and Yawuru Knowledge Exchange (continued)

ETNTAC Elder Donna Beach shared cultural stories to the group regarding the Lucky Bay area, the cultural significance within the coastal landscape and the connection to Cape Le Grand National Park. The team finished the day visiting *Mandooboornup* (the Frenchman Peak recreation site) and walked along the trail at the base of the peak to visit the interpretation panel of the Walitj Dreaming story. The Walitj Dreaming story was made even more special on the day with Donna having previously created the artwork for the interpretation panel and being able to share it with the Yawuru team.



Meeting at the local Esperance district office. ETNTAC supplied

On Thursday, the Yawuru team met Esperance DBCA staff at the local District Office and gave a detailed presentation regarding Yawuru Country, engagement, structure, learnings, challenges, benefits and opportunities that have arisen with Joint Management. The Yawuru Rangers

gave a presentation on the day-to-day work and long-term management operations they are involved in including capital works, interpretation development, site design to protect environmental and cultural areas, and best practice techniques to manage the impacts from growing recreation and visitor use. They also discussed their experiences with employment opportunities within DBCA that have arisen from Joint Management in Broome.

On their final day, the ETNTAC team organised a special ceremony for the Yawuru delegation, and a cultural practice and gift exchange, with the Tjaltjraak Rangers handing guests a carved boomerang and stand made from local wood and materials, that were collected and created by the rangers, in advance of this trip. Strong bonds were formed along with an understanding that the integrated team will meet again soon.



Rangers at Cape Le Grand National Park. ETNTAC supplied.

Article by: Tasman Douglas (Esperance District Manager)

Mungada Ridge National Park - Midwest Region

The State Government's ambitious environmental agenda has continued with the creation of a new national park at Mungada Ridge - the eighth national park created by the McGowan Government.

Spanning 1,000 hectares, Mungada Ridge is located on Yamatji country, and will be jointly vested with the Bundi Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation (BYAC) and the Conservation and Parks Commission, who will work collaboratively with DBCA on future management.

Following the signing of the Yamatji Nation Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Western Australian Government in 2020, the Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation was established to manage the benefits of the agreement. As part of the Yamatji Nation governance structure, BYAC was established as the organisation to hold Native Title.

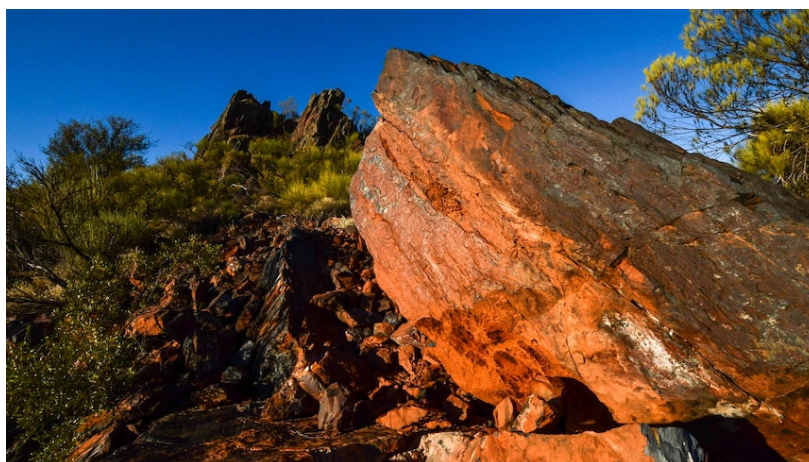
The creation of the Mungada Ridge National Park fulfils a commitment under the Yamatji Nation Indigenous Land Use Agreement and will ensure that Yamatji people have the opportunity to protect and care for their country in a genuine partnership with the WA Government.

The new national park is a stronghold for an array of species including the threatened flora acacia woodmaniorum and threatened fauna malleefowl, as well as rare and restricted vegetation communities.

The area is home to ancient rock formations, known as banded iron formations (BIF). These are distinct landforms that are considered some of the oldest rock formations in the world.

Mungada Ridge is the first largely intact BIF in the Mid-West region to be reserved as a national park and provided with the highest level of protection.

BIF ranges are of significant biodiversity value as a consequence of their unique geology, soils and relative isolation. Work has been underway for more than a decade to identify and protect the most significant areas within the BIF ranges of the Mid-West and to create this national park.



Mungada Ridge National Park protects banded iron

Article by: Tina Bowers (Project Officer - Project Officer)

Warlibirri (Gooniyandi) National Park– Kimberley Region

The Warlibirri (Gooniyandi) National Park was officially launched on Thursday 28 May.

This is huge news for the Gooniyandi people and everyone in the region and creates critical protection for the living waters of the Margaret River. The park spans 16,000 hectares and takes in areas of the Margaret River east of Fitzroy Crossing. The park will be jointly managed and jointly vested between Gooniyandi and the state.

Environment Minister Reece Whitby said Warlibirri was the first step in the establishment of more national parks in the Fitzroy Valley. He said parks would start at Geikie Gorge National Park, head east along the Margaret River and wind north along the Fitzroy River. "It is the first of a series so it will adjoin national parks across the Fitzroy Valley," he said.

In an interview with ABC Kimberley, Gooniyandi Chairperson Claude Carter said the new national park was a significant moment for his people.

"I feel happy, because the river, it's like life to us," he said. "We always say water brings life back to the people, to the animals and the land."



Aboriginal Affairs Minister Tony Buti (left), Claude Carter and Environment Minister Reece Whitby at the signing ceremony. Photo credit: Shem Bisluk



Gooniyandi Country, Fitzroy Crossing. Photo credit: Shem Bisluk

Article by: Naomi Findlay (Regional Projects Officer , Joint Management (Kimberley)

National Reconciliation Week

The National Reconciliation Week 2022 theme, “Be Brave. Make Change.” is a challenge to all Australians - individuals, families, communities, organisations and government - to *Be Brave* and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so we can *Make Change* for the benefit of all Australians.

This year we are asking everyone to make change beginning with brave actions in their daily lives – where they live, work, play and socialise.

National Reconciliation Week - 27 May to 3 June - is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

If you would like information on how your district or region can take part in a Reconciliation event, please get in contact with Tina Bowers (tina.bowers@dbca.wa.gov.au) or Karis Erceg (karis.erceg@dbca.wa.gov.au)

[Find out more about National Reconciliation Week](#) #NRW2022 #BeBraveMakeChange



Article by: Tina Bowers (Project Officer - Aboriginal Programs)

We hope you have enjoyed reading *Yarning Time*.

