

Yarning Time

Issue 2, April 2015



Dr Stephen van Leeuwen
Chair
Aboriginal Employee Reference Group

Message from the AERG Chair

I would like to welcome everyone back and hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a very happy new year for 2015.

I hope you all enjoyed the first issue of the *Yarning Time*. We received a lot of positive feedback: "Congratulations. What a great newsletter", "Lots of good work there mob", "Congrats on the newsletter. It looks great", "I just wanted to say how fantastic the newsletter is" and "Fantastic newsletter!! Well done. Great to see so much happening in this area and for it to be broadcast in such a readable, friendly and informative way".

This will be the first issue of 2015 and the second issue of the *Yarning Time*.

Please have a read and enjoy.

Special announcement: expression of interest

Ian Michael, a member of the AERG has left the department. This has created a vacancy on the committee. The AERG would like this position filled. Anyone interested is invited to write an expression of interest to the AERG Chair Dr Stephen van Leeuwen: stephen.vanleeuwen@dpaw.wa.gov.au



Stephen van Leeuwen



Karim Khan

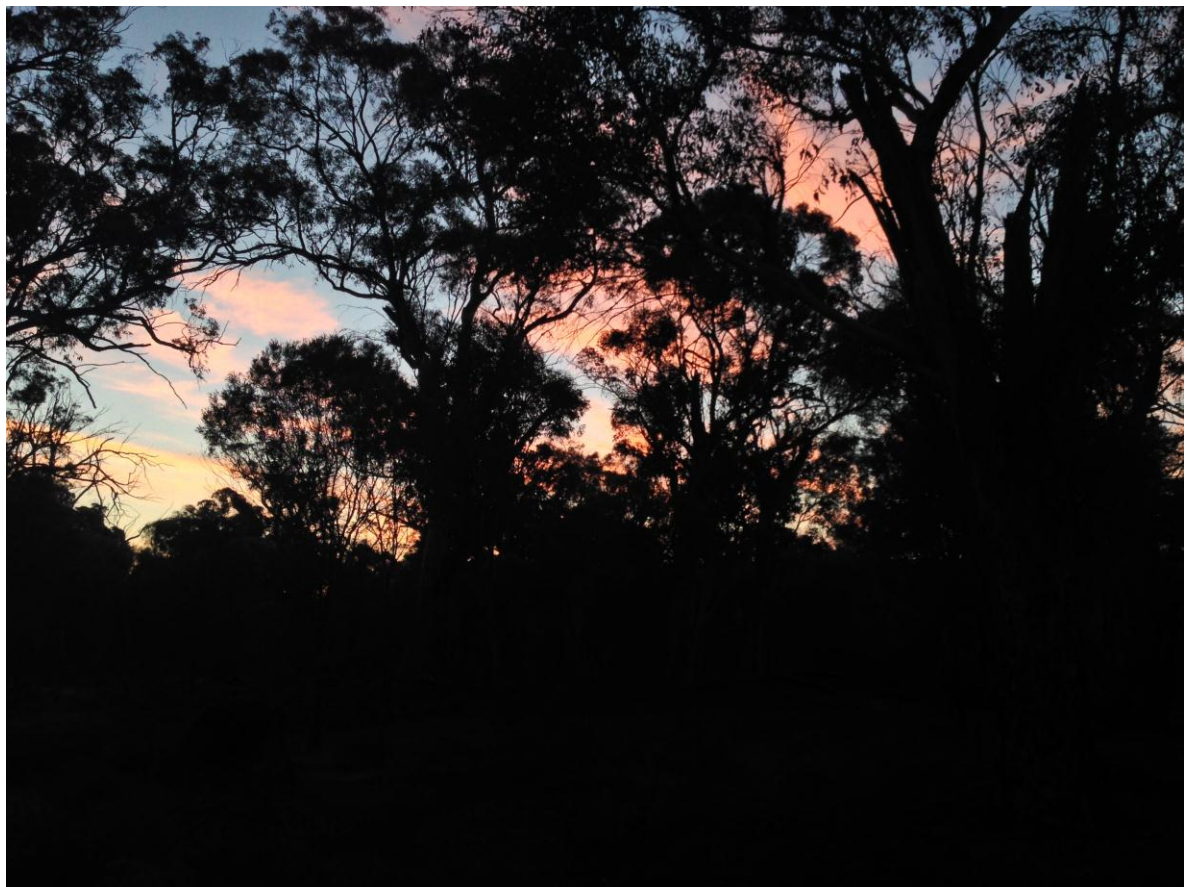


Rhonda Murphy



Tracy Shea

Inside this issue	Page
Message from the AERG Chair	1
Employee news	3
Learning and development	4
Updates on Aboriginal strategies	5
Around the State	6
Reconciliation Garden	13
Customary Activities	14
Thank you	15
Contact	15



*Dryandra Woodlands Sunset –
Wheatbelt (Photo by Jayden Miller)*

Apologies

The AERG would like to apologise for some mistakes that occurred in the first issue of the Yarning Time.

Page 1: Steven van Leeuwen - correct spelling Stephen.

Page 3: Lloyd Nulgit Worked with Henry Corpus not Henry Williams.

Page 3: Grace Hibbit - correct spelling is Hibbert.

Employee news

Parks and Wildlife is committed to increasing the representation of Aboriginal employees working within the agency at all levels, occupations and locations.

New staff

The AERG would like to welcome three new Aboriginal staff members to the department since October 2014. We wish you all the best with your careers with this department. New staff includes:

Lennard Ward, MATES Trainee ranger, Kununurra Work Zone, Mirriwong Language Group; representing my Dawang Bilbiljijng "In the future I would like to have a feeling of strong confidence within myself, benefit from the skills that are given to me, and to stay with the MATES trainee ranger team, knowing I can tell and show the younger generations about it and talking to our elders learning more about our country," Lennard said.

Peter Curtin, MATES Trainee ranger Kununurra Work Zone, Mirriwong Language Group; representing the Dawong of Mandangala Peter said that his main future aspiration was to "learn the skills of this job and teach new rangers coming in to this job."

Tristan Jessell, MATES Trainee range, Kimberley Region; representing the Dawong "I'm hoping to continue my training with Parks and Wildlife and become a ranger. I'm looking forward to becoming part of the fire crews," Tristan said.

Their role includes maintaining and looking after our country. This includes:

- reducing the invasive weed population (including *Mimosa pigra* and *Cryptostegia grandiflora* known as rubber vines) on the 31165 Reserve on the Lake Argyle;
- Reduce feral animal impacts on the land;
- give Mirriwong Gajerrong rangers a hand if needed, and;



Peter Curtin, Tristan Jessell and Lennard Ward

Departing staff

Since the last Yarning Time, seven staff members have left the department. The department would like to thank them for their service contribution to the department. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Departing staff include:

- Neil Hamaguchi - Kimberley Region
- Edith O'Meara - South West Region
- Marcus Hall - Kimberley Region
- Conrad Ward - Kimberley Region
- Koodah Cornwall - Parks and Visitor Services / Fairbridge Partnership
- Chontarle Bellottie - Parks and Visitor Services, Kensington
- Ian Michael - Warren Region.

Learning and Development

The AES aims to support Aboriginal staff in their professional development by providing opportunities to develop skills and experiences, access to internal and external training opportunities and assistance with career pathways. These are some of the achievements in this area.

Higher duties and promotions

- Jason Fong – Yawuru Trainee Supervisor, Broome
- Warren Mayers – Regional Manager, Kununurra
- Luke Puertollano – Yawuru Trainee Supervisor, Broome
- Anthony Richardson – Yawuru Operations Officer, Broome
- John Snowden – Senior Riverpark Operations Officer
- Chelsea Churnside – Ranger, Murujuga, Karratha
- Nathan Evans – Ranger, Murujuga, Karratha

Recognition of appointment

Dr Stephen van Leeuwen – Stephen has been appointed as Assistant Director of Science which is the highest level obtained within the department for a person of recognised Aboriginal descent. Congratulations Stephen, all your hard work has paid off.

Awards

Jayden Miller – is the successful recipient of the *Director General Career Development and Study Assistance Scholarship*. Jayden has been accepted into Curtin University to complete a three year degree in Bachelor of Applied Science in Indigenous Community Management and Development. Congratulations Jayden on your achievements and good luck with your studies.



Jayden Miller – Aboriginal Heritage Unit

Update on Aboriginal strategies

Development of a new Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES)

The Diversity and Access Committee through the Aboriginal employment sub-committee will coordinate the development of the new Aboriginal Employment Strategy.

Members of the sub-committee are Kathryn Wilkinson (AWorkforce and Diversity Coordinator), Sue Oakman (Recruitment Coordinator) and Rhonda Murphy (Manager AHU)



This will include a review of the 2011-2014 strategy and consultations with internal stakeholders. It will be completed over a six month period from January to June 2015.

Increased Aboriginal employment and engagement is a strategic priority in the department's 2014-2017 Strategic Directions document.

If you would like to contribute to the new strategy please contact Rhonda Murphy
rhonda.murphy@dpaw.wa.gov.au
9219 8283



Director General Jim Sharp presenting the RAP at the 2013 Parks and Visitor Services conference.

Reconciliation Action Plan 2013-15

The RAP can be downloaded at:

http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/parks/aboriginal-involvement/Reconciliation_Action_Plan_20132015.pdf

Departmental staff participating in key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander events and dates of significance including National Reconciliation Week is an action in the RAP.

Reconciliation Week is coming up on the 27 May – 3 June. It's time to start planning those celebratory events in your region. If you would like help please contact the AHU.

Cultural Learning Program (CLP)

The Learning and Development Steering Committee (L&DSC) endorsed the development of an Aboriginal Cultural Learning Program (CLP). The AHU in partnership with Learning and Development (L&D) will coordinate, design, develop and implement the program.

A recommendation was sought for the committee to approve the development of an Aboriginal cultural learning program that:

- builds upon the department's existing Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training (ACAT)
- provides staff with a suite of training opportunities that includes online, formal and informal training.
- supports the goals of the Reconciliation Action Plan 2013-2015
- meets the requirements arising from the CALM Act amendments and related policies
- covers a range of issues to include; heritage site identification and protection training, principles of native title and effective engagement with Aboriginal people

This will be completed in 2015.

Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training (ACAT)

L&D has received positive feedback on the roll out of the ACAT training across the region. Training started in Kensington in May 2014 and was requested across the South West region in Bunbury, Corrigin, Albany, Manjimup, and Esperance. Sessions were also held separately for the Swan River Trust and the Science division. A total of 190 staff participated in the training.

ACAT training for 2015 commenced in March. There are dates booked on the training calendar from April to December. Regional training will be delivered in Exmouth and Geraldton in April and June.

The AHU will also be delivering training to the tour operators in Exmouth and Coral Bay. The Workshops are to assist the operators in meeting their licence obligations under the conditions relating to Involvement of Indigenous people and Culturally Sensitive Behaviour.

Around the State



Noongar community meeting on Country to capture stories

Wheatbelt Region

The Great Southern District is working with the Wheatbelt NRM, Shire of Pingelly, Seabrook Corporation, and individual noongar people to capture stories of Boyagin for a publication being prepared by Wheatbelt NRM. The following is an abstract from the Wheatbelt NRM news.

Boogin (Boyagin) Rock is a sacred Noongar gathering place linked with the Wagyl (Rainbow Serpent), located between Brookton and Pingelly. Stories relating to the site are currently being collected, via a number of gatherings with Aboriginal Noongar Elders who have special connections with the site. These stories will form the basis for the Boogin Rock Storybook – the second in a series exploring significant Aboriginal sites in the Wheatbelt region (the first book: The Derdibin Gnamma Storybook). This is an exciting project that provides Noongar people with the opportunity to relate stories about a site that is spiritually and culturally special to them, in their own words.

Pilbara Region

Murujuga National Park

The Murujuga National Park is jointly managed by the State Government and traditional owners. The opportunity originated from the Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement (BMIEA) allowing non-industrial land on the Burrup Peninsula to be transferred as freehold title to traditional owners. The land is now vested as freehold land with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) comprising Traditional Custodians the Ngarluma, Yindjibarndi, Yaburara, Mardudhunera and the Woon-goo-tt-oo, known collectively in local language as 'Ngarda-ngarli'. The land is leased back to the State Government and managed jointly as national park by the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and MAC.



Murujuga Ranger team

Kalgoorlie

Rehabilitation

After discussions late last year, an application has been submitted to commence a two week winter rehabilitation program for eroded, outwash and scalded areas below the breakaways in the Dynamite, Breakaway and Gidgee Bores area. As it is a very sensitive cultural area Wiluna Martu will be fully involved and, if the application is successful, the work is planned to be carried out by Wiluna Martu and Parks and Wildlife. A mix of rangeland rehabilitation and rehydration techniques will be used.

Cacti control

In late 2014, Mo Pawero, Central Desert Land and community ranger coordinator successfully applied for a grant from the State NRM Office to perform a cacti mapping and control project. This project will continue the important work of mapping and strategically treating a highly invasive Weed of National Significance and will provide an opportunity for the Wiluna Martu Land Management Unit to apply their new skills in weed spraying.

Dan Rabosky – Research

From 1 April, for a month, Dan Rabosky, Assistant Professor and Curator of Herpetology, Museum of Zoology and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan will be undertaking reptile ecology research at Lorna Glen and possibly along the southern part of the CSR with Wiluna Martu. Work at Lorna Glenn will involve refurbishing and using the existing biomonitoring sites, buckets and drift fences.

Monitoring

During 2015, starting after summer, a new monitoring protocol will be developed and implemented for monitoring fauna, feral animals, pre and post baiting monitoring and monitoring other required attributes. It will involve cameras and plot work including work with the Wiluna Martu.

Wiluna Martu and native title

An update on the native title matters at Wiluna and progressing of the joint management and the Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) for Matuwa (Lorna Glen) and Kurrara Kurrara (Earaheedy) includes;

- In late 2014, the Tarlka Matuwa Pirarku (TMP) Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) was established. The PBC hold and manage the native title rights and interests for the Wiluna native title determination including over Lorna Glen (Matuwa) and Earaheedy (Kurrara Kurrara). TMP have signalled their intention to set up a permanent Land and Community working group who will oversee a range of land management projects around Wiluna and will form part of the eventual Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara IPA management team with Parks and Wildlife representatives.
- In 2015, the Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara Indigenous Protected Area management plan will be submitted to the Australian Government for approval. Parks and Wildlife staff will be provided with a chance to review the draft IPA management plan prior to submission. Ian Kealley has been involved in the draft plan preparation
- The acceptance of the IPA management plan is a precursor to the dedication of Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara as an Indigenous Protected Area. A date for the dedication ceremony for the IPA is tentative but expected to occur in early to mid-2015. Parks and Wildlife staff and other stakeholders will be involved, encouraged to attend and to help facilitate the day as a major event. Once the dedication of the IPA is complete, the first Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara (MKK) management team meeting will be held. The MKK management team will be charged with directing the implementation of the IPA management plan and will be the peak governance body for all ongoing activity on Lorna Glen and Earaheedy.
- TMP will be working directly with Parks and Wildlife and Central Desert Land and Community on the continuing professional development of the Wiluna Martu Land Management Unit (including the broadening of land management work opportunities for Martu women) who currently supplies a week a month of labour to Lorna Glen.

Kalgoorlie continued

New campsite preparations at Credo

Work is underway at the former Credo pastoral lease about 70km north of Coolgardie with the latest stage being completion of compacted gravel pads, installation of bollards, picnic tables and fire rings at the new 16 stay campground funded under the Royalties for Regions projects.

Parks and Wildlife continues to engage with Indigenous rangers from the local community through the Goldfields Land and Sea Council to implement on ground works. The rangers included Chris Dimer, Neil Donaldson and Walter Ellis supervised by Parks and Wildlife Conservation Employee Matt Wood.

All involved camped out at the shearers quarters precinct at Credo, where Parks and Wildlife maintains six rooms, a kitchen and showers/toilets providing pretty good accommodation when in the bush.



Table preparation



Bollard installation on campsite



Wiluna Rangers fire suppression at Matuwa (Lorna Glen)

In November 2014, three Wiluna Martu Rangers from Wiluna and a coordinator from Central Desert Native Title Services Land and Community travelled to Matuwa to assist Parks and Wildlife in fighting a bushfire.

Bushfires at this time of year in the desert are not uncommon and usually the result of lightning strikes with most in remote areas left to burn themselves out. The bushfire at Matuwa was started by lightning in spinifex country in the west of the property, however in this instance could not be left to its own devices as it threatened the 1,100ha mammal reintroduction enclosure.

The rangers worked with Parks and Wildlife fire fighters assisting in constructing fire breaks to help contain the fire and working into the night in order to achieve the best outcome.

The assistance the Wiluna Martu Rangers provide is part of the ongoing collaboration between Martu, Central Desert Native Title Services Land and Community, and Parks and Wildlife at Matuwa (Lorna Glen) and Kurrara Kurrara (Earaheedy). The rangers and Parks and Wildlife regularly collaborate in prescribed burning activities including such areas as the Carnarvon Ranges, part of the Birriliburu Native Title area.

The continued collaboration is great as it also assists the Wiluna Martu in training, getting back on country and using fire as a tool for land management.



Wiluna Martu Rangers assessing the back-burning success: Ivan Wongawol, Richard Narrier and Ravi Walsh (Photo by Barry Hooper)



Watching the back-burning work (Photo by Barry Hooper)

Mid-West Region

Heritage survey conducted for Coalseam Conservation Park campgrounds

Two campgrounds earmarked for redevelopment in the Royalties for Regions Parks for People Caravan and Camping Initiative was surveyed by a group of dedicated traditional owners and heritage professionals. The archaeological and ethnographic survey was conducted to assess potential impacts the redevelopments might have on the area's heritage values.

Representatives from three claimant groups - the *Amangu*, *Widi Mob* and *Mullewa Wadjari* came together with a team of archaeologists and anthropologists from the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation and Parks and Wildlife staff to conduct the heritage survey at both the Miners and Breakaway campgrounds in Coalseam Conservation Park.

Coalseam Conservation Park lies about 115km east of Geraldton and is famous for its spring wildflower displays. Project manager for the campground redevelopment Rory Chapple says that the Irwin River, which bisects the reserve, is a significant site to Indigenous groups. "While no specific archaeological material was identified during the survey, a strong connection to country was evident. All Aboriginal survey participants identified the Irwin River as a site of particular significance due to traditional customary activities conducted in the valley and the river's association with the mythological dreaming track of the spirit serpent Beemarra".

Another positive outcome of the survey was the stronger ties between the department and the three claimant groups. "This gives us a sound footing for future consultation and an ongoing positive working arrangement," Rory said.

The full redevelopment of the Miners Campground is expected to be completed by June 30 of this year.

Survey participants: Amangu Native Title Claim - William Ronan, Melissah Adams and Kieran Taylor. Widi Mob Native Title Claim – Bill, Lewis, Julie Lewis and Darryl Woods. Mullewa Wadjari Native Title Claim - Leedham Papertalk, John Papertalk and Leedham Papertalk Jr. Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation Representatives - Silas Piotrowski (archaeologist), Jason Harman (assistant archaeologist) Stephen Morgan (anthropologist) Craig Allsop (trainee anthropologist). Heritage Link's Heritage Coordinator - Patricia Edwards. Department of Parks and Wildlife staff: Rory Chapple, Megan Rowland, Nick Detchon and Chontarle Bellottie



Survey participants from the Widi Mob, Amangu and Mullewa Wadjari claimant groups with Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation and Parks and Wildlife staff at Coalseam Conservation Park during the heritage survey.



Project manager Rory Chapple briefs survey participants on the scope of the campground redevelopments.



West Kimberley District

Eighty Mile Beach Turtle Monitoring Program

- The Eighty Mile Beach Turtle Monitoring Program is a collaboration between Parks and Wildlife and the Nyangumarta and Karajarri traditional owners of Eighty Mile Beach.
- Eighty Mile Beach is located between Broome and Port Hedland, and is the longest beach in Western Australia stretching 220km from Cape Missiessey to Cape Keraudren.
- There are two monitoring sites: The Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park site on Nyangumarta Country and the Anna Plains site on Shared Country (Nyangumarta and Karajarri Country)
- The turtle program kicked off with training at the start of the turtle season early October with 30 people in attendance including a Nyangumarta Elder, seven Nyangumarta Rangers and seven Karajarri Rangers.
- The Turtle Program ran from 14 October to 7 January with funding available for six Traditional Owners to assist over 26 monitoring dates. Turtle monitoring involves identifying turtle species based on the track features, determining nesting success and looking for evidence of predators and nest damage.
- There were additional opportunities for traditional owners to assist with predator surveillance (which involves installing remote cameras on nests identified during night monitoring) as well as satellite tracking and research with WAMSI (Western Australian Marine Science Institute).
- 14 traditional owners attended the two day turtle training course at the Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park at the start of the season.
- 31 traditional owners participated in the Turtle Program on Nyangumarta Country and Shared Country (Nyangumarta and Karajarri) resulting in a total of 642 hours of employment.
- The Eighty Mile Beach and Walyarta Conservation Program is jointly funded by the department and BHP Billiton Iron Ore, an investment made under the BHP Billiton Community Development Program.



West Kimberley District Continued

Yawuru Rangers community leadership through education

The Yawuru joint management team, based in the West Kimberley District, have been upgrading the education program they provide to their local community of Broome. Early February saw the team get together with our joint management partners at the Yawuru Land and Sea Unit to workshop themes, key messages and activities to be offered throughout 2015.

Supervisor of the trainee rangers, Luke Puertollano, explains the education package on offer in 2015 *“we will continue to maintain our really popular July school holiday program but we are now expanding our activities to reach out to community members that are typically difficult to engage like juvenile youth justice, the childcare services and the local drop in centre.”* Many of the children using these youth support programs in Broome come from Aboriginal backgrounds. *“During the debrief for the July 2014 school holiday program, the team said they wanted to increase their work with Aboriginal children, so we came up with some options on how we could diversify our target audience”* recalls Bonnie Tregenza, community engagement officer for the Yawuru Rangers.

In the lead up to Christmas, the rangers took kids from the drop-in centre to a litter hotspot for a clean-up. The litter collected was used to decorate a Christmas tree for a local shop window display. Throughout January, the team ran three activities for local kids including children registered within the juvenile justice rehabilitation program; including a fire truck demo with fire safety messages, a mud crabbing excursion with seasonal customary harvest messages and a bush tucker walk. The activities were designed to provide an opportunity to go on country, deliver cultural knowledge and promote current, locally significant conservation messages. Future activities on the cards for 2015 include a two session spear making workshop, informal ‘crafternoons’, a turtle tour and (*hopefully but yet to be confirmed*) an evening on country open to the Yawuru community. Jimmy Dobson, Yawuru joint management program leader, highlights the importance of these activities *“is captured not only conservation outcomes but also the opportunity for the rangers to be leaders in their community ... to provide diversionary type activities which inspire kids-at-risk to a better future and build the capacity of Yawuru people.”*



Luke Puertollano (left), Supervisor Trainee Yawuru Rangers and Curtis Robinson (right), Trainee Yawuru Ranger running the Funatic Fires activity showing local kids how the fire truck works

Kensington

AHU on the Move

In November 2014 the Aboriginal Heritage Unit made the move from Block 13 (Kensington) to be with the majority of the PVS team in Block 10 (Kensington). We share Block 10 with Policy and Tourism Branch and the Policy and Planning Branch, with the Swan River Trust also moving in across the hall way.

Swan River Trust

Traineeship with the Trust brings bright future

In 2014, the Swan River Trust and the City of Canning secured funding for an Aboriginal Trainee position. This partnership is administered through a collaborative agreement between the Trust and the City. In March 2014, John Narrier was successful in securing a traineeship with the City of Canning. As part of the traineeship, John has enrolled in Certificate III in Conservation Land Management course at TAFE. This course is helping to develop John's skills in managing conservation and land management activities, across a variety of areas of the industry. John is set to complete his course by May 2016.

The collaborative arrangement commits the Swan River Trust to provide training towards John's TAFE certification by offering work activities within the Swan Canning Riverpark one day a week for 12 months. To date John has been involved in a number activities across many branches of the Trust including tree planting at Ellen Brook Wetland and Whiteman Park foreshore, Helena River Monitoring, Canning River pool surveys, Canning summer pool fish study, catchment water sampling, and foreshore condition assessments. He has also provided assistance with the preparation for a range of River Guardian programs like Dolphin Watch.

"John is an important asset to the Trust, his hard work and dedication to the tasks at hand is a clear reflection of the success of his traineeship" says Rebekah Esszig, project officer with the Swan River Trust's Riverbank program.

The City of Canning has expressed an interest in continuing the shared trainee position for another 12 months.



John measuring physical water parameters in the Helena River, May 2014



John sampling water along the Canning River, September 2014

Reconciliation Garden

Katamoordoo Kidji Maambakoort (Scarp to the Sea)

Introduction

As part of the South West Region's (SWR's) commitment towards the department's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), the Aboriginal Heritage Unit and key regional staff met in August 2014 to discuss the SWR's implementation of the RAP. One of the meeting's outcomes was the idea to create a bush tucker garden in the regional office complex. This was thought to be a great idea and the then regional manager, Greg Mair gave the commitment to fund the project.

Extra advice and support was sought from Ken Ninnette from the Blackwood District. As an Aboriginal artist and national park ranger, Ken brought with him, his knowledge of country and the design and landscaping skills he has applied to the development of campsites throughout his district.

Concept and design

After consultation with SWR's RAP representative, Peter Henderson and other interested people from the Bunbury office it was decided to create a space that was more representative of all the values and significance of the area to the local Aboriginal people and the South West Region. The concept, 'scarp to the sea' was born.

The country and the lay of the land were looked at and prominent features chosen. These features were the Darling Scarp, major rivers, flat lands, swamps and the ocean.

These features of the landscape have ancient dreaming stories attached to them about creation and the movement of the people, through to the more contemporary use of, and management of land we see today.

The garden is designed to represent past, present and importantly the future paths of the Noongar people who will walk together as one, encouraging cultural interaction, acceptance and an experience rarely understood of the hidden values of land. It celebrates the complexities and diversities of our landscape and all that is a part of it.

The colourful designs, rockery, meeting areas for yarning and quiet reflection and interpretation are intended to create discussion, interest and awareness about: culture, country, bush tucker, medicines, herbs and spices and art.

The garden also represents the department's history in the region by using items from prominent structures like the old wooden Seaview fire tower, which was taken down some years ago. The old timbers, used to create the garden beds and some seating show the skills of the builders at a time when everything was done by hand. Other historic items are subtly placed throughout the garden.

As reconciliation is about coming together we feel that this is reflected in the design and the now finished garden. The garden will become a space for staff and community to yarn, reflect and socialise.

Karim and Ken would like to acknowledge the support and commitment to this important project from the South West Region and districts and hope that similar projects can be replicated in other regions.

Hope you enjoy your garden. Ngalang Mia.



Before



After

Customary activities

Community information and education is now our key focus.

As regulations have been finalised, key documents close to being updated, the focus of the AHU now turns to sharing with the Aboriginal community their rights, and importantly, their responsibilities under the changes to the CALM Act in relation to customary activities. This is in conjunction with departmental staff training.

We finished 2014 holding a number of community information sessions in the South West, in Collie, Bunbury, Busselton and Manjimup as well as sessions to a couple of boards made up of a majority of Aboriginal people sitting on them. Planning is now underway to continue this roll-out in the metro area and further afield.

The sessions are delivered via a PowerPoint presentation of about two hours depending on discussions; when held in the regions, departmental staff attend. There are handouts from each region consisting of relevant information e.g. fire wood maps, maps of national parks, disease risk information etc. These are usually followed by a cook-up and chance to have an informal yarn, it provides an opportunity for staff to meet the local community and to start to have a conversation and build relationships, this is one of the most important aspects of these sessions, as the underlying message is 'local issues at a local level' This is reflected in our policies and guidelines and will be achieved through what we are calling 'Local area arrangements'.



Manjimup mob enjoying a feed of kangaroo stew and damper

Wheatbelt and South West Regional Aboriginal Engagement Strategies

The Aboriginal Heritage Unit is working collaboratively with the Wheatbelt and South West Regions to develop Aboriginal engagement strategies. This is a priority for both regions.

The strategies will focus on:

- Improving staff knowledge and understanding the CALM Act changes as they relate to Aboriginal culture and the values of the land, customary activity and joint management.
- Building relationships with local Aboriginal communities to facilitate customary activity, local area agreements and encourage greater involvement in the management of CALM Act lands and waters.
- Explore and develop opportunities for employment of Aboriginal people.
- Implement the Reconciliation Action Plan

This will assist to build on the work that has been completed in both regions. This includes:

- Staff in both regions undertaking cultural awareness training
- Holding a community barbeque during Reconciliation Week at the Old Mill dam in Dryandra
- Customary activities workshop held in the Bunbury and Collie offices with local Aboriginal community members and departmental staff.
- Workshop held in Narrogin for the Wheatbelt staff on the CALM Act amendments, South West Native Title Settlement update and the Aboriginal strategies in the department.
- Establishing the Regional Reconciliation Garden in the Bunbury office.

Thanks!
for your
Support!!

Contributors

- Greg Durell
- Eleanor Killen
- Allisdair MacDonald
- Karim Khan
- Ian Kealley
- Rory Chapple
- Gary Edwards
- Peter Curtin
- Erina Young
- David Pickles
- Sonya Stewart
- Bonnie Tregenza
- People Services Branch
- Learning and Development
- Lennard Ward
- Tristan Jessell

This newsletter is produced quarterly. Please contact us if you would like to contribute to the **Next edition: July 2015**

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