



CARING FOR COUNTRY



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Government of South Australia
Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources
Management Board



Australian Government



From the Regional Manager, *Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara*

Welcome to the June 2014 edition of the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management region's quarterly newsletter. At this stage of the year we

are implementing many programs across the region with all our partners, including APY Land Management, Maralinga Tjarutja, Yalata and Far West Coast.

AW weather stations

Check out data from the weather stations in the AW region on...
<http://aws.awnrm.sa.gov.au/>

Next AW NRM Board meeting:

25 - 26 August, Maralinga Village

Celebration of NAIDOC Week

6 - 12 July www.naidoc.org.au

Aboriginal Flag - 42nd Anniversary

12 July Aboriginal Flag first flown in Tarntanyangga (Victoria Square) Adelaide, in 1971

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

9 August www.un.org/en/events

Ceduna Arts and Cultural Centre

Features genuine Aboriginal art
 2 Eyre Highway, Ceduna

In previous editions I outlined some of the strategic planning the Board has undertaken in order to get its house in order. This included:

- Board Policy Statements
- Developing Palya Kalkuni (a promise to work together) agreements with key regional partners (so far including Yalata Community Council and APY Executive) and
- Priority and Performance agreements between the staff of Natural Resources AW and the Board.

These key building blocks provide the means to effectively progress the Board's work and lay the foundations for future successes across the region.

I would also like to make mention of another key factor that contributes to our striving to deliver NRM outcomes in the AW region and across the state. The passion, commitment and collaboration of the staff of Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara and their drive to foster genuine and productive partnerships with Traditional Owners and staff of regional bodies is commendable. I know first hand how committed the staff of NR AW are, and feel privileged to work with them. I hope our regional stakeholders have had the same experience and share this approach.

In particular, I'd like to pay tribute to Neil Collins, who, after working for the AW NRM Board and DEWNR in the region for the past 5 and a half years and the public sector for almost 30 years, will be leaving us soon. We have all taken inspiration from Neil's passion, drive, and commitment to leaving the region, its environment and its people in a better place.

The protection of water in the region for Anangu, the development numerous partnerships to foster sustainable pastoralism in the APY Lands and the employment of the only two indigenous Landcare Facilitators in Australia are very significant achievements for the region in which Neil was a key driver within government.

Neil always approached his work, his peers and partners with humility, humour and respect. We thank Neil for his service, hope that his next endeavours are productive and satisfying, and hope to see him in the region in the future.

Palya,



Matt Ward

Regional Manager,
 Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara

Where we are and what we do

The Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Region covers the northwest quarter of South Australia. In Pitjantjatjara, *alinytjara* means 'north' and *wilurara* means 'west'. The Region spans more than a quarter of a million square kilometres and has a population of approximately 2000 people, many of whom identify with the Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara, Ngaanyatjarra, Kokatha, Mirning or Wirangu peoples.

Natural Resources Management (NRM) is an approach to protecting land for the mutual benefit of people and the environment.

The AW NRM Board is the only all Aboriginal NRM Board in Australia.



Title page: AW's Nathan Williams with Linton Brokus (volunteer from Yuendumu Community, North West of Alice Springs), are impressed by the size of a desert yam found during a Buffel Grass survey near Ooldea. (Photographed by Paul Gregory)



Collecting seeds of the rare Eucalyptus wylensis (Wyola mallee) and Eucalyptus



From the Presiding Member



Welcome to the second edition of *Caring for Country*, 2014.

I'm happy to say that, as part of the Board's commitment to adopting a paperless approach, our April Board meeting went smoothly without our usual, somewhat bulky agenda packs. Board members were effectively engaged and contributed strongly throughout the presentations delivered via PowerPoint.

Our Board recently completed the 4th and final component of our training program with the Leaders Institute of SA and, as part of that, started development of the "*Board's Story*"... *who we are, what we do, why we do it!* This will be key to our ongoing planning and management.

In recognising the value that we gained from this training, we are now considering how we might support potential leaders from across the region undertaking governance training.

Road works in the APY Lands were discussed at the Board meeting and the importance of having Board representation on the related Steering Committee was noted by the Dept of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure representative.

We are currently working to progress development of a number of future strategic initiatives including a Training and Employment Strategy and an NRM Procurement and Economic Development Strategy.

Parry Agius
Presiding Member

Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board

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Celebrating Reconciliation...

Alinytjara Wilurara and Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Centre celebrate Reconciliation

By Helen Donald, AW Communications Coordinator

Reconciliation Exhibition

In joining the celebration of Reconciliation across Australia, the Alinytjara Wilurara and Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Centre presented a photographic exhibition, open to the general public, that highlighted the involvement of Aboriginal people from across the region in Natural Resource Management.

The exhibition of over 100 photographs provided a fascinating insight into some of the region's rare and threatened species of native fauna and flora as well as spectacular landscape shots.

Photographs of the work being undertaken by Anangu across the region in partnership with Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara were accompanied by a brief description of

the projects, who was involved and what was achieved.

Displayed in the foyer of Ceduna's busy Foreshore Community Hotel, the exhibition ran for almost three weeks with a constant flow of guests and locals taking the opportunity to see what can be achieved in NRM where respectful partnering, incorporating land and culture working together, keep our county strong.



Some of the photographs displayed at the Reconciliation Exhibition



Reconciliation Barbecue

As many people come to Ceduna from outlying communities and as the last sizable town east of the Nullarbor the AW/EP Natural Resources Centre's Reconciliation free barbecue, held in main street, drew considerable attention.

This sidewalk gathering presented an opportunity for people to stop and have a chat while enjoy a sausage and a soft drink and for everyone to spend a moment thinking about reconciliation and what it means to all Australians.

AW's Yasmin Wolf (Project Officer, Coasts) and Bruce Macpherson (Community Engagement Manager) manned the BBQ while Helen Donald (Communications Coordinator) and Lynda Marshall (Buffel Grass Project Coordinator) served and talked with passers by

moving forward with shared understanding

Reconciliation: *Two Brothers Walking*

Following the barbecue guests were invited to watch the Award winning documentary *Two Brothers Walking* by Adelaide-based filmmaker David Salomon.

Anangu lawman Murray George, who features prominently in the story, introduced the film and spoke about the need for Aboriginal people to retain knowledge of their law and culture.

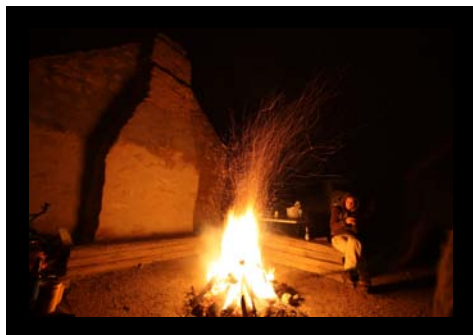
Along with Yalanji Bama John Hartley, he travelled from the Central Desert to Far North Queensland where he heard and shared the Wanampi (Rainbow Serpent and Kurriyala) Tjukurpa as told by the custodians of this ancient spiritual story.



Murray George talked to guests about his motivation for being part of the documentary and importance of Aboriginal people retaining knowledge of their law and culture



Sun bleached whale bones in the Yalata sand dunes



AW's Yasmin Wolf at Gilgerabbie on the Nullarbor
Photo by Andrew Brooks



NEW Aboriginal Interpreter Service in the APY Lands

The NT Aboriginal Interpreter Service now has an office in Ernabella and provides access to a pool of 23 local Interpreters.

Important situations some times come up where you may need to understand complex information that tells you what you need to do to do the right thing.

If you struggle to understand such things as court proceedings, concepts related to government policy or perhaps an explanation of a complex medical procedure then we can help.

To use this service, it's important to make bookings well in advance to ensure an appropriate interpreter can be confirmed and to allow

for travel and accommodation arrangements to be made if needed.

You will need to answer some questions when you make your booking to make sure that a culturally appropriate interpreter is available to avoid any conflicts of interest and ensure the interpreter is prepared for the topic of the interview.

To find out more call the NT AIS booking line (08) 8999 2062 or contact Marika Zellmer at: marika.zellmer@nt.gov.au

The tri-state trial of the Aboriginal Interpreter Service in the APY Lands and Ngaanyatjarra Lands is a Commonwealth funded project.

REMINDER

The annual closure of the conservation zones in the Great Australian Bight Marine Park at the beginning of May marks the start of the whale season. Great Australian Bight Marine Park Manager Dirk Holman says the park's restricted access zone and marine mammal protection zone are both off-limits to boats between May 1 until October 31. The park was established by the Commonwealth and SA Government to protect whales.



Update on Mimili and Kanpi-Nyapari Community NRM Projects

by Laura Mitchell

Kanpi

Earlier this year Laura Mitchell (AW Programs Support contractor) met with Anangu Pitjantjara Yankunytja (APY) Land Management to discuss work programs for the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) as well as the community NRM Projects in Kanpi-Nyapari.

Clint Taylor, (Watarru IPA Project Officer), Adam Pennington (AW Landscape Ecologist) and Sam Doudle (Ecologist with APY Land Management) are also working together to ensure that Kanpi/Nyapari work plans tie in with the APY Land Management regional work plans.

It was quickly noted that there was a lack of information in the Kanpi plan around camel and buffel grass management. In collusion with the local Traditional Owners this is now being addressed.

Mimili

Lorna Dodd, (AW NRM Project Manager for Mimili Community), had previously raised that she hoped to have the local women record Women's stories. A meeting with Laura and Lorna Dodd, Margaret Dodd, Kerri-Anne Dodd, Antjala Robin, Iwana Ken, Vanessa Dodd and Eva Goodwin was held to discuss undertaking an Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (IEK) project in the community. At the meeting they watched a DVD on IEK projects from other land management groups throughout Australia and discussed what they would like to do.

It was decided that Lorna, and other women from Mimili would produce a short film about bush foods and medicines around the community. It will be filmed by Vanessa Dodd and Eva Goodwin on Ipad's or similar. The ladies will talk about the bush foods and medicines in the region and how they used to prepare them.

Initially, they will produce the films with a small group of women and then would like to get the school involved. As they will be filmed on Ipad's additional help may be needed when editing. The women still need to decide where they would like the film stored and who will be allowed to access it.



Roderick Wikilyiri searching for Malleefowl (Nganamara) tracks

Kanpi/Nyapari Land Management

Based on APY Land Management's historical records, Laura and Adam revisited two sites where malleefowl surveys had previously been undertaken. Rangers Mark Jugadai and Roderick Wikilyiri helped look for Malleefowl tracks or old mounds in the area that were indicated in the old records.

Two previous sites south of Kanpi on the Tankanu road were visited but no tracks or mounds were found.

Site 1

The APY LM records, stated that a Bio survey had been undertaken at one old site where a nest had been located but had not been revisited since.



Bush Tucker: Quandong and witchetty grubs
Photos by Kevin Chan



Camel herd near old Malleefowl sites



Site 2

Again no tracks, or other signs were found. Perhaps this was not surprising, as the old database already noted that:

‘Lionel used to see Malleefowl when he was a child in this area but when he was grown up they were all gone’.

The sighting of 70+ camels (photographed above) approximately 5 km away from site 2, suggests that increased camel activity may be impacting on the lack of Malleefowl and nests sighted.

A letter from Shelly

...caring for her country

My name is Shelly Haseldine, I have been working on the land with Nana Sue and Dad since I was little. Nana has taught me to respect the land and never hurt it. When we clean the rockholes I feel happy because I am helping animals by giving them clean drinking water.

We put cameras out on the side of the rockholes and the camera captures beautiful pictures with dingoes, rabbits, eagles and birds, and more. It makes me happy to see the animals drinking the water we cleaned for them. But there are wild cats everywhere so they eat all the birds which is sad, especially when they aren't from here.

I grew up in Ceduna and out on my Nana and Papa's farm where we ride motorbikes and enjoy fresh air. Nana shows us how to survive and what

and what not to eat. I love to go camping and fishing with Nana and extra family. I feel safe and relaxed when I go camping because I am with people who I trust and love.



Shelly helping with revegetation at Googs Lake



South Australia's Country Fire Service needs to know...

In January and February of this year the CFS responded to a multitude of bushfires across the state which impacted on South Australian communities. These fire events provided a rare opportunity for the CFS to learn more about how to manage such incidents.

The CFS is conducting research into people's decision making leading up to and during these bushfires in the form of field research and online surveys. The CFS is interested to hear from anyone who was impacted by the fires, either while at home or while they were at work.

To capture this information there are two online surveys available - one for people living in a fire impacted area, and one for people who were impacted while at work.

To find out more or to complete a survey, please visit the CFS website via the following link: http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/prepare_for_bushfire/2014_bushfires_community_research.jsp



Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board supports...

Weed control training in APY

The Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board recently supported, TAFE SA Horticulture and Conservation Land Management to provide a number of units from the Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation Land Management training package Certificate III to staff of APY.

The courses, delivered at the Umuwa Trade Training Centre (APY) included chemical control and chain saw use associated with weed control activities. These skills are important for local community involvement in the Central Corridors project as well as for ongoing activities in APY Pastoral business.

TAFE SA Lecturers Bob Ford and Paul Smith, conducted the training between the 24th February to 1st March 2014.

Classroom learning at the APY Land's Umuwa Trade Training Centre in preparation for guided hands-on training out in the field



Safe Operation and Maintenance of Chain Saws

In this course students learnt about chain saw pre-operation checks, specific fuels and oil requirements, received field demonstrations of specific safe cuts and undertook practical tests on using the saw safely and effectively. They then undertook assessments to demonstrate their understanding of safe chain saw operation cutting timber, skill enhancement and chain saw operational maintenance.

Students learned that cutting down Athel pine was not enough to eradicate it from the waterway as the root systems will regrow if not also treated with an chemical application to prevent new growth from the roots.

Competency was achieved by:

- Rowan Ewing
- Kevin Michael
- Walter Tjami
- Brent Lores
- Mowatji Minutjukun



Safe Use and Application of Chemicals

The course began with an introduction to chemicals, how to interpret the labelling, understand the instructions and WHS aspects of using chemicals.

The course also included: Safe Chemical application; Chemical trespass and off target damage in regulating pressure to control spray drift; diagnosis of pest problems for control, identification of appropriate method/s for control; the equipment needed to apply chemicals and calibration of equipment.

Aside from practical assessments, students were also required to complete various theory assignments regarding label reading, transport and storage of chemicals and risk management.

Applying Chemicals under Supervision course competently achieved by:

- Ian Wells
- Sharina Tunkin
- Thomas Summerfield
- Adrian Intjalki

Apply Chemicals under Supervision, Prepare and Apply Chemicals and Transport Handle and Store Chemicals competency was achieved by:

- Rhonda Dick
- Kelvin Taylor
- Walter Tjami
- Hugh Cramond
- Thomas Tjilya
- Rowan Ewing
- Sherada Stanley
- Anna Miller
- Alfred Tunkin
- Brent Lores
- Ethan Dagg
- Clinton Taylor
- Samantha Doudle

CONGRATULATIONS





Damaged fence at Angatja Well



Anton Baker, Lance Peck, Jason Baker, Liam Abbott and Roderick Wikilyri



Clive Peters welding sections of the new fence

Local Community Men Work on APY Land Management Projects

On Monday 2 May 2014, AW Contractor Shane Doudle and Laura Mitchell (Kanpi Nyapri/APY Programs Support) visited Kanpi Nyapri to meet with Traditional Owners Ginger Wikilyri and Anton Baker and discuss plans to build a fence around Puntji rockhole to protect it from being damaged by feral animals.

The pair then drove from Kanpi to Puntji rock hole with men from the community, Anton and Jason Baker, Liam Abbott, Clive Peters and Roderick Wikilyri to finalise the fence design and test soil depth to ensure it would be adequate to support the fence posts.

Laura took Jason Baker and Liam Abbott through the procedure for using hand held Global Positioning System (GPS) devices to record the locations where Buffel grass was dug. The dead plants would later be burnt to ensure any seed did not spread.

The crew also checked out Kanpi rock hole and worked out a design for a fence that would be strong enough to keep camels out during dry times.

Back at Kanpi the next day, the installation of some benches in the community shed converted it for use as a training facility. Welding skills would be needed to build the fence using local people so members of community were taken through a quick course on safety and basic welding.

Dion Young, Liam Abbott, Roderick Wikilyri Fabian Baker, Jason Baker, Lance Peck, Walter Peters and Jerome Wheeler all attended. Everyone had done a little welding before except Liam who learnt quickly and did well.

On Thursday Anton, Jason, Liam, Roderick and Lance inspected nearby Arta Spring and lake and reported that the Spring needed to be cleaned and have a camel proof fence put around it.

They also reported that there were some manageable areas of buffel along the track in, and that work needed to be done around sandhills by Lake Arta before the buffel spread worsened. In some areas, like around Angatja

homeland, the weed is too well established to attempt to effectively destroy at this stage.

On the last day of the trip Shane and Laura met up with Hugh Pringle, Willy Edwards, Thomas Cullinan and George Rosewarne to get an update on progress on the Davey's Bore project and to discuss plans for the fences.

On arriving back at Umuwa, Shane and Laura began organising quotes and equipment for work on the rock hole fences organised. (Follow up trip: page 11)



Malleefowl-lovers

On behalf of the National Malleefowl Recovery Team, we would like to invite you to the 5th National Malleefowl Forum to be held at the Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo NSW on 12th – 15th September 2014.

Registrations close 1st August 2014.

If you have any questions please contact either Tim Burnard (National Malleefowl Recovery Program Coordinator) by phone: (03) 5581 2205 or email: Tim.Burnard@birdlife.org.au or Melanie Bannerman by phone: (02) 6841 7106 or via email.

More 'Roos' on the Road

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) began an aerial survey of kangaroo numbers last month and expect to find a significant increase across the state's key agricultural and pastoral areas from Renmark to the Flinders Ranges and from Coober Pedy to the Eyre Peninsula. DEWNR's Tom Gerschwitz, says the kangaroo population is expected to have increased due to climatic conditions and reasonable rains across the state. Please consider this when driving on the open road.



Traditional Owners share their ideas and concerns

Women's Land Management

March 31 to April 1 Women's Trip Irkarka

A 2-day Women's trip with Traditional Owners from Amata (with an anthropologist) was conducted over two days along the Irkarka songline to determine what work they would like carried out. Travelling along the song line, the women discussed the traditional land management work they would like undertaken.

Site 1: Irkarka Punu (trees)

The trees (below) are an important site along the song line, but unfortunately had been destroyed in a fire. The ladies want to have three new trees planted (Desert Oak) and a sign erected stating: *Waru Wiya - No Fire* as it is an important woman's Tjukurpa site.

The site is very close to the road and as such presents an ongoing high fire risk.



Site 2 and 3 - Irkarka sites

In accordance with cultural law, no photographs are allowed to be shown of the following two sites visited as they are for women only. The women requested that signs be placed at these sites stating *Wati Wiya (No Men)* and mentions the importance of these sites to Anangu women.

These sites are not rockholes, so damage from camels and other threats are minimal. However the women did discuss the need for fencing off one site.

As in the past the ladies stressed the importance of getting the younger women out on country to hear the stories from their land. It was decided that the trip would be followed up by another in which younger women would come out to paint the signs. It was also pointed out that it is always difficult to get the younger women out due to their commitments with

From left: Naomi, Nareena Burton, Nyurapiya, Barbara Tunkin and Sandra Lewis



Painting signs to be placed at special women's sites

children, school or work. A weekend trip was proposed so the women could take their children along.

April 28

Follow up work with Amata Traditional Owners - sign painting

On the previous trip, the Traditional Owners requested that signs be painted and placed at specific women's sites around Kanpi. This was undertaken for one day just outside of Amata on April 28. Two of the TO's grand daughters helped paint the signs and listened to the Irkarka Tjukurpa.

The women took this opportunity to also transfer Indigenous Ecological Knowledge. A follow up trip to place the signs at Kanpi with the younger woman would be made in the coming weeks.



Punti Rockhole Fencing

(continued from page 07)

Work on a new fence to protect Punti rockhole (in the APY Lands) has now been completed. In April 2014, fencing contractor, Shane Doudle met with the Traditional Owners and together travelled to the site to plan the logistics of how the work would be done.

Fencing and welding training was undertaken by local Anangu workers, which, on completion of the fence, would be accepted by TAFE as Recognised Prior Learning and as such support further training qualifications.

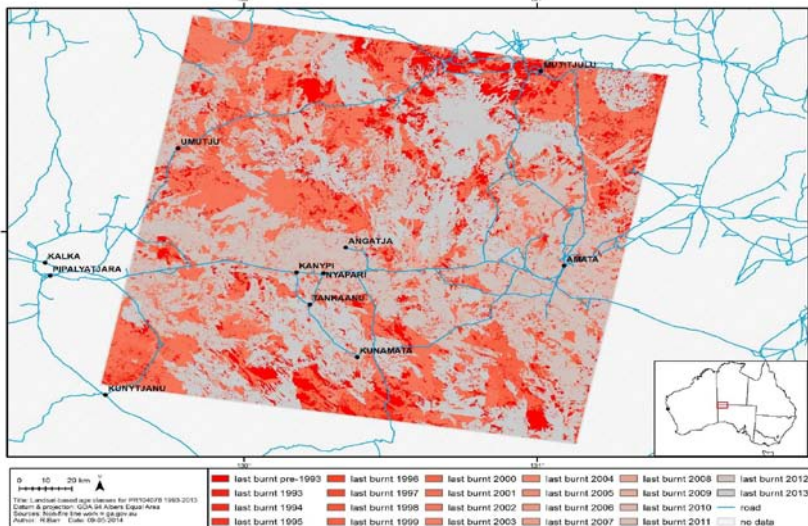
Checking the health of Punti rockhole



Traditional Owner Ginger Wikilyiri and Shane Doudle discussing fencing options



Figure 1. Fire age classes based on fire events between 1993 and 2013



Kanpi-Nyapari Assessment of Fire Planning Report

AW NRM recently commissioned the following report to assist with fire planning in the Kanpi-Nyapari area in APY:

Murphy, S., and Barr, R.K. (2014). Fire patterns in the Kanpi-Nyapari area, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, South Australia, from 1993-2013

Based on this, Alinytjara Wilurara's Fire Management and Planning Officer, Graeme Armstrong noted the following:

The report shows a higher frequency of fires around communities and along roads (as shown in Figure 1 below). This could be for several reasons including greater number of ignitions by people and the presence of the invasive weed buffel grass which is found in these areas. Buffel grass is not killed by fire and in some circumstances is able to spread after

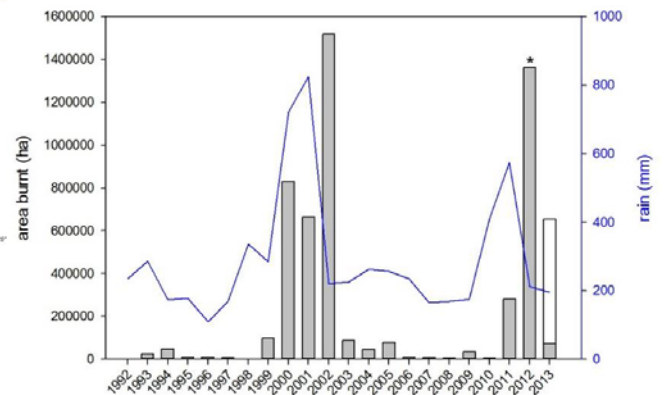
fire due to reduced competition from native plants which are either killed by fire or are slower to regrow than buffel grass.

AW is working with APY Land Management this season to undertake prescribed burns to prevent uncontrolled wild fires, including in buffel grass areas to prevent further spread of this weed. This will be done by putting in fire breaks around the edge of buffel infestations at the bottom of hills to prevent wildfire running out of the paddocks and up the hills further enhancing it's spread.

The cosmopolitan fire planning team is currently reviewing this report in reference to the regional fire history and cultural and ecological values. The final operational plan will be implemented in spring after detailed consultation with the land owners.

Larger fires occur following above-average rainfall years, (as shown in Figure 2). Rainfall last year was below average so the threat from wildfires is relatively low this season providing an opportunity to undertake controlled burns.

Figure 2. Fire activity and rainfall: the amount of country burnt each year in relation to rainfall. The rainfall data is a composite dataset, drawing on records from Uluru Ranger Base for 1993 and 1994 and Yulara for 1995 to 2013



The threat of fire in the region is strongly associated to the amount of rainfall

Inaugural meeting of

DEWNR NRM Aboriginal Partnerships Working Group

DEWNR's Aboriginal Partnerships Working Group held its first meeting in March this year. The group's was established to consider and formulate best ways to approach Aboriginal communities regarding working on natural resource management across the eight NRM Regions.

The Group's main focus is on:

- providing peer support and opportunities to share knowledge
- providing input into regional planning and program development relating to Aboriginal partnerships, engagement, training and employment
- fostering a uniform approach to Aboriginal partnerships and engagement
- identifying opportunities to collaborate, share and seek additional resources
- contributing to wider policy development through the Reconciliation Action Plan and Aboriginal Workforce Strategy.

At the group's first meeting, a range of issues were discussed including the Invest Action Plan, DEWNR's Aboriginal Partnerships Register and Aboriginal Workforce Strategy, as well as the 2013 Traditional Ecological Knowledge seminar.

Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara's Community Engagement Manager, and inaugural Chair of the working group, Bruce Macpherson said, 'We recognise the value in people working at the grass roots level having a regular forum to discuss their various approaches to working with communities, and facilitate cross fertilisation of ideas.'

It's at the project level that NRM translates into reconciliation through offering work and economic benefits of working on country for Aboriginal people.'

In conjunction with the Department's Reconciliation Sub-committee to Executive, the working group proposes to identify priority Aboriginal partnership and engagement issues across DEWNR and work to provide

guidance and input on these matters.

For further information about the working group please contact Bruce Macpherson, ph 8463 4827.

Joint planning session at the KNYA Water Workshop. Phil McNamara, Kerri Muller, Jason Higham, Angus Giles, Sam Williams, Denise Varcoe, Heidi Turner, Andrew Solomon, Michelle Benison, and Peta Brettig



NAIDOC WEEK 2014

Film Screenings at State Library in NAIDOC Week

Monday 7 July to Thursday 10 July.

Times: Various (screening program details via www.slsa.sa.gov.au)

State Library of South Australia, Hetzel Lecture Theatre, North Terrace, ADELAIDE SA 5000

To celebrate 2014 NAIDOC Week the State Library of South Australia and the South Australian Film Corporation are partnering to present a program of contemporary Indigenous Stories on Screen.

The highlight of the program is the feature documentary *Buckskin* - winner of the Foxtel Australia Documentary Prize at the 2013 Sydney Film Festival. *Buckskin* will screen alongside home-grown short and feature length dramas and documentaries, digital media projects and a special school holiday screening of children's award-winning animation *Wadu Matyidi*.

All titles in the program were made in SA. They feature Indigenous South Australians, their stories and their communities. Come along and bring the family to enjoy this FREE winter screening program in celebration of 2014 NAIDOC Week.

For more information phone 8207 7626 or visit www.slsa.sa.gov.au or call



Collecting rare seeds around Oak Valley

In March 2014, a group from the Botanic Gardens in Adelaide headed out to the Mamungari Conservation Park, west of Oak Valley to collect seeds for the South Australian Seed Bank project.

The seed specimens collected were dried, identified, labelled and matched up with photos that were taken on location.

Herbarium collections are dried, identified and labelled to correctly identify photos that were taken during field work and to verify seed collections.

The team, Dr Jenny Guerin, Dan Duval and two volunteers Thai Te and Denzel Murfet, collected specimens and seeds from a number of rare species, some only known from a single historic record and others not previously recorded in the region. It is hoped that the specimens and seeds collected on this trip might provide the Botanic Gardens with new information about species existing in SA and possibly present the challenge of identifying a few that have not previously been recorded in the region or SA.

The 300+ specimens were collected during the field trip provide a small snap shot of the diversity of species in the region (Great Victorian Desert). There were many other interesting and unusual species observed during field work that were yet to flower or fruit and were unresolved. Hopefully these can be clarified in potential follow-up field work in September.

To obtain a broader record of the region's flora, collections would need to occur during different seasonal influences throughout the year. With several hundred specimens collected and hundreds of images taken, the research team none the less was able to provide considerable base data for future comparison.

Two ladies, Moonyi and Amgkuna

from Oak Valley community spent two days with the team and showed great interest in learning about what was being done and sharing their knowledge of the region.

"It was great that the ladies came out, they told us the Anangu names for a number of plants and about which species were edible such as Witjalum (*Rhyncharrhena linearis*)" said Dan Duval.

The AW NRM Board will continue to work with the Botanic Gardens in the future to support Traditional Ecological Knowledge projects fostering knowledge maintenance and exchange across the region.

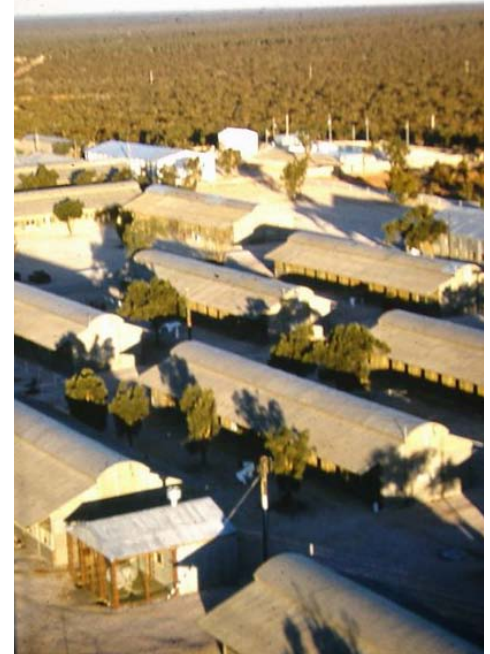
Moonyi (behind) and Amgkuna collecting seeds of the rare *Eucalyptus wyolensis* (Wyola mallee) and *Eucalyptus canescens* ssp *beadellii* which are restricted to a very small region near Oak valley (endemic to SA).



Late afternoon camped near Mamungari Conservation Park, writing up notes for herbarium specimens. Dr Jenny Guerin, Dan Duval and two tired volunteers (on swags), Thai Te and Denzel Murfet.



New opportunities open up for Maralinga



Traditional Owners are to be granted unrestricted access to Maralinga almost 45 years after the area was officially closed following 12 years of the site being used for nuclear testing by the British government.

Prior to this decision, to enter or stay in the area of land known as Section 400 (1782sq km), required permission from the Defence Department.

Richard Preece, Maralinga Tjarutja's General Manager, said that the community is keen to expand tourist enterprises in the region so that people can see what happened there, to the land and to its people.

The federal Government spent over \$100 million to rehabilitate Section 400 between 1913 and 2001.

It is believed that up to \$35 billion worth of iron ore, gold and uranium lie beneath the surface and the Federal Government is considering a Bill that will open the area for exploration and mining opportunities.



SA Landcare Facilitators

BIG MEET in Ceduna



South Australia's Regional Landcare Facilitators at Inla Rockhole with Keith and Sue Haseldine last week

In May 2014, South Australia's Regional Landcare Facilitators gathered in Ceduna providing the opportunity to learn about land management practices undertaken across the state and to share a wide range of experiences.

Hosted by Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara (NR AW) and Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula, the group of 12 met over two days to discuss a range of issues relating to community engagement, agricultural production and biodiversity conservation. It was also an opportunity to show people from outside the region some of the work being done locally.

On the second day the group took a tour of the Emu farm – a joint venture between the Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation and Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources. This was followed by a talk from local farmer Brian Smith who described agricultural and environmental issues faced by farmers in the region.

Local Landcare legend Sue Haseldine then led the group on a trip out to Inla Rockhole and Paint Lake.

'Gatherings like this are invaluable because they give us the chance to share wins and challenges and there are always things you can take back to your own region to try and tell others about' said AW's Regional Landcare Facilitator from the APY Lands, Walter Tjami.

The federally funded Regional Landcare Facilitator program has been going for a number of years now, and there

are about a dozen or more Landcare Facilitators in each state and territory across Australia with experience and knowledge in many areas of Landcare across a vast area of environments.

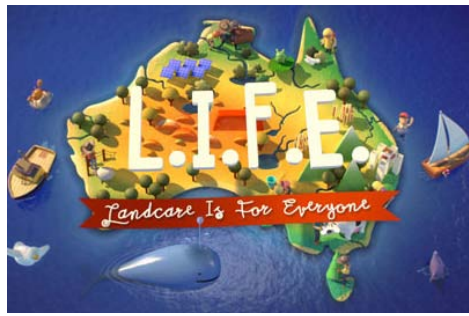
If you would like more information about Landcare please visit or contact the Ceduna AW/EP Natural Resources Centre (telephone 8625 3144) and speak to NR AW's Landcare Facilitator Nathan Williams or visit the Landcare website: <http://www.daff.gov.au/natural-resources/landcare/facilitators>



Congratulations to Landcare on 25 Years of Achievement

The National Natural Resource Management (NRM) Regions' Working Group congratulated Landcare on their 25th Anniversary and welcomes the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) call for a new decade of action to tackle the challenges confronting Australia's land, water, wildlife.

Parry Agius (Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resource Management Board's Presiding Member) joined the Chairs of Australia's 56 regional NRM bodies in Launceston on 21 March 2014 to review and reconfirm their commitment to the Landcare Statement of Common Purpose. They



also discussed continuing to work closely with the National Landcare Network and Landcare Australia Limited to identify new opportunities to support Landcare.

Pamela Green, Chair of the National NRM Regions' Working Group, said, "Regional NRM bodies have been proud to work with and support Landcare groups across the nation for more than 10 years. We look forward to continuing to build the partnership and to supporting the reinvigoration of Landcare networks. Working together helps produce the improvements in our natural resources needed to sustain our communities and our country into the future."



Pamela Green, National NRM Regions' Working Group

Looking after our land, waters and living things is a large and long term task and needs all hands, heads and hearts working together to make a real difference.

Regional NRM bodies provide governance, accountability and technical underpinning of investment and deliver programs and projects under the regional plans. The regional NRM body network and regional plans encompass all of Australia and shares knowledge, examples and expertise.

"We are currently working with Landcare and others in contributing to the Australian Government's design of the new National Landcare Program," Mrs Green said.

All the best to Neil... we'll miss you!



Discussing camel management strategies with community Traditional Owners



Intrepid Neil



Recognition of Success



Community learning

Neil Collins

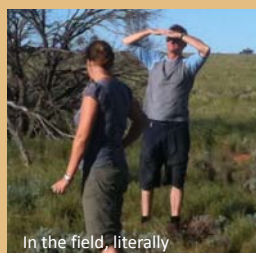
The team at Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara are sad to be bidding our long time comrade Neil farewell. The many friends he has amongst his colleagues, present and past, Board members and Traditional Owners from across the region, will all miss his wonderful sense of humour and outstanding dedication to his work. Matt Ward's words sum this up well in *The Regional Managers Report* (inside front cover) but, from the rest of the team, here is a pictorial tribute to the man in action...



Warru monitoring



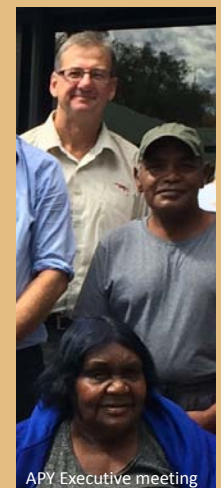
Whoa!



In the field, literally



Tricking Leah... (we know its not coffee Neil)



APY Executive meeting



Buffel Grass Management and Regional Mapping

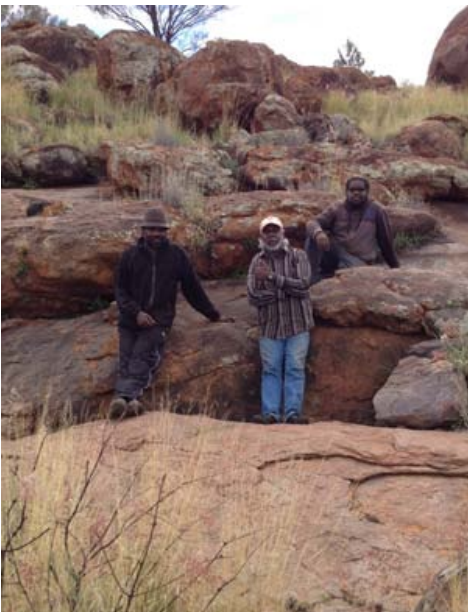
around Kanpi Nyapari

The region surrounding Kanpi and Nyapari communities is vast and remote making the task of locating and destroying Buffel grass an epic undertaking.

In June 2014, Traditional Owners, Jason Baker, Liam Abbott, and Wapi Jugadai inspected Umpuklunya rock hole and, although there were no signs of Buffel grass infestation there, they did note that it would need cleaning when the water in it dries up.

The group, including Shane Doule (AW Contractor) then set off along Lake Arta track, south of Angatja

Jason Wapi and Liam at Umpukunya rock hole.



homeland, to undertake buffel spraying and mapping.

The following day, after safety discussions around the use of the chemicals sprays and equipment the team began spraying and mapping the area between the Lake and worked back toward the track. It was noted that there wasn't any sign of buffel growing amongst the black oak groves.

Adam Pennington (AW's Landscape Ecologist) and Adam Wood AW's Coordinator, Program and Reporting) joined the team for the days to discuss better ways to map the buffel and different approaches to control. Further plans will be developed with the area's Traditional Owners to control burn and follow up with spraying as the buffel spread was more advanced than initially thought.

Jason Baker, Liam Abbott, Lace Peck, Jerome Wheeler, Ikura Baker and Shane finished the day off mapping the track from the NE of Lake Arta to Angatja Homeland.

The next day, Shane headed out from Kanpi with men from the community to map and spray the track to Tankanu homeland to Nyapari. After revisiting chemical safety and the mechanics of chemical and equipment usage the



One of the young buffel without seed set



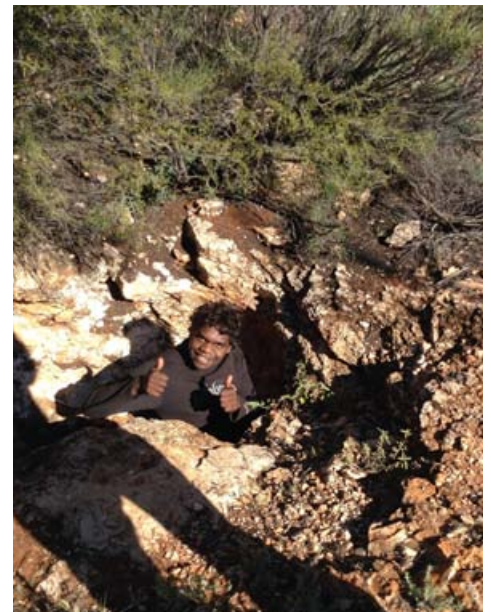
Buffel with seed which will need follow up

Jason Baker spraying Buffel

group discussed mapping and targeting areas that were manageable and arresting the slow spread of buffel.

Jerome and Liam did the bulk of the spot spraying, destroying numerous individual and small isolated sites along the track. They discovered quite a number of isolated plants along the track where there is no other buffel for some distance and marked their location with a GPS to allow for revisits before re-germination conditions occur. They also discovered isolated plants under desert oak about 100 - 200m off the track.

Jason Wheeler at Marleelu cave





Jerome Wheeler at Kunal Spring



Proposed fence line looking south

Shane plans to attend a community meeting to seek approval to spray tracks around the community's, and other tracks, to stop the spread of buffel seed by vehicles.

On the last day of this work, Anton Baker took Walter Baker, Jerome Wheeler and Liam Abbott to Marleelu cave to the west of Kanpi. Although there was no buffel in the stretch between the road and the cave there were small infestations around the cave. These were noted for spraying next trip.

From there the group went to Kunal Spring mapping buffel along the way (10 km gaps between buffel locations). Three mobs of camels (13 in one mob) seen on the flats and signs of them watering at Kunal springs were noted.



Preparing for drilling at Davey's Bore

NR AW works closely with community across the region on a range of federally funded Land Management Programs. Many of these involve the development and/or installation of infrastructure providing local work and skills training and, in the long term, greater capacity for communities to manage local natural resource issues and opportunities.

NRM work in the APY Lands around Davey's Bore is well underway and includes installation of new fencing to manage feral animals and a new bore to provide water for corralled animals.

On May 2014, with the new bore due to be drilled the following week, a team of workers from Indulkana (Malcolm Coulthard, Nigel Brumby, Patuway Mungkuri, Andrew Baker, Tommy W, Adrian Doolan, Tommy De Rose, Arnold Brumby Patrick Stuart, Rex Walladin and Albert Brown) set to work on removing the old fence on the site and preparing the area for access.

Fortunately 90% of the original fence is still standing and only needed a

couple days work to tidy it up with some star droppers. A grader would later go through on each side to keep it clear of vegetation and to allow maintenance access. Some Buffel grass patches were noted for spraying on a future trip.

After untangling sections of the old fence from vegetation, and rolling it up for disposal the team also cut up the old windmill into manageable pieces to transport for scrap.

The proposed eastern fence, will run close to the railway line (Adelaide to Alice Springs). As an optic fibre line runs nearby checks will be made regarding minimum safe distance requirements before work on the new section of fence begins. During the 3 days in the field everyone worked with good spirits and energy and as a team produced a great result.





Buffel Grass Taskforce on the move

By Lynda Marshall, AW Buffel Grass Project Coordinator

Buffel Grass Taskforce team inspecting the pre-buffel grass landscape in the APY

In April 2014, members of the Buffel Grass Taskforce journeyed to the APY Lands to see first hand the impact of buffel grass in an uncontrolled environment. The Taskforce's main focus was, and remains, to determine how best to control the spread of buffel into relatively unaffected areas, particularly in the southern regions. Strategic plans to manage control of buffel are continuously being enhanced and implemented.

The team visited a number of sites of concern around several APY communities as well as some pristine sites (shown in photo above) to compare the differences and get a sense of the pre-buffel landscape. People from the communities enthusiastically shared their invaluable knowledge, stories and concerns about *Mamu Tjanpi* (translated as *Devil Grass*) with the team.

In Amata, this seemingly unstoppable infestation is referred to as the "Buffel Army" - an army that is taking over the country killing everything in its wake. Despite buffel already having a significant impact on a large portion of the landscape, there are areas where it hasn't spread in the APY Lands and the team is keen to find ways to keep these pristine.

Video footage was recorded during the trip that will be used as a reference for educational and base data purposes.

New "Kids" on the Block...

Erin Gibson

Community Programs Coordinator



My love of nature started while growing up on a small farm in Central West NSW. I spent a year in England before completing my degree in Environmental Science at Macquarie University and have since worked in a various environmental roles and travelled widely. After working as a 'dirt woman' for Envirowest Consulting, and various roles with Conservation Volunteers Australia, I joined WWF Laos for a year as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD). Working in environmental education projects was highly rewarding and involved visiting remote villages in the country's south. I then worked for Waverley Council in Bondi, travelled around Australia in 2012 (where I fell in love with the SA's west coast), and after spending a year with Newcastle Council and now I find myself in Ceduna!

I'm really happy to be filling in for Olly as the Community NRM Coordinator while she is on maternity leave. I'm looking forward to building relationships with local community groups and progressing projects with positive employment, training and land management outcomes.

Keisha Weetra

Training and Business Support Officer



I joined Alinytjara Wilurara (Adelaide office) at the beginning of May and really enjoy working as part of the team. Last year I studied at Fremont-Elizabeth City High School and graduated from Year 12. A week after I started a Certificate 2 in Business and Information Technology at ART (Aboriginal Recruitment Training) Employment.

I am an Adnyamathanha (Flinders Rangers) and Nurrunga (Point Pearce) woman but grew up in Adelaide. I'm particularly glad to be working in Natural Resources with Aboriginal people as it brings me closer to both the land and my culture.

Australian Rangeland Society 18th Biennial Conference, Alice Springs, Northern Territory

www.arsconference.com.au

12 - 16 April 2015

Register Now!

Call for Abstracts close: 24 October 2014

Conference Program

Sponsorship opportunities

Innovation

in the Rangelands

Learning from Science

Natural Resource Management Science Conference

Staff from Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara attended various informative presentations at the Natural Resources Science Conference held in April this year. The event showcased the various aspects of natural resource management science that underpins environmental decision making, policy and management in South Australia.

Organised by the SA NRM Research and Innovation Network (a partnership between DEWNR, the SA Natural Resource Management Boards, the University of South Australia, Flinders University, PIRSA, SA Water and the NRM Council) the conference was aimed at fostering and strengthening relationships between researchers and NRM decision makers.

Speakers presentations covered the science behind numerous topics relevant to the AW Natural Resources Management Region including: climate change projections for NRM, habitat mapping underpinning marine park monitoring; cultural and science partnerships in protecting rock holes and the geology, hydrology and archeology of Koonalda Cave in the Eastern Nullarbor Plains.

All who attended benefited from gaining a wider and in many cases quite specific understanding of how science is used to determine and prioritise funding and work programs around natural resource management.

NRM SCIENCE conference



Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt. Lofty Ranges

Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula

Natural Resources SA Acid Lands

Natural Resources South East

Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin

Natural Resources Kangaroo Island

Natural Resources Northern and Yorke

Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara

Government of South Australia
Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Tips for Distance Drivers: Winter Driving

Winter presents drivers with a set of hazards that require a change in driving styles and travel planning to ensure you stay safe.

Tyres

As the only part of your car in contact with the road, at 110km/hr, if your tyres are worn or incorrectly inflated you can easily lose contact with the road when you encounter water, gravel, ice or mud. A deep tyre tread pushes all these aside while worn tyres your control is dangerously limited. The faster you drive the more important tyres become.

Road conditions

In SA's northern regions you might encounter frost, fog, dust, rain and mud, often in extreme amounts. Allow enough time to travel 20km/hr or slower in poor conditions. Stop to allow heavy rain showers to pass.

- Check the weather forecast so you know what you are in for.
- If heading bush, wait 24hrs for the road to dry out.
- Keep a lookout for hazards such as tree branches blown onto the road.
- Remember the road sides will be soft and slippery after rain, extra caution is required to not go onto these at speed.

Remember: The way you drive determines how you arrive...

Drive to suit road conditions.

Windscreen and wipers

If you can't see properly you are a hazard to yourself and everyone else on the road. Make sure your wipers work properly. If they "smear" the water instead of removing it, wash the windscreen with a strong detergent to remove road grime and insect grease. Replace the wiper blades and keep your washer bottle topped up

with plenty of water and detergent. Clean the inside of the car window to remove grease condensates. Defog windows using both the heater and air conditioner as the a/c draws the moisture out of the air coming into the vehicle. Set these up before you leave so you are not trying to set them while driving at 110km/hr.

Off the bitumen

Drive slowly and smoothly on wet dirt roads and avoiding quick turns or heavy braking. This will help keep your tyres in contact with the road surface. Carry recovery equipment (eg a winch) suitable for the area you are working in. When in doubt, stop and wait for the roads to dry out. Also remember that because it's dry on top, it does not always mean its dry underneath.

Courtesy of David Oag and Peter Newman, Bush and Bitumen, DEWNR SAAL Region

Parry Agius
Presiding Member



AW NRM Board

Serving the

PEOPLE, COUNTRY, WATER of the Alinytjara Wilurara

Rose Lester
Board Member, APY Lands



Mima Smart
Board Member, Yalata



Gary Lewis
Board Member, APY Lands



Sydney Chamberlain
Board Member, Far West



Mick Haynes
Board Member, West Coast



Brian Queama
Board Member, Maralinga Tjarutja



Janet Queama
Board Member, Oak Valley



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