

Palya!

STRONG PEOPLE HEALTHY COUNTRY and WATER

Anangu Kunpu, Ngura Kunpu munu Kapi

- 03 Elder of the Year
- 04 Buffel busters in the GVD
- 06 Dunnart found in new location
- 10 Building the Dog Fence
- 12 Parks' co-management at work
- 13 AMYAC's Healthy Country Plan



Australian Government



Government of South Australia

Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board

LANDSCAPE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
ALINYTJARA WILURARA

From the General Manager, Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board



Welcome to the 2022 Winter edition of Palya where we share stories and news from across our region.

Since taking up the position of Acting General Manager in early January I've greatly enjoyed and learned much from working with the AW Landscape Board and the AW team.

Over the last six months the board and staff have continued to achieve significant on-ground outcomes despite the ongoing challenges of COVID and limited access

INVITATION

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board invite you to visit our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and our website to learn more.

landscape.sa.gov.au/aw/home

AW is always keen to do better so...

we would greatly appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete this communications survey. [Click here or use this QR code to take part.](#)

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to many of the region's communities. This is a real testament to the strength of the partnerships and working relationships between the staff, board, organisations and communities across the AW region.

With my acting role finishing in early July 2022, I've enjoyed working on management of flood impacts and partnership development, as well as supporting new approaches to board succession. I'm pleased with what has been achieved working with the board and the team during my watch and know they'll continue to maintain their commitment to healthy Country across the AW region.

Working together with ranger groups and Community leaders to progress strategies for pest species management and support healthy Country highlighted to me the resilience and capability of the people of this very unique region. I extend my thanks to all those I met and who shared their views and knowledge with me.



I would especially like to thank the members of the AW board and the Chair, Parry Agius, for their support and assistance while I've acted in the role.

It's also been a great pleasure working with such a committed and hardworking team, and I have been particularly impressed by their ability to adapt and keep moving forward within a constantly changing and complex work environment.

In finishing I would like to extend my best wishes and welcome the newly appointed General Manager Kim Krebs. Kim has extensive experience in the area of natural resource management and managing landscape board programs and I feel confident that she'll find working with the AW board and the AW team a very rewarding experience.

Palya!

Gill Peacey
A/General Manager
Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board

Where we are and what we do

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape region covers the northwest quarter of South Australia.

In Pitjantjatjara, alinytjara means 'north' and wilurara means 'west'.

The region spans over a quarter of a million square kilometres, and has a population of approximately 3000 people, many of whom identify with the Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara, Ngaanyatjarra, Kokatha, Mirning or Wirangu peoples.

As the only all-Aboriginal board in Australia responsible for managing a Natural Resource Management region, the AW Landscape Board's aim is the protection of the land for the mutual benefit of the country and its people.



- 02 Board welcomes new member**

Working together with partners and community
- 10 Building Australia's dog fence**

Locals helping fence rebuild look out for malleefowl
- 03 Community first - Elder of the Year**

Spotlight on board member Peter Miller
- 04 Buffel busters in the GVD**

With the rain comes greater challenge... but this team is on to it
- 06 Who Dunnart? Marsupial mysteries**

Finding endangered species alive and well in new territory
- 08 Sharing APY at Landcare conference**

APY Lands' Regional Landcare Facilitator shares experiences
- 09 Safety first for AW 4WDDrivers**

4WD training a must for AW team
- 11 APY water management skills**

Skilling up on water management
- 12 Parks' co-management at work**

Spectacular signage supports Country, culture and tourism
- 12 Mapping Country - two ways**

Creating maps with cultural relevance
- 13 AMYAC begins Healthy Country Plan**

Kicking off in Coober Pedy
- 14 Warru at Wamitjara**

Successful APY Lands survey of relocated warru
- 15 Oak Valley Rangers update**

Looking after Maralinga Tjarutja Country
- 16 Aboriginal Frontline Program**

Public sector employment and training



From the Chair

Welcome to the 2022 Winter edition of Palya.

As the impacts of climate change present unrelenting challenges to our environment so must our board stay one step ahead in our planning.

Working with a blend of traditional science and knowledge of Country combined with up-to-date western science we continue to seek and apply the most effective means to support healthy Country.

With planning for AW's significant buffel project well under way, the board would like to recognise the contributions made by our many partners including Indigenous rangers groups across the region, CSIRO, PIRSA, Parks SA and others.

On behalf of the AW Landscape Board I would like to thank our departing Acting General Manager Gill Peacey for taking the reins at very short notice and managing the AW team with a positive and supportive energy. Gill's well considered contributions to our ongoing success and her personal drive to see them through were both valued and appreciated by the board. We wish her well for the future.

I would also like to congratulate Kim Krebs on her appointment as our new General Manager as of 12 July 2022. With a wide breadth of experience and many years devoted to natural resource management we extend a warm welcome and look forward to working together with her.

We are also pleased to welcome a new board member. Mr Duane Edwards is the Chair of Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation. With his extensive knowledge of the far west Country and strong relationships across the AW region including Yalata, Maralinga, Spinifex regions and the APY Lands. We look forward to his participation and contribution to board discussion and decision making.

Parry Agius
Presiding Member
Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board

Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board welcomes new member



The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board covered many important topics over the past six months. These included reviewing the Australian Government’s Regional Landcare Partnerships, the region’s state funded projects, policy review and succession planning. Employment for Aboriginal people within the public service, partnership developments and the impacts of regional flooding and COVID were also discussed.

At the March meeting, Erma Ranieri, SA Commissioner for the Public Sector Employment, spoke with the board about the availability of an active register of Aboriginal participants looking for employment within the Public Sector.

She explained that an Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan has been established that includes:

- tailored mentoring programs
- pre-employment program
- no age restrictions on traineeships
- ongoing employment within the Public Sector at the completion of the traineeship.

In addition an Aboriginal Frontline Leadership program has been developed including an anti-racism strategy and closing the gap work.

Board members joined by AW’s new General Manager Kim Krebs at June meeting. L-R Kristy Richards, Kim Krebs, Debbie Hansen, Peter Miller, Duane Edwards, Julie O’Toole and Mick Haynes.



The Commissioner also pointed out that employment opportunities can be tailored for a particular region in South Australia.

District Ranger Mark Anderson’s presentation informed the board of the various projects being progressed by the region’s parks co-management boards and committee, including parks support of buffel grass management in the region and the installation of signage. (Further details on page 12.)

AW’s Senior Projects Officer Ollanta Lipcer discussed the new IDA Ranger Support model that provides funding for development of rangers and how IDA can work with the board to identify and fill the needs of the community.

Operations Manager Yasmin Wolf spoke about the importance of gaining state-wide commitment from other organisations for a coordinated effort to tackle the buffel grass problem. The board encouraged building ongoing relationships to achieve this.

Joanne Lee, Environment, Rehabilitation and Community Relations Manager for Iluka Resources Jacinth-Ambrosia Mine, provided an update about the progression of rehabilitation within the mine site, proposed changes to the rehabilitation landform design at Jacinth and an update on groundwater monitoring.



Julie O’Toole spoke to the board about her latest adventures

Board members individually shared stories from their communities and some of the activities they had been involved in since the last meeting.

In the June meeting the Board welcomed the incoming General Manager Kim Krebs and thanked the Acting General Manager Gill Peacey for her diligence in the role.

Newly appointed member Duane Edwards was also welcomed to the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board.

With extensive experience as a community leader and as current Chair of Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation, his connections and commitment were rated highly by the board.

Duane is also a member of numerous boards and organisations, including the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation, Maralinga Piling Trust and Tullawon Health Service, and is a past member of the Maralinga Tjarutja Council.

He has been involved in Healthy Country Planning for the Yalata IPA, and in cultural water protection and management and establishing primary production in Colona and Pintumbie areas of the Yalata Lands.

He lives in Yalata and works towards caring for Country, making it a better place for his people into the future.



Welcome to Duane Edwards, Chair of the Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation

Community Comes First AW Board member spotlight Peter Miller



For decades, Peter Miller has been dedicated to improving the lives of the people of the Far West Coast.

Peter is a Wirangu Elder who represents the Far West Coast on the Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) Landscape Board.

Beginning with the AW Natural Resources Management Board in 2016, he transitioned to the AW Landscape Board in 2020. Peter’s contribution to the discussions and decisions made by the board are both informative and influential.

At the recent AW Landscape Board meeting in June, Peter was also elected Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee, which advises the board on governance, finance and audit related matters and risk management.

“Our ancestors’ message to care for Country has been passed on to us through our Elders, along with the land management skills and knowledge they gained about our Country over thousands of years,” he says. “Seeing our rangers working on Country brings



Peter shearing at Colona Station in 1980

happiness and strength to the whole community.”

He has a long history of leadership and action in his community, including a stint as Executive Chair of the Aboriginal Health Council of SA, during which he signed the first Framework Agreement between the state and federal governments in Australia in 1996 in relation to Aboriginal health problems in the state, and has had roles with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, National Rural Health Alliance, and Ceduna Koonibba Aboriginal Health Service. Peter is currently Chair of Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation.

Peter was well known and widely respected as a football coach, with a successful career starting with junior colts at Koonibba in 1975 and culminating as coach of the victorious South Australian Aboriginal team in 1991. He was then named as coach of the All-Australian Aboriginal team.

Peter worked as a Community Constable in the early 1990s, and has been a shearer and station hand, broken in horses and worked at the Thevenard silos.

A keen historian, Peter spent four years in the early 2000s compiling a history of the Aboriginal people of the West Coast – Tjutjunaka Worka Tjuta.

With his wealth of knowledge, experience and commitment, Peter is a valued member of the AW board. He is held in high esteem in his community and was recently honoured at the South Australian NAIDOC Week celebrations, when he was named Male Elder of the Year for 2022.



Community Constable Peter Miller in early 1990s



1996 Signing of first Framework Agreement between the state and federal Health Ministers and the Aboriginal Health Council



But Peter says the credit belongs to his wife, Rhonda. “Without her, I wouldn’t have achieved what I have. She always says “community comes first.”



Peter and wife, Rhonda in 1996

Buffel Busters in the Great Victoria Desert



The battle against the spread of buffel grass continues in 2022, with heavy rain in spring and summer across the southern Great Victoria Desert (GVD) providing perfect growing conditions and increased opportunities for this hardy weed to spread.

Buffel grass is a declared weed in South Australia. This ecological transformer weed presents a significant threat across AW's fragile arid ecosystems. It dominates the ground layer of vegetation, altering food and habitat suitable for native animals and burns hotter than native grasses, destroying trees adapted to survive native grass fires.

The buffel grass problem is complex, but across the GVD many groups of people are working hard together to stop the spread.

While Oak Valley rangers continue to build upon their efforts to manage infestations in the Maralinga Tjarutja Lands, Far West Coast rangers are also making a significant impact in

partnership with Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The AW team, led by Paul Gregory, have pooled resources together with Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation rangers, National Parks staff, and local spray contractors to survey and treat buffel grass infestations along hundreds of kilometres of the Trans-Australia railway line, roads and tracks. Without this partnership effort to contain these infestations, the southern GVD would likely be infested within five years.

Spraying buffel grass along a 515km stretch of the railway corridor from the Western Australian border to Malbooma, as well as along the Eyre Highway from Pintumba to Border Village, Ooldea Road, Cook Road and the Cook airstrip, is difficult and remote.

Each buffel treatment trip demands a significant investment of time and resources, with as many as 14 people taking part and the longest trip taking nine days to complete.

Back row L-R: Lesley Mundy (FWCAC) Alex Fraser (AW), Gemma Bawden (Co-management), Craig Cook (local contractor), Simon Vasey (local contractor), Ronnie Cox (local contractor) Paul Gregory (AW), Alex Marinelli (Parks Fire Crew), Ricky Lennon (FWCAC), Brandon Willis (FWCAC)
Front row L-R: Ollanta Lipcer (AW), Trevor Johncock (Parks Fire Crew), Mark Anderson (Parks)

Below: Ollly gets to work spraying new buffel plants establishing along sand dunes



A total of 30,500 litres of water was used for spraying buffel along the railway line. Water is accessible from Barton and Cook railway sidings, but most of the water has to be carted in on trailers. The roads are rough and spraying happens across spring, summer and autumn when conditions can be hot and testing, especially when dressed in full protective gear. The most recent trip, in May, involved eight vehicles, six trailers, and three all-terrain vehicles, with six punctured tyres along the way.

AW are also working with our partners in the South Australian Arid Lands region to manage buffel grass that enters the railway line from the east (Tarcoola to Port Augusta). The Australian Rail and Track Corporation (ARTC) are supporting this important work to manage the seed that inevitably enters through the movement of trains along the railway corridor.

Controlling buffel is a major, long-term undertaking that will need ongoing funding. AW supports the effort through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, 10 Deserts Program, ARTC and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

Below: Transcontinental freight passing the buffel crew working on the Nullarbor



Top: Preparing herbicide for the day ahead



Ollly and Brett enjoying their break



Buffel seed, perfectly adapted to spread and establish

Who Dunnart?

Marsupial mysteries among the spinifex



Traps set among the spinifex in Yellabinna Wilderness Area in May 2022 provide evidence that sandhill dunnarts inhabit previously unrecorded territory.

Weighing from 30-44 grams, the sandhill dunnart is a nocturnal predator that darts between clumps of spinifex to hunt its prey, relying on the spiky plants to protect them from owls and feral predators such as foxes and cats.

AW ecologist Brett Backhouse selected four trap sites, choosing terrain with spinifex of the right size and density, based on data from previous research. The sites were spread over about 5km, all located around 15km north of a previous expedition in 2021, which confirmed the presence of dunnarts in the area.

Joining Brett were AW staff from Adelaide and Ceduna, along with

three rangers from the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation. The team of seven set to work creating pitfall traps on the first afternoon, digging six 600mm-deep holes along a 70-metre line weaving among the spinifex at each of the four trap sites.

A small fence of wire mesh was set into the sand and across each pit, forcing any small animals that encountered it to follow it to either side and fall into the pits. The pits had plastic liners and bases to prevent the animals from digging their way out, and were furnished with some vegetation, scraps of cloth and cardboard tubes to provide them with some protection from the cold, and a small amount of food.

Once set, the traps were checked at dawn and dusk each day to minimise the time the animals spent in the pits.

There was much excitement on the first morning check, with a young female sandhill dunnart found in one of the traps. Although this was the only sandhill dunnart caught on this trip, Brett was pleased with the outcome

as it showed the species is active and breeding in a previously unrecorded area.

"We found a young female about 32 grams in weight, so she was probably born last year," Brett says. "So we know they're still up here and breeding, which is fantastic. It further refines our



thinking of where they're going to be and gives us a good idea of what is going to be key habitat, which has been the focus of this project over the last couple of years."

After weighing the dunnart and giving it a quick health check, it was released to find a hiding place in a clump of spinifex.

Other species that were collected on the trip include the little long-tailed dunnart, sandy inland mouse, Mitchell's hopping mouse and southern ningai, a tiny marsupial predator weighing less than 10 grams. The traps also collected some reptiles such as knob-tailed geckoes and military dragons.

There was plenty of work to keep the team busy between dusk and dawn trap checks. Two Felixers were located, checked and reset. These automated devices have cameras that record any animals passing in front of them and use lasers to identify feral predators and remove them from the ecosystem. They are located 700-800 metres away from the track to minimise the impact of people passing through the area.

Two camera grids in the area were also checked. Each grid is made up of 10 cameras placed 500 metres apart. The cameras are triggered by infrared sensors that detect movement, capturing images of anything that passes by.

The team split up into smaller groups, each walking three or four kilometres along a line of cameras and replacing the memory cards and batteries inside the weatherproof camera cases.

Reviewing the images around the campfire showed that cats and foxes are present in the area, along with native species such as mallee fowl and bronzewing pigeons.

On the final morning of the trip, the pit linings were dug up and the mesh removed. The holes were filled in and the site returned as closely as possible to the way it was found to minimise the impact of the activity.

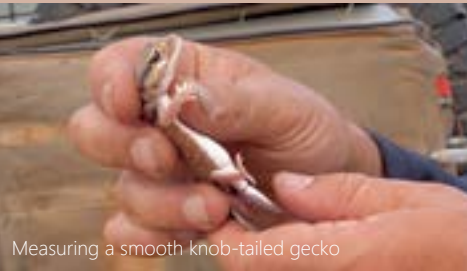
The results of the trapping and associated activity were all recorded, adding to our understanding of the ecology of the region.



The sandhill dunnart about to be released



The team finish setting up a line of pitfall traps



Measuring a smooth knob-tailed gecko



A southern ningai

This project is supported by the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



[Scan the QR code or click here to see our video report on the sandhill dunnart survey.](#)



Sharing APY's success at National Landcare Conference

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) Walter Tjami made an impressive appearance at the National RALF Annual Conference in Canberra in May without having to leave the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.

Walter's presentation to the conference was delivered through a video that showcased both the spectacular APY Lands and the people he works with.

The conference was held at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra and featured speakers from around Australia. The RALF program is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE), supporting stakeholders such as communities, farmers and industry groups to learn and adopt innovative sustainable agricultural practices.

Walter works across the APY Lands, providing cultural liaison and translation services as part of his RALF duties,

which include maintaining partnerships with stakeholder organisations, weed management, ground cover monitoring and training events.

Training events cover subjects like pastoral mapping using Farm Map 4D mapping software, and the construction, operation and maintenance of Landscape and Livestock Management Centres (LLMC). There are now five LLMCs in the APY Lands, which are used for managing cattle as well as controlling large feral herbivores, which can cause damage to the environment and pose a risk to public safety.

In previous years, Walter has attended the national conference in person to deliver his presentations. However, with travel restrictions still in place on the APY Lands, it was decided that he would provide a video presentation this year.

Walter developed his presentation in collaboration with AW staff, narrating the video comprised of vision and imagery showing his various activities across the region.

The video was screened at the conference in Canberra, with attendees impressed by both the work achieved and the stunning APY landscape.

Top: A screenshot from Walter's video presentation. Scan the QR code opposite to watch it on our website

Bottom: RALFs from across Australia gathered in Canberra for the National Conference in May



"Although Walter could not be there in person, the pre-recorded presentation was a highlight of the conference and was well received by attendees," says Kristie Logus, Assistant Director of DAWE's Sustainable Agriculture Programs Section. "The activities that Walter undertakes in his role really demonstrate how unique and diverse the RALF role is."

Following the conference, Walter's video was shared on social media and can be seen on AW Landscape's website.

[Scan the QR code or click here to see it for yourself.](#)



"It was great to work with AW on this video and I'm happy to share it with everyone in the community to show them the work we are doing to keep Country healthy," Walter says.



Safety First

4WD training for AW staff

The Alinytjara Wilurara region covers around a third of South Australia, much of it remote and accessible only by dirt roads and tracks.

Driving in these areas can be dangerous for the unprepared, so all AW staff who work in the field undergo professional training in on and off-road driving before heading bush.

AW's new Communications Coordinator Noel Probert often joins teams on-Country so took part in a two-day course in June to brush up on his 4WD skills.

The course began in the classroom, covering the fundamentals of four-wheel-driving, including when to engage high and low-range 4WD modes, the importance of correct tyre pressures for different surfaces, and techniques for driving on dirt, sand and mud.

The class then took to the workshop, learning what to look for under the bonnet and how to carry out regular vehicle inspections.

Flat tyres are always a possibility on rough roads, so the group were tasked with safely changing a tyre, learning some clever tricks to manage heavy wheels safely.

The second day was all about putting theory into practice. The class were put through their paces off-road, with rain creating an extra challenge as the terrain became slick and slippery.



Wet conditions on the day added an extra opportunity to learn how to safely get the most out of a 4WD vehicle

The group faced steep descents, deep water, sand, mud and rocks, and felt the effects of traction control and anti-lock brakes in different scenarios.

The sun came out just in time to get out of their vehicles and perform a snatch strap recovery – something they all hope they won't have to do too often.

"I've driven 4WD vehicles quite a lot in the past but I certainly picked up some valuable new insights, freshened up some old skills, and gained an appreciation for the capability and limitations of modern off-road vehicles. Now I'm really looking forward to putting it all into practice in the real world on my next field trip," said Noel.





How many posts do you need to build a 500km fence?

Australia's Dog Fence is one of the longest structures in the world, stretching for more than 5,400 kilometres across South Australia and Queensland.

Built to protect the sheep farming zone from dingoes and wild dogs, the South Australian section of the Dog Fence runs for 2,150km from the Great Australian Bight to the New South Wales border.

By 2019, more than two-thirds of the fence in SA (around 1,600km) was over 100 years old. Battered by weather and erosion as well as the activities of native and feral animals, the degraded fence was no longer functioning as an effective barrier.

In a collaborative effort between state and federal governments and the livestock industry, the fence is now

in the process of being rebuilt. The rebuild program has identified sections of the fence that are in poor condition and is addressing each section as a separate stage. So far more than 400km of fence has been replaced.

Five of these stages, comprising almost 500km of fenceline, are in or adjacent to the Alinytjara Wilurara region. AW has been liaising with the local Dog Fence board and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) as the work progresses to ensure relevant information is available to local communities.

Work is now under way on stage 7, north of Ceduna, and stage 8, near Fowlers Bay, with new posts being installed following the completion of preparatory earthworks. A contract has been awarded for fencing works on stage 9, north of Yellabinnia and stage

10, near Lake Everard. Stage 6, adjacent to stage 9 near Yellabinnia, has been completed.

The rebuild team are also evaluating options for electric fencing for stage 8 and stage 9 to protect the fence against damage from wombats and camels respectively.

Rebuilding the five AW sections requires 1,975 rolls of prefabricated wire mesh, around 50,000 wooden posts and 20,500 steel posts, with 105km of electric fencing for wombats and a further 145km of electric fencing for camels.

Fencing contractors working in the AW region are helping to monitor

Top: Stage 6 near Yellabinnia Wilderness Protection Area in SA's far west

Below: The end of the line in South Australia where the Dog Fence meets the sea.



malleefowl populations, reporting any sightings of the birds as well as signs of their activity.

Local subcontractors have been engaged to carry out much of the work.

"It's great that our contractor, SA Outback Company, is using locals to help rebuild the Dog Fence," says PIRSA's Dog Fence Rebuild Manager, Lindell Andrews. "It means that the rebuild of these sections progresses quicker than expected, we benefit from local knowledge and connections, and it helps to keep money in the area."

The rebuild project began in 2020 and is expected to conclude in June 2024.

Above: Map showing the Dog Fence and buffer zones from the Great Australian Bight to the Victorian border

Top and middle right: Stage 6 and 9, sections of the degraded fenceline

Bottom right and below: Contractors installing posts north of Ceduna (right) and near Fowlers Bay (below)



APY building skills in water management

In the arid and remote APY Lands, constant water supply is crucial to the success of their cattle business. The maintenance and repair of the many bores falls to the skilled Land Management team.

Anangu team members Walter Tjami and Glen Ward most recently were tasked with repairing a bore as part of a training session.

With a focus on developing hands-on skills, Walter and Glen first isolated the wiring from the solar bore pump's main control panel, before pulling up the pump and its 34-metre poly column from the borehole so it could be assessed and repaired.

The training stressed the importance of cleanly and safely removing the column as any damage at this stage could render the bore unusable. Using the correct tools and procedures, the rangers were shown appropriate safety procedures throughout the process.

Once repaired, the pump was returned to the bore, reconnected to the solar power source and tested.

The session is part of an ongoing training program aiming to continue development of skills among local Anangu so that they can manage stockyards confidently and independently in the near future.

Supported by the AW Landscape Board with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Parks Co-Management at Work



Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-Management Board

Stunning new signage has been installed at the Yellabinna Regional Reserve and Yumbarra Conservation Park entrance, following significant planning and consultation with the Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board (YPCPB).

The signage bay is a fantastic resource for visitors to the parks, educating people about cultural heritage as well as providing information about plants and animals that can be found in the area.

National Parks and Wildlife Ranger Tamahina Cox made a substantial contribution to the project with her artwork installation in the slab of the information bay.

At the Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-Management Board meeting in November 2021, National Parks and Wildlife Service ranger staff presented a draft concept for the Goog's Track entrances to Yumbarra Conservation Park, Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area and Yellabinna Regional Reserve, giving board members the opportunity to provide feedback and their endorsement. This signage has since been printed and installed.

Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee

New signage has also been installed in high-use areas of the Nullarbor Parks by a team including rangers from the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Faded and damaged signs were replaced with new ones, which will inform visitors about camping in the parks, including the online booking system. The team also carried out track restoration and upgraded the toilet facilities at Gilgerabbie Hut. Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee (NPAC) members also worked alongside National Parks and Wildlife Service staff upgrading and replacing the Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area entrance sign on the Eyre Highway. The NPWS ranger team provided concepts to NPAC members, with the chosen design utilising the existing stone wall structures and reflecting the area's landscapes. Construction is under way. Last June the Committee supported an anthropological and archaeological study of Koonalda Caves proposed by Dr Clare Buswell and Dr Kerryn Walsh, with the ongoing involvement of Traditional Owners. The Committee also agreed to a site visit to assess cultural impacts of a proposed visitor management project at Murrawijinnie Caves.



Mapping Country – Two Ways

Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation

A new map of the Far West Coast region was brought to life in Ceduna in June, combining satellite mapping data with traditional knowledge and artistry to create a unique representation of land and sea. Rangers from the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (FWCAC) collaborated with the Far West Languages Centre (FWLC), Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board and renowned artist and writer Kim Mahood to produce a two-way map of Country, alive with stories, sites, plants, animals and language, combined with scientific information. AW's Adam Wood provided Geographic Information System (GIS) support to project an accurate base of major geographical features onto a two-metre by four-metre canvas. Over two weeks, project participants added significant details, including locations of important plants and animals, important sites, and existing and future projects. The map can be rolled up, taken on patrol and used to track and explain the rangers' plans and works in progress to community and



collaborating organisations. It's a live map that can always be added to when new information is available or when new projects begin. Kim has previously worked with the Oak Valley community on a two-way mapping project, which is used in many ways, and is a valued tool to help track and communicate their land management program. Creating the two-way map was a collaborative experience, helping to build trust between AW, FWCAC and FWLC in a practical and beautiful way that will be used long into the future. This project was funded through the AW Grassroots program.



L-R: Ricky Lennon (FWCAC), Kim Mahood, Charles Coleman (FWCAC)

Healthy Country Planning

under way for Antakirinja Matu-Yankunyjtjara

Healthy Country was on the agenda in Coober Pedy in June, when a working group gathered together on the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunyjtjara (AMY) Healthy Country Plan. The group, which included representatives from the Umoona Community Council, Tallaringa Co-management Advisory Committee, Kanku-Breakaways Co-management Board, District Council Coober Pedy and the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunyjtjara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC) Board, set out to identify strategies and projects to present to the AMYAC Board for approval. The Healthy Country Plan is informed by existing plans such as the Tallaringa Manta Palya Plan, Tallaringa and Kanku-Breakaways Park Management Plans and the AMY Strategic Plan. The working group discussed a range of strategies including water, weed and fire management, supporting culture and knowledge transfer, governance and capacity building, and protection and maintenance of cultural sites. Over two days, the group discussed the potential strategies, guided by facilitator



Saras Kumar from Conservation Management. Considerations included the feasibility of the proposals, their potential impact, funding, and the complexities of implementing a plan across lands controlled by different landholders. After some spirited discussion, the working group selected two strategies to present to the AMYAC Board for approval – an on-Country culture and language program, and a program to control buffel grass in Tallaringa and Mabel Creek Road. This project is supported by AW Landscape Board with funds from Indigenous Desert Alliance's Ten Deserts project. The Healthy Country Plan is being undertaken in partnership with Conservation Management, AW Landscape Board and District Council Coober Pedy.



Warru at Wamitjara



The rocky outcrop known as Wamitjara in the APY Lands was once an area where warru lived in abundance. Warru are important in the Anangu culture, but have been threatened by wildfire, drought and feral animals such as foxes and cats. The wild population were lost from Wamitjara and the senior ladies linked to this land wanted them back, which is the aim of the warru recovery program.

Over the past five years, warru bred within protected environments have been translocated to Wamitjara in the hope that they would breed and increase in number.

In May 2022, a team comprising APY Land Management warru rangers, ZoosSA, Ecological Horizons and AW Ecologist Brett Backhouse visited the site to monitor the recovering population.

In previous years, warru have been released at Wamitjara after being sourced from either the fenced 'pintji', a predator-proof area built to protect warru from feral species, or the wild population at New Well.

The Wamitjara warru trapping team set a total of thirty traps along three lines across the outcrop to survey population numbers and health. Traps were checked daily and reset each night, providing four opportunities to gather data.

This year, 29 warru were caught, five more than in 2021. The trapping was

done during an unusual rain event and more may have been caught but warru like to stay warm and dry during rain and don't venture out.

Many of the warru captured on this trip were original Pintji animals, with some of them from the 2017 and 2020 translocations to Wamitjara. This shows that they are surviving in the wild for years at a time, although AW Ecologist Brett Backhouse says it is not yet clear why only eight new animals were among those trapped this year.

"This may be due to predation, or simply that these new recruits have dispersed to other sections of Wamitjara where there are no traps – it is a big hill," Brett says. "Scat or kuna (warru droppings) monitoring undertaken by John Read on the site did show a slight increase in most plots, which would possibly indicate that animals are starting to inhabit the entire site. We also did the scats at New Well, which indicated a good population still there, and signs were found at Dulgunnia and Hinkley Ranges in the western APY lands, which is also excellent."

Sherada Stanley, Brett Backhouse and John Read bag a trapped warru at Wamitjara



This trip, the Mimili warru rangers also worked alongside the east and west rangers, trapping and processing warru, and searching for scats and other signs of warru being present. The team visited Kulitjara, where they were pleased to see areas with warru kuna tjuta (many scats).

The Warru Recovery Project AGM was held during the trip, which started with a minute's silence to remember the loss of a warru ranger. Participants including the warru minyma braving the cold, wet weather to take part and eating malu wipu (kangaroo tail) together.

The latest trapping trip shows more positive signs that warru populations continue to survive in the wild, with help from everyone involved.

The AW Landscape Board supports this work with funds from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Warru Rangers' Success with Survey

In April this year, APY Warru Rangers took an important step forward in the project when they successfully undertook their first independent warru survey inside the predator proof pintji.

The survey had been planned to include AW, Zoos SA and private ecologists, but when COVID got in the way the external support groups could not attend.

Undeterred, the APY warru team set to work to ensure the project stayed on track successfully trapping warru and recording vital data for the project.



Tracey Miller holds a warru as it is measured

Oak Valley Ranger update

Oak Valley (OV) Rangers have been keeping busy as winter set in on the Nullarbor Plain and the Great Victoria Desert. Undeterred by frosty swags, the team have continued to patrol and manage their remote region.

The reopening of the Anne Beadell Highway from Maralinga Tjarutja Lands COVID closures has brought tourists back, and OV Rangers have been checking permits and beginning construction of the first dedicated camping ground at Voakes Hill Corner. First requested by the Mamungari Co-management Board, plans for the campground have been in the works for some years, and in spite of delays caused by funding, personnel availability and COVID, work is now under way.

Surveys conducted by OV Rangers and Spinifex Land Management, with support from Parks SA, found that the campsites established every 50km or so on the Western Australian side of the border have substantially reduced the impacts of informal campsites.

To this end, Voakes Hill Corner will be the first formal campsite to be built along the Anne Beadell Highway on the South Australian side of the border, with more planned at 50km intervals over the next few years. The campsites will improve the experience of visitors as well as reducing environmental damage



The Two-way Science gang at Ooldea



Oak Valley walking trail signage



Checking camel numbers with the chopper

with colourful hand-painted signs to guide and inform visitors to the community.

Rangers have also been out and about across the Maralinga Tjarutja Lands, managing weeds – especially buffel grass – mapping feral animal populations, working with the school on the Two-way Science program and conducting hunting burns.

and making it easier for ranger patrols to watch for the spread of buffel grass.

In addition, a new walking trail has been constructed around Oak Valley, complete



Another night on patrol for the Ranger team



Aboriginal Frontline Leadership Program

AW's youngest team member Amanda Bowne completed her Aboriginal Frontline Leadership Program in June, at a ceremony attended by the Commissioner of Public Sector Employment Erma Ranieri and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Kyam Maher.

The program aims to build leadership skills among Aboriginal staff across all levels of the state government.

The modules included:
Leading self – a look into the interpersonal relationships that drive the working environment around us and how to navigate them, which Amanda explained was the root from which the other modules are built.

Managing people – skills and techniques on how to motivate people in the workplace and how different development levels can be influenced to exceed.

Interpersonal savvy – working with others and how different personalities, motivations and skill sets work together, and how to make everyone shine in their own way.

Delivering results – how as a leader one should drive for success and what to do once you've reached it.

Facilitating change – tools to work with others and yourself in times of change, whether small or large.

Finally, a team challenge wrapped up the last module for the program, which took the toolkit built over the sessions into real world situations.

The program empowers Aboriginal people to get together as leaders and work through some of the problems unique to them, and show how they can reach their full potential in a modern corporate world estranged from their roots.

"The program showed me that you must be authentic to who you are to grow trust and lead as part of a team that thrives," Amanda says. "Having a solid understanding of your own personal world allows you to be your best self in your dealings with others."

If you are or know any Aboriginal public service employees who think this program would help them achieve their goals, we encouraged you to visit Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, Aboriginal Frontline Leadership Program website. [Click here](#) or [scan the QR code to register.](#)



Quick snips

Celebrations in Ceduna

AW joined representatives from the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and National Parks to celebrate NAIDOC Week in Ceduna in July.

After walking together in the NAIDOC March, it was off to the Far West Aboriginal Sporting Complex for a family day where we all showcased our work caring for Country.



War on Weeds

Classified as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS), Athel pine (Tamarix phylla) has spread widely across SA with devastating impacts on watercourses in arid pastoral zones.

The APY Land Management team have made impressive inroads toward total eradication in their Country, effectively removing it as an environmental threat.



Rare beast

This Everard Ranges toadlet (Pseudophryne robinsoni) was spotted near Kulitjara during a recent flora survey.

They hide in crevices and underneath rocks where there is some moisture, lying in wait to ambush unwary prey with their tongue, which can flick out accurately to over half their length.



AW's Hellos and Goodbyes

After a busy six months of staffing changes, the team at AW are working to stabilise and get down to scoring goals with our new General Manager, Executive Officer and Communications Coordinator.

Hello and welcome

New GM Kim Krebs



The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board welcomes our new General Manager, Kim Krebs. Kim's appointment follows a competitive

national recruitment process, and she brings a wealth of leadership experience in natural resources and landscape management here in South Australia and interstate.

Previous to this role, Kim led Green Adelaide's Community Engagement team. Following enactment of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 she led establishment of the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, having previously held managerial roles with the former Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board.

Kim has extensive experience working with Aboriginal people and communities to achieve on-ground outcomes, delivering a broad range of community-based programs and initiatives in her previous roles.

"It's a real privilege to take on the role of General Manager with the AW board and lead their team," Kim says. "With both the state and national governments promising Traditional Owners **Voice Treaty and Truth**, I plan to play my role in escalating this at the local level and help create opportunities for the people of the Alinytjara Wilurara region.

"With growing recognition of the significant impacts of climate change, the focus on healthy Country is stronger and I look forward to seeking emerging opportunities for community and Country, working together to determine how we can turn aspirations into reality."

Amelia Di Fabio



Welcome to Amelia Di Fabio, AW's new Executive Officer.

Amelia grew up in McLaren Vale, where she spent a lot of time on her father's vineyard, driving tractors and picking grapes. She enjoys

spending time outdoors, at the beach or walking with her two dogs.

For the last eight years Amelia worked as a personal assistant and practice manager in a busy orthopaedic medical practice where she developed strong multi-tasking skills and enjoyed working with people of different ages, ethnicities and cultural backgrounds.

After deciding she wanted to extend her career as a personal assistant outside the field of medicine, she said she was drawn to the position with AW because of the unique work the board does.

"I'm looking forward to using my skills and personal drive to support the board and to continue to learn and grow professionally for the long term benefit of the region.

Glad to have you on board, Amelia.

Noel Probert



Welcome to our new Communications Coordinator, Noel Probert.

Noel spent his early childhood in Ceduna and mid-north SA before his family returned to the

Adelaide Hills. His interest in South Australia's remarkable landscapes began early in life, enjoying family holidays in national parks around the state.

After spending a year travelling the country in an old van, Noel settled into a career as a journalist. He was named Regional Journalist of the Year in 2014, before launching his own corporate communications business.

Noel's wife Rebecca works at Adelaide Zoo, so his house has frequently been a temporary home to Australian wildlife, including bottle-fed joeys as part of the ongoing Warru Recovery Project supported by AW. The opportunity to work with AW seemed a natural progression, combining Noel's interests in the natural world and in telling stories from unique perspectives.

Welcome to AW, Noel.

Previous Communications Coordinator Helen Donald is continuing with AW part time in the role of Senior Communications Adviser.

Goodbye and best wishes

Gill Peacey

Thank you to our departing **Acting General Manager** Gill Peacey who has done a terrific job of keeping the team on track and continuing to excel over the past six months.



Gill's previous experience with the board allowed her to quickly understand their objectives, the AW region, its people and the various functions of the AW team members.

The team greatly appreciates her straightforward approach, managing with a steady hand through particularly challenging times associated with Covid and extensive flooding across the region.

Gill also managed to progress a number of key AW strategies including plans around buffel grass and camel management.

We are sure she will bring renewed enthusiasm to her substantive role with new insights, skills and approaches.

All the best Gill!

Dalin Song

Congrats to Dalin Song, AW's Business Services Coordinator, and welcome to the world baby Tyler, little brother to Jamie.



Dalin joined AW in January 2017. She has supported the AW team with timely and accurate financial and procurement advice as well as being a great source of broader related information.

Her degree in public relations combined with her in-depth finance and business administration knowledge gives her a unique skill set that will be missed, along with her outgoing nature and ever-present sense of humour.

The AW team wish Dalin and her family all the best, and hope she enjoys visiting her family in Cambodia while on leave.

Parry Agius
Presiding Member



Mick Haynes
Board Member, Far West Coast



Debbie Hansen
Board Member, Tjuntjuntjara



Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board

Serving the PEOPLE, COUNTRY, WATER of the Alinytjara Wilurara Region

Kristy Richards
Board Member, Far West Coast



Julie O'Toole
Board Member, AMYAC



Sally Scales
Board Member, APY Lands



Peter Miller
Board Member, Far West Coast



Duane Edwards
Board Member, Yalata



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