

Welcome to the eighteenth 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 and community.



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Interpretation signage installation at Walarra mindi (Mount Hart) (Kimberley region)

Ngarinyin Traditional Owners and DBCA staff in the West Kimberley recently spent time on-Country to celebrate the finalisation of the Walarra mindi (Mount Hart) interpretation signage project.

The project started in 2019 with the initial focus on relationship building between Ngarinyin Traditional Owners and DBCA staff. Various on-Country trips took place where stories and many cups of tea were shared. Over the coming months, these casual conversations helped to form some of the content for the signage.

The final project resulted in three cultural and historical signs placed at Dudungarri mindi (Barker Pool), telling the story of the Wanjina (spirit) and the YawarIngarri jirri (blue cat fish), Dawungumen mindi (Matthew Gorge), focused on station times and Goya jirri (freshwater crocodile), Mayal mindi (Annie's Creek), and a welcome sign which includes stories from each Ngarinyin Elder about their special Country.

Despite a flat tyre, the trip further solidified the relationship between Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation and DBCA and the signs capture the importance of recognising Ngarinyin culture, history, and protecting Country.



Welcome sign and Ngarinyin Traditional Owner stories



Ngarinyin Elder and Traditional Owner Cracker Duckhole, Chloe Nulgit, and DBCA staff member Karis Erceg with the finalised Dudungarri mindi (Barker Pool) sign



DBCA Rangers Rod O'Donnell and Gavin Pearce installing a sign at Dudungarri mindi (Barker Pool)

Article by Karis Erceg, Project Officer - Aboriginal Programs



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Kwop Wirin: emerging Aboriginal artists exhibition (Wadjemup)

Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) and Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts, Australia (DADAA) formed a partnership to develop an exhibition that would provide a platform to facilitate access and connection to the island for emerging Aboriginal artists for the first time.

Artists Mandy White, Jade Lawrence, Jemma Garlett and Caroline Hateley produced their works upon the theme 'Impressions of the Wadjemup landscape', inspired during a visit to the island in August 2022 with Whadjuk Noongar Elder Len Collard. As part of the exhibition, the artistic process of these four artists and their visit to Wadjemup was documented by emerging Aboriginal filmmaker Jason Haji Ali. The short film highlights these artists' journeys and connection to their art.

Kwop Wirin will be open from 4 November 2022 until 31 May 2023 at the Wadjemup Museum. This exhibition will also include the first ever artist residency program on the island for an Aboriginal artist with disability in early 2023.



RIA staff left to right – Richenda Prall, Cultural Heritage Manager and Jess Green, Heritage Officer



The artists left to right - Mandy White, Jemma Garlett, Jade Lawrence, and Caroline Hateley.

Article by Helen Priestley, Reconciliation Project Officer



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Yinggarda / DBCA first woman on Country trip (Midwest region)

DBCA staff Mel Percival (Admin Officer) and Mathilda Lipscombe (Joint Management Coordinator Gascoyne district), and nine members of Yinggarda—Paula Dodd, Rowena Kelly, Alanah Kelly (plus her partner and child Olivia), Raekisha Baumgarten, Elizabeth Lockyer, and Rohani Kelly (plus her child Liliana)—attended a one-night camp at the Gascoyne Junction.

Mel and Mathilda drove to Carnarvon to pick up food and supplies for the trip. The following morning the DBCA staff met the Yinggarda women at Mungullah Aboriginal community. After packing up all the camping equipment they headed to Gascoyne Junction where the trailer was dropped and went straight out to have lunch at Temple Gorge.

For many of the women it was their first time on their Country which was very special. There were lots of stories of the Kennedy Range and Paula told a dreaming story. The group went for a walk into Temple Gorge where more stories were shared. It is said that it is a place of healing.

The journey walking into the Gorge was stopped short due to cultural reasons, where the woman sat and enjoyed the peace for a while, and Rowena shared the significance of the site for the Yinggarda people.





DBCA staff and Yinggarda Traditional Owners out on Country exploring and sharing stories.



Yinggarda / DBCA first woman on Country trip (Midwest region)

Mathilda explained joint management and the purpose of the trip, and how it's important that Yinggarda's cultural information and significant sites are included in the management of the area and the management plan.

The women enjoyed damper dumplings and chicken stew with lots of Bushell's tea for dinner.

Everyone was exhausted so it was an early night! The next day the group was escorted out to Mooka Springs by Yinggarda Rangers Anthony Turner and Jason Windie. The river was too high unfortunately to do the crossing. Lunch was enjoyed on the bank of the river and Rohani made a fire to cook steak. On the way back the group checked out an old homestead that lays nearby to the river, which seemed to be a special place too.

The group was going to stay an extra night but the decision was made to head home that afternoon due to our inability to cross the river. We packed up and headed back, and everyone was tired from two big days out, but feeling really good from going out on Country!

Overall a positive experience for everyone, good relationship building, positive feedback from Traditional Owners.







DBCA staff and Yinggarda Traditional Owners out on Country exploring and sharing stories.

Article by Mathilda Lipscombe, Joint Management Coordinator Gascoyne district



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Artefact training in Albany (South Coast region)

On Friday 18 November 2022, Traditional Owners, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) Senior Heritage Officer Harley Coyne and highly regarded Anthropologist/Archaeologist, Robert Reynolds, facilitated heritage training for 15 Albany-based DBCA staff.

Harley began by outlining the cultural and legal framework for heritage, whilst Rob focused on the methodology of creation and identificatory facets of stone artefacts. A large array of varied artefacts were brought in for DBCA staff to handle and anecdotal stories were shared.

Staff put their new learnings to the test through an on-Country trip to identify artefact scatters in the field and the day culminated with participants having the opportunity to strike their own blade.

"I could've spent hours looking for artefacts on the ground!" said one participant.

A follow up survey showed that all of the participants found this training valuable and applicable for their respective roles. The training was enjoyed by all who attended. The South Coast region will continue to partner with DPLH to run further sessions in the new year to build the capacity and knowledge of staff.





Proposed South Coast Marine Park - Wagyl/Kaip and Southern Noongar (WKSN) (South Coast region)

The WKSN Aboriginal Corporation's Cultural Advisory Committee has selected Elders Carol Pettersen, Gail Wynne, Iris Woods, Eugene Eades, Graeme Miniter and Murray Hodgson to work with DBCA and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on the planning and development of the proposed South Coast Marine Park.

The proposed marine park's area of interest starts at Bremer Bay and ends at the South Australian border, intersecting the lands of the Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar, Wudjari Nyungar, Ngadju and Mirning peoples.

WKSN representatives attended the fourth Community Reference Committee meeting in Bremer Bay in late August/early September 2022, and then visited the DBCA Albany Office across 31 October and 1 November 2022 to discuss zoning options to ensure decisions will enable the maintenance of cultural practices and sustainability of culturally important ecological values. The Elders ensured we stayed grounded throughout the discussions, reminding us that land and water are not separate entities and that the landscape is an integral part of Aboriginal identity, with spirituality at the centre of everything.

"The spiritual is bigger than the physical" said WKSN Elder.

"We need to acknowledge our land, because it acknowledges us" added WKSN Elder.

At the end of the two-day meeting, a WKSN Elder said that she has "more understanding" of the process and, after reviewing previous marine park plans completed by DBCA, a greater belief in First Nations people being true partners in this exciting new joint management venture.

"From my perspective, I can't wait to spend more time with these learned folks as we progress on this journey; the depth of their katitjin (learning) is unbelievable and their passion for their boodjar (Country) undeniable" Jade Malanczak, Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator.



WKSN Aboriginal Corporation representatives working with DBCA and DPIRD to develop a joint management plan for the Proposed South Coast Marine Park.

Article by Jade Malanczak, Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator



Karla Wongi - fire trail (Warren region)

After years of preparation in the form of training, sorting out insurance requirements, getting kitted out with gear and conducting comprehensive pre-burn cultural surveys, conditions and opportunity finally came together to get a team of Noongar rangers from the Binalup Aboriginal Corporation to attend a prescribed burn out at Boyicup Camelar in the Perup Tone Nature Reserve east of Manjimup.

Working together on Country, shoulder to shoulder with DBCA Donnelly district staff, the team were tasked with the protection of a particular cultural asset that they had previously identified and mapped. A cultural vegetation complex of quandong and emu plum that needed a longer fire interval than the surrounding vegetation complexes to ensure fruiting and to be able to become a cultural resource yet again.

DBCA Donnelly and Frankland districts have several areas on the Burn Option Program with key cultural assets identified for protection. These areas have all been surveyed and mapped in the field and cultural protection tasks embedded into the respective burn prescriptions. The Binalup ranger team and Elders have been involved in searching and mapping these burns and plan to be involved on the day of burn.

Reflecting on the day, John Fishwick, District Fire Operations Officer said, "They were all really nice guys and mixed in well with our staff and from all reports we achieved what we were chasing out there."

And for the Binilup rangers, Shawn Colbung, Binalup Aboriginal Corporation said "It was a really solid day".

Sonya Stewart, Coordinator Aboriginal Ranger Program added "Members of the general community always say to me ... just get the Noongars out there to do the burn. I love their enthusiasm, but it just isn't as easy as that. It takes time to consider all safety aspects and to ensure that areas have been looked at in detail through a cultural lens so we can actually embed cultural objectives and tasks into our prescribed burning practices."



Binalup rangers preparing the area before the burn



Binalup ranger slowly adding fire



DBCA and Binalup crews working together

Article by Sonya Stewart, Coordinator Aboriginal Ranger Program



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Closing the Gap

In December 2022, DBCA hosted the first Closing the Gap meeting for Partnership Planning Group 8: Country and Culture (PPG8), with representatives from nine government departments.

Closing the Gap is a national strategy that came into effect on 27 July 2020, aimed at eliminating the gap in life outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The Closing the Gap Agreement has been built around four priority reforms, corresponding to outcomes and 17 specific targets. There are 11 parties to the agreement, and each has developed their own implementation plan: six state governments, two territorial governments, the Australian Government, the Coalition of Peaks, and the Australian Local Government Association.

DBCA is collaborating with other government departments and Aboriginal corporations to ensure outcomes and targets are achieved and therefore better life outcomes are attained for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This support is evident as DBCA is the lead agency for PPG8: Country and Culture, which includes outcomes 15 and 16.

Outcome 15 states that "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters". DBCA is working to achieve this through the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to facilitate a 15 percent increase to landmass and a 15 percent increase to sea covered by Aboriginal legal rights or interest by 2030. In the latest reporting period (2021) for this target in WA, there was an increase from the baseline year of data, of 15,180 square kilometres of land mass and 69 square kilometres of sea mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests.

| | Western Australia | Australia |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Land Mass | 1,654,747 | 3,015,122 |
| Sea Mass | 40,076 | 90,252 |

Table 23 Square kilometres of land and sea mass subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interest (baseline year of 2020)

Table 24 Square kilometres of land and sea mass subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interest (2021)

| | Western Australia | Australia |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Land Mass | 1,713,927 | 3,130,852 |
| Sea Mass | 40,145 | 90,555 |



Closing the Gap

Outcome 16 states that "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and language are strong supported and flourishing". DBCA is contributing to this outcome by increasing the number and strength of Aboriginal languages being spoked by 2031. As of the baseline data available from 2018-19, there are 123 languages spoken throughout Australia, with 14 of these recognised as strong languages.

Table 24 Total number of languages spoken nationwide (baseline year of 2018-19)

| | Australia |
|------------------|-----------|
| Languages | 123 |
| Strong Languages | 14 |

DBCA is also contributing to PPG4: Jobs and Enterprise, which includes outcomes 7 and 8 and is being led by the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science, and Innovation. Outcome 7 states "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are engaged in employment or education". Outcome 8 states "strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities".

Closing the Gap recognises the structural change required for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to determine and drive policies, programs, and services which directly affect them to achieve better life outcomes. This agreement provides a baseline to build from and enables Aboriginal people and the broader community to clearly understand the actions the WA Government is taking to meet these targets.

Article by Karis Erceg, Project Officer, Aboriginal Programs

Southern Aboriginal Corporation rangers (South Coast region)

On Tuesday 22 November 2022, DBCA staff hosted the Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC) rangers and their family members at Karri Boornup (Tree-in-the-Rock) in Porongurup National Park and Bular Mail (Bluff Knoll) in Stirling Range National Park for a family day on Country.

The SAC rangers received funding through rounds one and four of DBCA's Aboriginal Ranger Program and have worked closely with DBCA staff in both the South Coast and Warren regions, doing work on and off CALM Act lands in the Wagyl Kaip area.

To facilitate two-way learning, the region developed a comprehensive booklet for the children (and the young at heart) which identified insects, birds, mammals, plants and trees that they might find in the area, citing the English and Noongar names.

The children loved the books and were positively engaged throughout the day, eagerly marking what they had seen, writing stories and drawing pictures.



SAC rangers and some family members at Bluff Knoll, Stirling Range National Park.



SAC Ranger Brianna Colbung and South Coast's Jade Malanczak with the girls at Bluff Knoll, Stirling Range National Park.



The adults had a wonderful day too, with one ranger saying:

"I enjoyed today and to come here with my family is even better. I loved my grandmother's company, opening up a little bit, and seeing the enjoyment out of my kids and my little sisters."

Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator Jade Malanczak, Business Manager Laura Beck, Ranger Sara Hands-May, District PVS Coordinator Luke Coney, and Fire Operations Officer Ali Benson, as well as the South Coast region, encourages staff to break away from their desks where they can, to get out on Country and build strong relationships with the community.



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South Coast's Luke Coney and Laura Beck helping SAC Rangers, Ji and Jon, make lunch at Stirling Range National Park.

Article by Jade Malanczak, Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator

Aboriginal Ranger Program Round 6 Innovation Fund

The McGowan Government has launched the Aboriginal Ranger Program Innovation Fund with up to \$11 million available in Round 6 for projects that will explore innovative ways to maximise the benefits of the Program. Are you keen to:

- develop and test new ideas or processes to solve problems and remove barriers to ranger programs?
- develop a new service or product that has a potential for commercialisation or need testing to understand its financial sustainability?
- utilise technology in innovative ways that could be a game-changer and/or enhance an organisation's efficiency and improve cultural and environmental outcomes?

If so, this funding opportunity is for you!

Eligible Aboriginal organisations are encouraged to submit applications for innovative projects that align with at least one of the three themes: empowerment; protecting Country; or collaboration. Applications can only be made via the DBCA <u>SmartyGrants portal</u> until 11:59pm on Friday 9 June 2023.

Read on for details about eligibility, the application process and assessment criteria.

If you have any questions about applying for the Round 6 Innovation Fund, please email <u>aboriginalrangerprogram@dbca.wa.gov.au</u> and a member of the team will respond as soon as possible.

The Round 7 Development Fund will be launched later in 2023 with up to \$13 million available for new and emerging ranger programs.



Eligible Aboriginal organisations can submit applications to fund innovative projects that align with at least one of the three themes: Empowerment; Protecting: Gourbiry: or Golaborating; Se6.5 million investment which to dat has created more than 650 Aboriginal ranger jobs on country.





Article by Augustine Okom, Policy and Projects Officer, Aboriginal Ranger Program



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A significant joint management event in the Goldfields region

Last month quite a momentous milestone was reached in the joint management of Pila Nature Reserve between Warnpurru Aboriginal Corporation and DBCA; the first stand alone Interim Joint Management Body (IJMB) meeting took place just outside of Kalgoorlie at Koora retreat.

Now for some people already working in joint management, a JMB meeting may seem like a rudimentary and simple event that occurs two to three times a year, but some people who already work in joint management will know that having a functioning and meaningful JMB meeting take place is no small feat and a massive step towards productive joint management.



Participants admiring the breathtaking artworks of Country by Traditional Owners Daisy Ward and Lizzie Giles. Photo -Peter Batt/DBCA

The story of joint management of Pila Nature Reserve (formerly Gibson Desert Nature Reserve) goes back some decades to a time when staff from the Goldfields office would scrape together what loose funds they had and venture out 1,200km from Kalgoorlie with a very vague plan to undertake some land management and cultural knowledge sharing with Traditional Owners of the area. Fast forward several decades that include a heroic and monumental battle for recognition, compensation and finally Native Title, and we end up at Koora for the IJMB meeting.



Warnpurru Aboriginal Corporation members and directors explaining how the group developed their timeline of planned operations. Photo - Peter Batt/DBCA

After attending the Indigenous Desert Alliance conference held in Yulara, members of Warnpurru including board members and independent directors all met at Koora Retreat, roughly 150km west of Kalgoorlie for two days of discussions, planning and preparation for the meeting with DBCA. After making a cuppa and catching up, the meeting kicked off with Yaalpirri – an opportunity to air any grievances or past problems and then introductions around the room. Introducing members of the JMB and departmental staff was of great importance as this was the first genuine meeting of JMB members and DBCA had several staff who came along from Kensington and Esperance as observers and guests.

Gino Ward, as convenor, then gave a run down of the past 12 months work with assistance from long

time ally of Warnpurru Jan Turner and Operations Officer Jim Piper summarising the DBCA lead trips over the field season. Next came a presentation from Warnpurru that changes the way we look at joint management of a reserve on the lands and will help to shape the way in which we plan all works and move forward into the future.



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A significant joint management event in the Goldfields region

The concept of Tjukurpa which translates to 'the dreaming' but really means so much more was introduced as an overarching ideal that needs to be a central focus of all the work we do together. Tjukurpa incorporates everything that Aboriginal people have held dear to them for millennia as well as the connection to and deep understanding of Country that was built over those many thousands of years. In simple, contemporary terms, it takes into account the flora and fauna, the seasons and fire, the people and language, all of which are elements that will make up the core of joint management works.

Warnpurru created an invaluable tool to assist in explaining this to DBCA; a clear plastic map of songlines and dreamtime stories that everyone helped to create during the two days of preparation. This map is then overlayed with a



Warnpurru IJMB members, observers and guests at the end of a successful meeting at Koora Retreat, 15 November 2022. Photo - DBCA

map of Pila sitting beneath it, the ridged, angular lines of the nature reserve boundary looking quite illogical below the song lines that follow natural curves and flow from water sources to cultural sites that are marked on the map below. With this visual aid the modern map of Pila and its features come alive and the narrative that has been created over thousands of generations begins to emerge to our callow eyes, more to the point our eyes see that the story of Warnpurru does not obey any abstract lines and our approach to joint management will need to reflect this. Although DBCA's core business lies within those unremarkable reserve boundaries, fair and effective joint management will have a tendency to dislocate the boundaries in which we operate.

During the two days of preparation and development, Warnpurru also created a two-year plan of operations that is laid out over a paper time line based around the four major seasons experienced in the desert regions. After a well deserved lunch break full of further catch ups, yarns, laughs and of course cuppas, Warnpurru presented the plan, spanning the length of every spare table in the room, with explanations around timing of works that relate to seasons, lore and flora/fauna; all elements that make up the conception of Tjukurpa. The epic aid in planning was added to by DBCA to create a conceptual two year plan of works that incorporates cultural knowledge sharing as well as traditional and contemporary land management initiatives.

Perhaps the most memorable aspect of the meeting was the presentation of two magnificent artworks created by Daisy Ward and Lizzie Giles. One depicting the great central road along with the surrounding communities and rock holes, the other encompassing the southern half of western Australia. Both grandiose works represent a phantasmagoric representation of the land incorporating animals, plants, fruit, roads and songlines. Discussions relating to finances, future training opportunities and ranger coordinator positions closed out proceedings.

The day was an interesting mix of disparate yarns from formal proceedings and fiscal matters to casual catch ups and jocular quips with long term working friends. After previous attempts to hold functional JMB meetings at the end of a five day convention of meetings did not result in tangible outcomes being realised, this attempt can only be described as a roaring success. Another step in a slow and steady process of formalising joint management of one of Australia's largest and most remote reserves with the people who have done so since time immemorial.

Article by James Piper, Operations Manager - Joint Management



Walk with a Noongar Elder at Wadjemup

During January and February 2023, the Rottnest Island Authority implemented a free cultural tour on Wadjemup for island visitors.

Visitors were offered the opportunity to walk with Noongar Elder Herbert Bropho on a tour to gain a deeper insight into the rich history that spans from the Nyitting (Dreaming) tens of thousands of years ago to the sorrowful period of colonisation in Western Australia during the 1800s and present-day connections. Visitors were able learn the ancient and significant cultural history of Wadjemup during the hour and a half tour which featured visits to the Aboriginal Burial Ground and Quod.

Concurrently during this period, a free daily Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony was taking place conducted by a Whadjuk Noongar Traditional Owner at North Thomson Bay. Hundreds of island visitors would attend these Welcome to Country's and smoking ceremonies daily and the Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) is grateful to all the Traditional Owners who came to Wadjemup to share their knowledge.



Elder Neville Collard conducting a Noongar Elder Herbie Welcome to Country on Bropho

Wadjemup

Noongar Elder Herbie Bropho conducting a smoking ceremony, a part of his Aboriginal cultural tour on Wadjemup

Smoking ceremony on Wadjemup

Article by Helen Priestley, Project Officer - RIA



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Annual marine workshop at Kensington

On 25 and 26 October 2022, the department held the Marine Park Management Workshop and Marine Operations Workshop. The workshops are held annually over two days providing an opportunity for DBCA's regional and Perth-based staff and joint management partners to network and discuss marine conservation and reserve management.

The event was hosted by Regional and Fire Management Services p division and was attended by marine reserve managers, marine E scientists, joint management and operational staff and specialist branch staff from across the department and joint management partners. The Marine Park Management Workshop was also attended by members of the Conservation and Parks Commission and staff from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

This year the event was well attended with presentations on the implementation of, and reporting against, joint management plans for the North Kimberley, Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach marine parks. Joint management partners alongside DBCA and DPIRD staff presented their achievements and challenges with implementation of the joint management plans and their aspirations for caring for sea Country.

Focus on co-design of new Buccaneer Archipelago marine parks

A special focus of this year's workshop was the co-design and development of cultural management zones in the Bardi Jawi Gaarra, Mayala and Maiyalam marine parks (Buccaneer Archipelago). Traditional Owners shared their history, knowledge and experiences through the management planning process and presented on the collaborative prioritisation of marine objectives and strategies.

Presentations were also made on marine management planning, Aboriginal engagement, marine data management, managing visitor use in Lalang-garram marine parks, moorings and much more.

Thanks to the Regional and Fire Management Services division for hosting the event and to everyone that attended and presented.

Article by Fiona Graham, A/Senior Ranger (Marine) & Liam Rawlings, A/Buccaneer Archipelago Parks Coordinator

We hope you have enjoyed reading Yarning Time.







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Bardi Jawi and Mayala Traditional Owners presenting on the co-design process for new marine parks in the Buccaneer Archipelago



JMB Chair Dean Mathews presenting on the Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park (photo by Julie Melbourne)