

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 last edition of the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board and Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara's publication for 2014.

It is naturally a good time to reflect on some of the highlights of this very busy and highly productive year. With Board members and staff working closely in partnership we have succeeded in furthering the NRM aspirations and outcomes of the region's communities.

For me, some of the most significant achievements have included:

- Adoption and implementation of the Board's Water Plan, providing sustainable, long term protection of Anangu interests in water for the future.
- The Board completing an 18 month development program focussed on governance, strategy, personal and team leadership.
- Adoption of the Board's Education, Training, Employment and Procurement Strategy, and an increase in Aboriginal employment by nearly 20% from 2013-2014.
- The restoration of Goog's Lake in Yellabinna Regional Reserve in a partnership with Traditional Owners, Natural Resources AW and EP, Friends of Great Victoria Desert and local farmers.
- The amazing art pieces created from tonnes of marine debris collected by community along the Yalata and Far West Coast beaches.
- Stockyards built by young Anangu men across eight APY communities to increase their capacity to manage large feral herbivores.
- Completion and adoption of the work to make the Board's Regional NRM Plan "climate ready". The Board now has a lead document and that will help shape

the future in regards to climate change.

- Ongoing recovery work of the Warru Recovery Team in the APY Lands.
- Numerous productive joint meetings (including on-country meetings) between the Board and the Mamungari Co-management Board to discuss how we can work together for an aligned future in the region.
- Development of the first Healthy Country Plan for the APY communities of Kanpi and Nyaparri and many on-ground outcomes.

Thanks to our major partners including the APY, Maralinga Tjarutja, Yalata, Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation, the Australian Government and the South Australian Government, in particular the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources for all their hard work and cooperation.

I look forward to working with the Board and all of our partners during 2015 – I have a feeling it is going to be extremely productive and very exciting, building on many of the strong foundations of 2014.

Palya,



Matt Ward
Regional Manager,
Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara

INVITATION

The Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board invite you to join us on **Facebook**
www.facebook.com/awnrm

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:

24 Feb 2015, Adelaide

Ceduna Arts and Cultural Centre

Features genuine Aboriginal art
2 Eyre Highway, Ceduna

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.





Oak Valley Community members and school teachers talk about making a book about camels with NR AW's Erin Gibson

From the Presiding Member



Welcome to the last edition of Caring for Country for 2014.

This has been an inspiring year, full of challenges

and rewards. The shared success of working in partnership and its mutual benefits will be a foundation stone on which we intend to build over the coming year.

After many months in development, the AW's Water Plan is now the key to ensuring water is managed in a way that benefits the region's Anangu, particularly with finalisation of the Permits and Permitting System.

The Board is strongly aware that climate change will give rise to weather events that will impact on how the people, animals and plants live in the AW Region. Experts from Adelaide University, at our direction, have consulted widely across our communities, learning from them and informing them of what we know. To this end we are now in the process of developing mechanisms to help maintain the ecological balance in partnership with the region's Anangu.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners and supporters. This includes all the volunteers who gave their time and efforts to make truly remarkable things happen that simply wouldn't have been achieved otherwise.

The AW NRM Board looks forward to building even stronger relationships with you all and wish you the very best for 2015.

Parry Agius
Presiding Member

Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board

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Camels roaming the Alinytjara Wilurara Region





Board meeting held on Park



Mima Smart, AW NRM Board member, has a word with the Natural Resources AW's Regional Manager Matt Ward



The AW NRM Board's Presiding Member Parry Agius was a guest at the meeting (minding his beard around the fire)



Deputy Board Member Cindy Watson also attended

Co-management Boards across the region support the over arching objectives of the AW NRM Board. In early September, the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park (MLUCP) Co-management Board (or the Mamungari Board as it is often referred to) invited AW NRM Board members Parry Agius (PM), Mima Smart, and Brian Queama, along with guest speakers Geoff Axford and Phillipa Mawby from Adelaide University, to join them for their Board meeting at Mamungari Conservation Park.

Discussions and decisions covered various items including:

- endorsement of the Board's Code of Conduct

- development of a strategy for annual compliance program
- a request by Adelaide University to collect data on mineral content in the earth's crust. This was denied until more information is provided
- Land Management contracts
- Project updates – rockhole cleaning, women's cultural trip, buffel grass

John Mungee, MLUCP Co-management Board's Presiding Member thanked Anne Baird (Maralinga Tjaratja Board Executive Officer), Sue Agars (AW NRM Board Executive Officer) and all those who attended for their support.

The AW NRM Board also extends its thanks to the MLUCP Board for inviting their members and guests on country.



Special thanks to Ceduna NRC Staff for assisting with camp set up and tear down especially Erin Gibson and Robbie Sleep and to the ladies from Tjuntjuntjara Women's Group for catering.

Natural Resources AW's Erin Gibson, Matt Ward and Nathan Williams (in front) joined other attendees on country

Employment and Training Strategy adopted by the AW NRM Board

The AW NRM Board recently adopted a comprehensive Training and Employment Strategy. The Strategy's stated aim is to transform Natural Resources AW into an Indigenous run and staffed NRM Region over time. Already the AW NRM Region is the only NRM Region with two Indigenous Landcare Facilitators (Nathan Williams and Walter Tjami) and the only all Aboriginal NRM Board.

The Strategy will guide future development of Aboriginal people in the Region based on 4 pillars: Education, Training, Employment and Procurement.

Education is the key to the future advancement of Aboriginal people in natural sciences. In coming years the Board will actively encourage greater engagement with young Aboriginal people in the school system, with the development of a number of partnerships to encourage more Aboriginal people to continue on to Tertiary education. Our first School Based Trainee has been recruited.

Training has been a focus of AW NRM work for several years. Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management has been established as the entry level for Aboriginal people to work with NR AW and, with support, 2015 will see a marked increase in the number of Aboriginal people in the Region attaining this level.

Employment of Aboriginal people in caring for Aboriginal country is the ultimate aim of the strategy. The AW NRM Board has established a minimum 5% growth in employment from Landcare funds in the AW NRM Region.

Procurement of services from Aboriginal owned and operated businesses, and the establishment of new Aboriginal owned and operated businesses, will provide new opportunities and incentives

for Aboriginal people to be employed in natural resource management. This component of the Strategy is also in line with SA State Government strategies on Aboriginal Advancement.

This magazine will provide twice yearly updates on the progress of NR AW in reaching its targets and advancing the Strategy.



Chemical Handling training in Oak Valley

Baseline survey: *establishing work based skills*

Aboriginal people often say that they are the most overtrained and under employed people in Australia. We now have the evidence to support it.

A recent survey of 35 Aboriginal people from the southern part of the AW NRM Region, revealed that a large number of respondents have completed up to 20 modules from various courses, yet have not completed full Certificates.

In 2015 NR AW will embark on an exciting initiative to support Aboriginal people across the region to complete Certificates III in Conservation and Land Management, through work based skills assessment. The first phase of the project was the collection of baseline data to establish what types of skills, qualifications and training some people from the Southern AW region already have, and to identify individual aspirations in relation to future employment in natural resource management.

“Many people have completed short, relevant training courses and worked on land management projects which have given them a wide range of skills and experience, but this is often not formally acknowledged. We are trying to help people get recognition for what they already know, find out what people are interested in and help them fill in the gaps to complete a recognised qualification. The AW NRM Board has

recently resolved that Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management is the minimum qualification for people wanting to work for Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara, so we are initially supporting about 10 individuals who we know are keen to build on training they have already completed” said AW’s Manager Community Engagement, Bruce Macpherson.

The initial Baseline Survey was carried out by a local contractor Phil Landless who is well known to the people of Yalata, Oak Valley and Ceduna through his work for TAFE. He has developed strong relationships with people across the region, designed numerous training courses and helped people gather evidence for recognition of prior learning.

This exciting new project will be led by AW’s community project officer Paul Gregory who has been across many of the projects in the Southern AW region. Paul has an in-depth knowledge of AW’s projects and is well placed to lead the new initiative as he understands the skills and knowledge required to successfully undertake natural resource management works. The success in engaging and supporting community members with training aspirations will depend upon the ability to adapt projects and situations to suit TAFE certification modules.



Making a book about pesky camels

School community and NR AW working together

Story and photographs by Erin Gibson

In mid-November students from Oak Valley school wrote and illustrated their own book on camels. Supported by senior community members and NR AW, the activity was a great way of raising awareness about the impact this introduced species can have on land, biodiversity and culturally significant sites within the Maralinga Tjarutja region.

After accepting an invitation to be part of the “Feral Animals” Enviro-Stories Program, an initiative supported by the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Oak Valley school were keen to work with local community members and NR AW to develop the content for a book about camels.

Fourteen community members met at the land management building in Oak Valley for initial discussions on the impacts of camels on MT lands.

Some of the issues and impacts that

were discussed included:

- Damage to culturally significant sites and bush foods
- High consumption and spoiling of water resources
- Consumption of trees, shrubs and ground cover
- Safety risks to local families and travellers
- Damage to native habitat
- Damage to local infrastructure.

The following day, community members Janet and Clayton Queama, and Ben George together with AW’s Erin Gibson went to the school to discuss these impacts with the students. A photo presentation was described to the children by Janet and Ben in both Pitjantjatjara and English.

Students were then each given an impact or issue to draw and they set to work.

School Principal Ineke Gilbert was very pleased with how the day went. ‘The kids really got into this activity, they listened well and learnt a lot about what camels can do to native plants and animals, and also how they can damage man-made resources in communities like Oak Valley’.

The camel book will be printed in early 2015 and will also be developed into an i-book, to be available online.

‘Hopefully the kids will be really proud of their work and the fact that this is a real book, about their place. We also hope that this teaches other kids around the region, and around Australia, about the significant damage that feral camels can cause to cultural sites and the environment’.

The i-book will be available early in the new year on www.envirostories.com.au.

Oak Valley Community members and teachers talk with NR AW’s Erin Gibson about making a book about camels



Many Community members took an interest in the camel book project and were happy to give advice including AW NRM Board member Janet Queama (seated 3rd from left)



Oak Valley School children were keen to work together on the camel book and created some fantastic artwork





Cultural care of rockholes

By the Far West Mallee Protection Group

West Mallee Protection Group (WMPG) is a group of local conservationists and descendants of the Kokatha people who are the traditional caretakers of Yellabinna Regional Reserve, Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area and Yumbarra Conservation Park.

Individual members of the WMPG have been preserving these rockholes for many years now. Kokatha woman Sue Haseldine, who heads up the Far West Mallee Protection Group says “its very important that these culturally significant places are well looked after so that future generations can enjoy it with their children just as I did”.

Rock-holes and soaks, commonly associated with granite out-crops in the Yellabinna and Yumbarra region have significant cultural and ecological value and support biodiversity in the region. The area is also a significant source of traditional bush food, medicinal plants and other culturally significant sites.

Sue raised concerns with Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara (NR AW) about at the recent increase in the number and diversity of pest plants and animals impacting on the rockholes and soaks. Rockholes and soaks are the major surface water features in the Yellabinna and Yumbarra region and are accessed by all mammal species both feral and native, birds, and reptiles alike.

The last trip was done in September where Nathan Williams, Project Officer for Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara went out with Sue’s group to assist in rockhole clean up and site assessment. A site assessment was made of each of the rockholes and its surrounding area.

“It was clear to see why the Yellabinna/ Yumbarra reserve is a popular picnic and camping place for many travellers; it truly is a magnificent part of the NR AW region” said Nathan.

“However, as with many popular camping places, there are some issues, including rubbish left around the camp sites, camping in undesigned areas and damage caused by vehicles driving off road.

“Feral animals, such as cats, foxes and in particular camels are also a big problem. Cats and foxes eating up small native animals like the Sandhill Dunnart and hopping mice for example and of course camels that destroy rockholes.

Camels are a particular problem. One camel can drink up to 150 litres of water. They also too frequently fall into rockholes because the water level is too low to reach. When they fall in, its impossible for them to climb back out, so they die and the carcass pollutes the water.”



Cat Hocking cleaning soil out a channel in the rock

The WMPG have cared for these rock holes for many years and Sue’s group plan to continue to do so for years to come. NR AW is proud to support them in this endeavour.

Written and photographed by Nathan Williams and Paul Gregory



Everyone lends a hand with cleaning up the site including young Dennis Hocking jnr (below)





Nganamara on the loose

in the Great Victoria Desert

Written by and photos courtesy of Adam Pennington

Milton Kugena, Nathan Williams and Lyndon Pepper come across a sizable Malleefowl nest during the survey

The last week of October 2014 saw Indigenous Land Managers from Oak Valley and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands come together with staff from Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara (NR AW) and Joe Benshemesh to monitor Malleefowl (Nganamara) in the Maralinga Tjarutja Lands in the remote central northwest of South Australia.

While Malleefowl are known to occur throughout vast areas of the Great Victoria Desert, developing a method to monitor the species when it is in such low numbers over such a large area is a great challenge. It is however essential to know how these populations are trending because they are important to Anangu, and to Malleefowl conservation nationally.

In 2012, Joe Benshemesh was engaged by NR AW to work with community members from Oak Valley to develop a technique to monitor Nganamara in the arid zone of the Great Victoria Desert. The result was development of a 'long walk' transect method whereby small groups cover 16-20 km of country in 2 km sections, walking parallel to a road approx. 100 m in from the road edge searching the ground for signs

of Nganamara, principally tracks and mounds. Data is collected using the *CyberTracker* program. A process is being developed to allow this data to be incorporated into the National Malleefowl Monitoring Database.

This methodology proved to be an efficient way of collecting data over a large area while spreading the work load, meaning people were not at risk of walking long distances in a remote area in potentially adverse conditions (i.e. very hot or very cold).

Two 'long-walk' transects were established in 2012 and provide a benchmark for the future. We will

Joe Benshemesh explains how to use the monitoring equipment to Hartley Queama and Lyndon Pepper



continue to monitor the occurrence of Malleefowl in these areas and plan to extend these as Anangu steadily search other areas for suitable Malleefowl populations.

The aim of the recent trip was to re-survey the two transects established in 2012 and teach staff from APY Land Management the new 'long walk' transect survey method. To that end, 12 staff from APY Land Management (9 Aboriginal Rangers, 3 non Aboriginal Coordinators) made the 1200 km journey to Oak Valley to undertake the work and learn the technique. APY Land Management staff combined with 16 community members from Oak Valley to cover 35 km of country across the two 'long walk' transects. Then, alas, the weather changed for the worse with wind, rain, lightning and fire and the opportunities for tracking disappeared. Nonetheless, we were able to capture data over a key monitoring area, checked on ten previously found mounds (none active this year) and install some motion sensing cameras at six of these mounds before conditions deteriorated and people dispersed.

During the course of the trip, it



APY Land Management group with NR AW's Adam Pennington (top left) and Nathan Williams (far right) and Joe Benshemesh (centre red shirt)

was overwhelmingly apparent that Ngan̄amara is a great vehicle for land management and conservation activities. Through these activities, Rangers from Oak Valley and APY have not only gained practical skills in the use of GPS software and equipment but also knowledge of threatened species conservation and threat abatement processes. Ngan̄amara monitoring has also provided a useful way of engaging the wider community in land management activities as community sightings are reported to Rangers who then inform the survey program. This, in turn, has seen cultural knowledge of Ngan̄amara passed on from older to younger generations thereby reinvigorating traditional conservative use of Ngan̄amara resources.

A return trip is planned for 2015 where Oak Valley Land Management team members will travel to southern APY Lands and work with APY Land Management during their Autumn Ngan̄amara monitoring program. Informal discussions were also held about creating a Great Victoria Desert Ngan̄amara community group consisting of Oak Valley, APY Land Management and Spinifex Land Management (adjacent to Maralinga Tjarutja Lands in WA) that will advocate for Ngan̄amara in the Great

Victoria Desert, coordinate surveys and share information between the groups. All of this is, of course, up to Anangu. It's their land, and their project. But that's where the group seems to be heading and we will do our best to nurture this aspiration and support the fine work they are pioneering.

APY Lands crew recording tracks using the CyberTraker



A "V8" lizard needing a tyre change



Paul talks to tourists

about local NRM

Written by Paul Gregory

On the 13th of September I was asked to do a presentation to a group at Barry Beattie's farm.

The group was a part of a tour called Fish 'n' Mission organised by Aboriginal Ministry South Australia and held every two years.

Through the Lutheran Church of Australia, Aboriginal Ministry SA supports work by and with Aboriginal people in the state and has field workers on the Eyre Peninsula and Far West Coast as well as the greater Adelaide metropolitan area.

On the 5th day of the tour the group was treated to a good old country BBQ at Barry's farm where they were joined by other members of the local Ceduna Lutheran congregation where I was asked to do the talk.

The tour, coordinated by Colleen Bradtke, consisted of 33 people, mostly retirees from across the state.





Climate Change

Community consultations in the APY Lands

from the Executive Summary by Nathanael Wiseman

With climate models predicting significant changes in the weather of the AW region, a series of workshops were held with communities across the APY Lands in July this year to identify concerns related to the impacts of future climate change, including:

- the spread of Buffel grass
- impacts from wildfires
- heatwaves impacting on communities
- bushfood and biodiversity decline
- water management (e.g. flooding, declining groundwater resources, rockholes drying up)
- feral animal impacts
- coasts (e.g. storm surge damage)

Despite the potential for climate change to exacerbate these current issues, there are many things communities can do in conjunction with AW NRM to prepare for and adapt to a hotter, more variable rainfall climate.

Researcher Nathanael Wiseman talks with Kanyji men about their concerns and shows them his findings to date



Some examples of adaptation projects in the region include:

In the north

- Protection of long-lived trees along major creeklines in APY as refuge areas (primarily Officer Creek catchment, but also around Mimili and Kanyji-Nyapari).
- Designation of bushfood zones in areas of high hunting, invasive species, fire or community pressures to reduce non-climatic pressures on native species within vital ecosystems.
- Integrated management of fire and Buffel grass along roads as these represent the key areas of ignition and also the major sources of Buffel grass invasion.
- Adaptation to heatwaves, for communities, stock and native species, particularly to ensure vulnerable community members are cared for.
- Managing flooding by reducing risks to key infrastructure, and providing community reserves of fuel, food, and medicine.
- Developing seasonal calendars as monitoring tools to track changes in flowering, breeding and other phenomena over time.

Nathanael and climate expert Douglas Bardsley talk with community women about how climate change will effect the seasonal calendar and bush food availability



In the south:

- Protection of long-lived trees in the southern third of Mamungari CP and north of the Nullarbor Plain.
- Managing southward migration of Buffel grass by concentrating control along major road and rail lines and in Yalata community.
- Reducing the risks of sea level rise by relocating camp sites higher and further away from the shoreline.
- Adaptation to heatwaves, for communities and native species, particularly to ensure vulnerable community members are cared for.
- Developing seasonal calendars as monitoring tools to track changes in flowering, breeding and other phenomena over time.

While changes to climate will have impacts on people and country, there are many things that communities in the region can do to help prepare for future change. Many of these activities are already happening across the AW NRM region, but could be strengthened and supported for their value in adapting to climate change and also for providing opportunities for training and employment. Importantly, most activities to prepare for climate change are also good ways of caring for country anyway – they represent ‘win-win’ actions that will make a difference now and in the future.

For more information visit:

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/alinytjara-wilurara/projects/climate_change



Humane Camel Management

Practised in the Alinytjara Wilurara Region

Written by and photos courtesy of Robbie Sleep

As most people are aware feral camels are very large destructive animals particularly so around rockholes, surface water and sensitive cultural sites. They have a devastating effect on native species such as red kangaroos and all native bird species; they also have the potential to wipe out local vegetation species such as Quandong and Sandalwood among others and trash sacred areas.

Camels have the ability to find and drink very large quantities of water leaving empty rockholes behind them with no water to sustain the native populations reliant on it for their existence. They also snap off branches of overhanging trees and damage shaded area as well as trample and roll on scarce available food growing in the shade; this is particularly obvious within the Nullarbor Ooldea dune plain interface that provides critical food and shelter from the summer heat for kangaroos and other native species of the area.

Because of the distances and inaccessibility of transport combined

with a relatively low but still damaging population of the southern AW feral camel herd aerial culling is the only viable control method currently available that is proven to work.

Aerial removal of feral camels within the southern AW region is undertaken by highly trained aerial marksmen shooting from a helicopter. These marksmen are chosen for their long association with firearms and their ability to use them very well.

To become a member of the SA aerial shoot team participants must complete rigorous training in firearm safety and

Highly trained marksman performing aerial culling



training, animal anatomy, ballistics, CASA flying regulations; remote first aid and shoot with a very high degree of accuracy; this often results in a high rate of course participant failure. There are currently 6 aerial shooters qualified to undertake aerial operations within South Australia.

The use of a helicopter provides a means of covering and searching large distances quickly and provides the ability to get very close to feral camels enabling accurate shot placement to ensure instantaneous death of target species.

All feral camels are shot twice; once in the brain followed by once in the heart as standard procedure regardless of how well placed the initial brain shot placement is, this is seen as an insurance shot to ensure there is NO chance of an animal being left wounded.

No feral camels are shot near or around tracks, sacred areas or water points where they could have either a negative visual or detrimental effect on the area.

Sacred or no fly areas are identified by members of the traditional custodians of the land which control is being carried out on. Identification of these areas is usually undertaken with the use of aircraft or sometimes with the use of helicopter prior to the cull taking place, then applied to a mapping program that is used by the aerial team during culling activities.

Wherever possible local Traditional Owners are engaged to offer advice and direction to the shooting team as well as employed to assist with logistical considerations such as fuel dumps/locations, camp support etc.

In 2012 an independent veterinarian audit was undertaken of national feral camel removal operations, this resulted in a finding of zero wounding and 100% animal welfare outcome for the South Australian team.

The aerial shoot team have a steering group made up of four members and management to oversee continued improvement around, safety and communication, consultation process, flight following as well as practical and logistical issues related to aerial operations.

A herd of well over a hundred camels roaming across the Nullarbor Plain



The Friends of Great Victoria Desert regularly visit the region to observe and record its natural wonders, each time sharing their expertise and enthusiasm for the preservation of the region.

Always keen to have local community members come along and share their cultural knowledge, they were joined on this year's trip by Tommy Baker, Marion Jack and Derek Jameison from Oak Valley.

Biodiversity guru Harald Ehmann, and AW's Nathan Williams also accompanied the group who travelled up to the Mamungari Conservation Park's border to look at two particular threatened species:

- Princess Parrots (Wipu Warra)
- Marble Gum (Parra)



Harald explains about locking the photopoint markers into position

Marble gums are a rare native species that grow well in this part of the country. They rely on fire to germinate their seed and take a very long time to mature. As the tree gets older it sheds branches creating hollows in the trunks. Princess Parrots rely exclusively on these hollows for breeding and will not nest in any other tree.



Tommy Baker near one of the photopoints

These beautiful gums have to be at least 100 years old before they start shedding branches. Monitoring their germination and growth of this species also supports the survival of the Princess Parrot.

Through melding FOGVD's scientific knowledge with that of the traditional owners and their mutual commitment to the survival of both species, there is reason to be optimistic about their future.



Snails in the AW Region

Theba pisana - Italian White Snail

Theba pisana commonly known as the Italian White Snail or White Garden Snail is native to the Mediterranean region and is a well-known pest to agricultural crops in Australia. It was first identified in the early 1900's along the coast of Western Australia and is now common throughout coastal areas of southern Australia.

The coiled white shell of a mature snail has a diameter of approximately 10-25mm.

The main food source for the Italian White Snail is dead and decaying organic matter but it also feeds on green plant material such as seedlings of production crops, weeds and native plants.

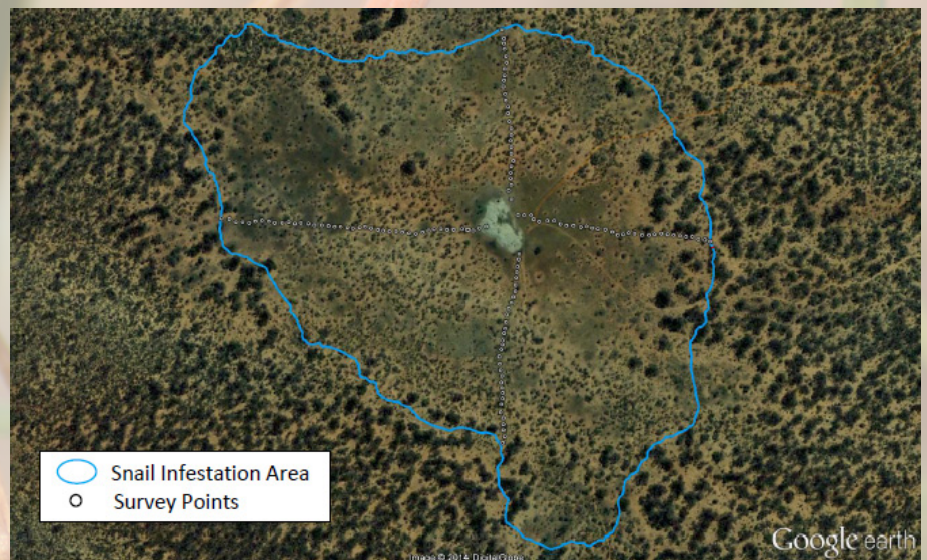
In the hot dry summer months the snails will attach to grasses, shrubs or succulent plants, fence posts, tall weeds, and so on to aestivate. Aestivation is a state of dormancy, similar to hibernation, characterized by inactivity and a lowered metabolic rate, which begins in response to high temperatures and dry conditions.

It's believed that the Italian White Snail was introduced to Inla Rock-waters in the early 1990's as a direct result of vehicle visitation to the granite out-crop. Fencing materials that were brought in to fence a vegetation plot nearby were believed to be contaminated with the Italian White Snail.

Monitoring populations at Inla

On the 15th April, 2014 an initial survey was conducted of the Inla Rock-waters area surrounding the Inla granite out-crop. The survey was undertaken to assess the extent and the density of the snail infestation associated with the Inla granite out-crop to assist in the development of a suitable management strategy. NR AW staff and members of the WMPG collected the data.

The extent of the infestation was determined by walking in a straight line away from the Inla granite out-crop until snails were no longer present, then walking in a clockwise direction





following the edge of the infestation. The outer limit of the infestation was mapped using GPS tracking.

To measure snail density, survey sites (quadrats) were established at ten metre intervals within the infestation area running in north, south, east and west directions, originating from the granite out-crop and finishing at the outer extent of the infestation. Each quadrat was measured with a 500 x 500 millimetre square wooden frame, placed on the ground and then all dead and alive snails were counted within it.

At each survey site a manual record was made using a Snail Survey Sheet. Once completed the total infestation area was calculated, as well as the number of snails per square metre both dead and alive.

Management options

Mechanical

Mechanical methods include rolling, cabling or chaining, and slashing. These types of control methods are most effective in the summer months when temperatures are 35°C and above, when the snail is aestivating. Manual methods can also cause damage to the snails shell

decreasing its chance of survival. If conditions are right, a high mortality rate can be achieved.

Prescribed Burning

Burning is one of the most effective methods of control and should take place between the start of the burning season up until the opening rains. Burning is most effective as a part of an integrated control strategy for example, cabling or chaining prior to burning, followed by seasonal baiting. An even burn can effectively control up to 100% of snails.

Summer Weed Control

The control of summer weeds is important in the effectiveness of the above two methods as green summer weeds can provide a cool moist microclimate, a food source and protection from fire.

Baiting

Baiting is most effective when rain or moisture triggers activity in early autumn and the snails descend to the ground to begin feeding, before significant egg-laying starts. A timely baiting program could reduce snail numbers significantly, depending on snail activity and bait rate.

L-R : Paul Gregory, Aaron Binell, Wayne Haseldine, Jacinta Haseldine, Leanne Haseldine, Bessy-May Haseldine and Erin Gibson

Working together with WMPG, NR AW will develop a management plan based on the information gathered from the last and previous surveys.

This will be aimed at the total eradication of the Italian Snail in the Inla Rock-waters area surrounding the Inla granite out-crop region before it spreads further.

Based on Paul Gregory's 2014 INLA ROCK-WATERS Natural Area Restoration Project Report



Jacinta and Bessy Haseldine from WMPG surveying snails at Inla



Adder's Tongues native annual





Fire Management Strategy

The Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board has great pleasure in presenting the Alinytjara Wilurara Fire Management Strategy to all South Australians.

The strategy provides a major step in the recognition of the role that fire plays in the Region's natural and cultural heritage. As a natural occurrence in the Australian environment, much of our animal and plant life are dependent on fire for their continued existence.

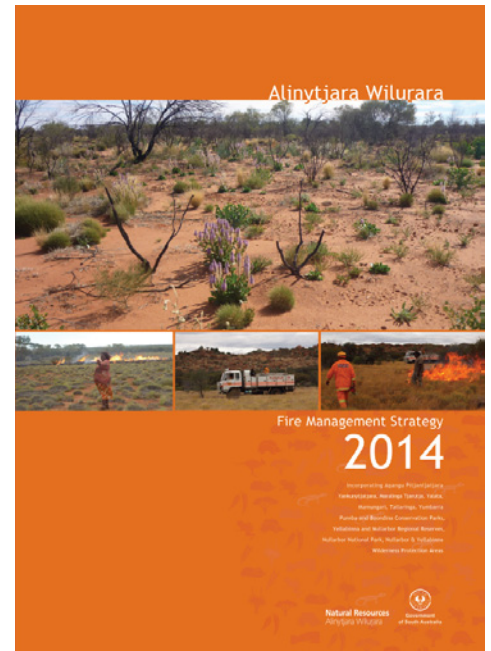
For thousands of years, Aboriginal people of the Alinytjara Wilurara Region, extensively used fire as a tool to manipulate their environment for a variety of reasons including food gathering, personal safety and land

management. These fires were often small, low intensity burns undertaken at specific times of the year for well-considered and predetermined outcomes.

The Alinytjara Wilurara Fire Management Strategy recognises and respects Aboriginal people's enduring physical and cultural relationship to country.

"Incorporating the land management knowledge and skills of traditional owners is key to the development and implementation of this strategy" said Parry Agius, Presiding Member of the AW NRM Board.

"Bringing this together with western knowledge of the Region's ecosystems,



has formed a strong and informed basis for strategic maintenance regimes and practices that sustain healthy country.

"In adopting a ngapartji-ngapartji (co-operative) land management partnership between Anangu and western cultural knowledge, a working relationship has been established that will ensure positive achievements and worthy outcomes for all" he said.

Development of this strategy was funded through the Native Vegetation Council's Significant Environmental Benefit grant scheme and Iluka Resources.

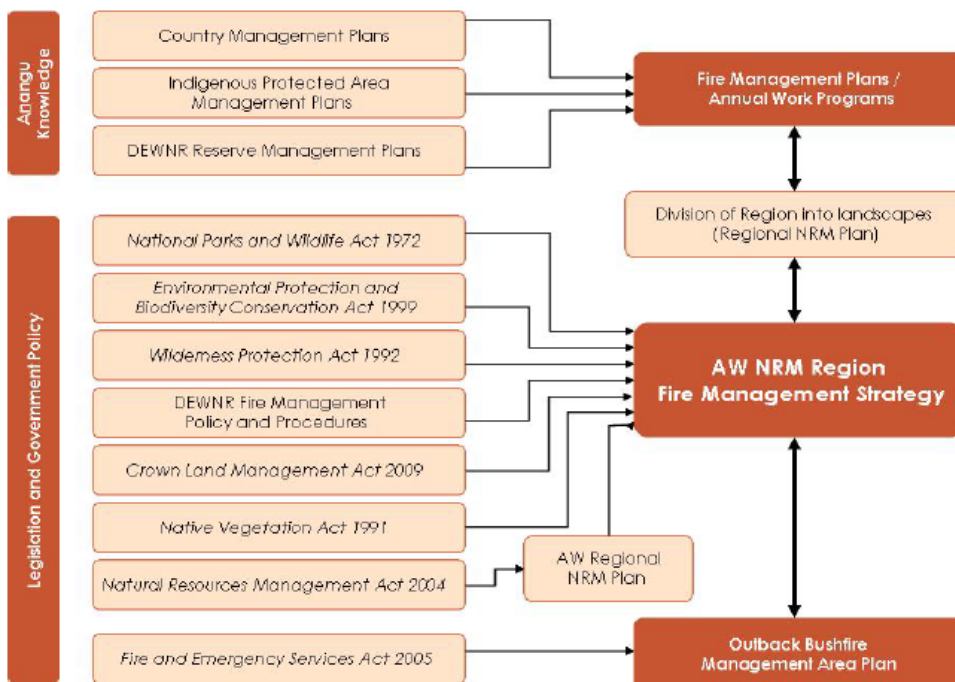
To view the Alinytjara Wilurara Fire Management Strategy go to:

<http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/alinytjara-wilurara/country/fire-management>

Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara: 08 8463 4833

The SA CFS is the lead agency for fire suppression in rural South Australia. However due to the remoteness and size of the areas covered in this strategy, active suppression of fire incidents have not historically been undertaken by the CFS, except where life and property are under threat.

Influences on Fire Management Planning in AW NRM Region





Prescribed burn of Buffel grass at Cook airstrip



AW's Fire Management and Planning Officer Graeme Armstrong at work near Cook airstrip

Buffel grass is an invasive plant species which NRM AW is actively controlling across the region, particularly in the southern areas, where it exists as small isolated patches which can be eradicated totally given continuous treatment. As with all grasses, Buffel grass leaves cure during drier months, which means plants cannot be controlled with chemical sprays because the leaves are dead and cannot absorb herbicide. This situation can continue into following growing seasons when, despite the production of new green leaves, the plant still retains significant biomass of dead leaves from the previous growing season. This continues to hinder the ability for chemical control. The dead leaves are removed if burnt, either by wildfire or prescribed burning, which exposes subsequent growth of new leaves to chemical control.

All existing plants were successfully burnt and all cured leaves removed exposing the root stock on the verge of the Cook airstrip. Any subsequent growth of new leaves, following the next rain event, will therefore be exposed and can be sprayed with herbicide.

The project protects 300 ha in and around the airstrip.

This pre-control treatment appears to be a useful addition to Buffel grass control. However, future prescribed burns in remote areas with little or no water supply, should be undertaken

with more people to enable physical control of the fire edge with hand tools and the use of water back packs. This burn required 1200 litres of water, applied from a fire unit, to control the fire when only two people were present. The fire unit used in this burn has a tank capacity of 700 litres which was used on the first day, when only half the burn was complete. A further tank full was obtained from the Cook community to finish the burn but no more water was available beyond this amount. If the burn not been completed with this amount of water a second trip to burn the few individuals remaining would be impractical due to the remoteness and cost of undertaking such a trip.

The Cook caretakers gave permission for the prescribed burn and were given educational materials on Buffel grass identification and control and agreed to contact NRM AW staff after the next rainfall event if they observed new growth of buffel grass plants.

Lynda Marshall containing the prescribed burn



New online portal for environment information

A new online portal providing one-stop access to environmental data and reports is now available to the public.

Enviro Data SA was developed by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources as part of the Premier's Open Data policy agenda.

Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Conservation Ian Hunter said new data sets and reports would continue to be added to the site, providing a wealth of information on the state's natural resources.

"Enviro Data SA brings together information from a number of agencies and institutions, including DEWNR, the Environment Protection Authority, Primary Industries and Regions, the Bureau of Meteorology, the Goyder Institute, the Murray Darling Basin Authority and the Department of State Development.

"It contains information on people and the environment, land, water, coast and marine issues, plants and animals, the climate, and economy and industry.

"You can find information ranging from real time water data collected around the state on groundwater aquifers to flora and fauna survey sites – and that is only the start.

"By bringing it all together in one easily-accessible place, we hope to see not only better environmental decision making, but an improved public understanding of the reasons for those decisions and of the science behind them."

For more information, visit www.data.environment.sa.gov.au



Sandhill Dunnart trapping

joined by WMPG members in Yellabinna Yumbara

Story and photography by Nathan Williams

Imana, in the Great Victoria Desert, near the Western Australian border is the home of the extremely rare Sandhill Dunnart.

This small Australian marsupial is not known to exist anywhere else but in this region so, as a vulnerable and threatened species, it's population and habitat is carefully monitored.

Sandhill Dunnart are only known to still exist in three locations Australia-wide



Setting up the "fence" markers



Trapping expert John Read (contractor from Kimba) travelled up to Imana (20km west of Ooldea) in early November this year to undertake a Sandhill Dunnart trapping exercise with traditional owners Simon Pridauxe, Wayne Haseldine, Ashley Benell and Denis Hocking from the West Mallee Protection Group.

Along with Nathan Williams (NR AW Project Officer) and Amanda McKlean (accompanying the group as part of her post graduate studies), six Dunnart were captured and over a hundred reptiles.

The trapped dunnarts were marked on the tail with permanent black ink to ensure numbers are based on individuals, their sex was noted and then they were freed.

The method of pitfall trapping, entails running out a 50m "fence" (as shown) along which a short tube is placed, with the opening facing upward and the rest buried in the sand. Animals run along the fence, fall in and are unable to climb out.

Details of the numerous reptiles captured were also recorded, one of which appeared to be a very long way

from where that species is normally thought to populate.

John showed himself to be a capable mentor to the young Anangu and in sharing his skills he competently passed on his methodologies. These could be applied to trapping a range of small animals living in remote regions.

The group successfully covered eight sites over five days spent in the desert.

Running out the "fence" over the pitfall trap





Habitat monitoring

across the Nullarbor

Story and photography by Paul Gregory

In early October 2014 Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara's Community Project Officer Paul Gregory set off to revisit 10 sites established in 1984 as part of the Nullarbor Biological Survey.

Collecting information about the current condition of the sites allows environmental change comparisons to be drawn between past images from the same sites.

This included track based monitoring to determine animal presence at each location.

Two young Aboriginal men, Kingsley Betts and Terrence Lennon travelled with Paul to Yalata Community to pick up Ivan Bryant before heading back along the Eyre Highway and the Western Australian border.

This was an ideal opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge of traditional owners relating to technology based sustainable land management practices in remote regions.

Kingsley, Terrence and Ivan were all trained in the use of electronic devices and software including, DSLR cameras, Personal Digital Assistants (PDA's) and CyberTracker software required for habitat monitoring.

In 1984, habitat monitoring sites were established across the Nullarbor to monitor landscape health from the coast to the northern fringe of the Nullarbor Plain. These surveys were undertaken to collect baseline data to compare potential changes in the environment and effects over time.

The repeat photography and track based monitoring was carried out at the three Merdayerrah sites with a short stop to have a look at Warbler Cave between sites ME4C and ME5B. Each participant took turns setting up and using the camera and recording data using the PDA.



Kingsley, Terrence and Ivan position the camera to take a straight shot at the site marker surrounds

After completing the third Merdayerrah site and taking a break for lunch the group travelled towards the Hughes camp via Koonalda homestead. The track surface slowed progress after Koonalda with the group only arriving at the Hughes camp a little after 5:30pm. Camp was set up on arrival.

By 9:30am of the following day the temperature had become considerably warm and it was decided that only the repeat photography would be conducted at the Hughes sites.

After completing the five Hughes sites the group travel back to the east west railway line for some lunch before travelling, via the railway line to Cook, then north to the Muckera sites.

With the temperature climbing above 40 degrees at Cook, track based monitoring, which requires participants to record animal tracks and scats over a two hectare area, was abandoned for safety reasons.

The exchange of traditional and scientific knowledge and skills in the identification of animal track and scats and estimating the tracks and scats age was a significant outcome of the field with 20 hectares directly monitored.

Buffel grass was also observed along the Eyre Highway and a location marker was installed to assist the NR AW buffel monitoring program.

Interpretation of the results will be published in the new year.





Roosting Sharp-tailed Sandpipers

National Shorebird Monitoring in SA's Far West

Story and photography by Paul Gregory

In November 2014 volunteers and Natural Resources (NR) staff participated in a nation wide initiative which involved counting all the beach-nesting birds along the Australian coastline from the Yalata beaches in the Great Australian Bight, across SA and Victoria, north to Wollongong in NSW.

BirdLife Australia's Count Coordinator for the West Coast, Jane Cooper, said that covering such extensive stretches of coastline is only possible with the support of local NR staff.

Natural Resources staff from across the Eyre Peninsular (EP) and Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) regions teamed up to undertake the November count. Louise Mortimer and Julian Marchant (NR EP, Streaky Bay), Peter Wilkins and Aislinn O'Neill (NR EP, Pt Lincoln), Robbie Sleep, Andrew Sleep, Tammy Cox and Amanda Richards (NR EP, Ceduna), Paul Gregory, Nathan Williams and

Yasmin Wolf (NR AW, Ceduna), Leah Kyriacou and Daniel Bailey (NR AW, Adelaide) Andrew Brooks and Lachlan Duncan (Contractors) and Seth Clark (Volunteer) scanned the beaches and estuaries of St Peters Island, Tourville Bay, Scotts Beach, Mexican Hat Beach, Cape Adieu and the Yalata Coastline monitoring shorebird activity, numbers and threats.

The BirdLife Beach-Nesting Birds Project Manager, Grainne Maguire reminded counters that "Beach-nesting birds, including Hooded Plovers, lay their eggs directly on the sand in a shallow nest scrape. The nest can be anywhere above the high-tide mark, on the beach or in the dunes. Some other beach nesting species also nest in rocky area and on off-shore islands.

L-R Fairy Tern, White-bellied Sea Eagle and Pied Oystercatcher chick were amongst the many spectacular birds found living in the region

"With the greatest threat to Australia's beach-nesting birds being disturbance from people visiting the beach, breeding success is poor. Their numbers are declining and without some sort of intervention it won't be long before they become extinct."

Beach-nesting birds usually lay their eggs during Spring and Summer which, unfortunately, coincides with the peak period of recreational use of beaches.

BirdLife Australia's National Shorebirds 2020 Monitoring Program

This project counts all the birds in the designated 2020 Shorebird Area: Migratory shorebirds, resident shorebirds, gulls and terns, herons, ducks and cormorants.

On Western Eyre Peninsula nine Shorebird areas are surveyed at least twice a year (in July and February).





The National Shorebirds 2020 program coordinates national shorebird population monitoring at 150 key shorebird areas in Australia provides reliable data on shorebird declines and the factors that cause it makes results widely accessible to managers, planners and the community, to aid the conservation and management of shorebirds.

Migratory shorebirds arrive on Eyre Peninsula in August-September and regularly inhabit sheltered feeding and roosting sites around the coast until March-April when adult breeding birds prepare for the return leg of their 25,000 km round trip.

Western Eyre Peninsula shorebird areas regularly support 23 international migratory species.

They fly north along the East Asian Flyway to breed in Eastern Siberia, China and Mongolia and close to the Arctic Circle; a journey of 12,500 km. Western Eyre Peninsula shorebird areas regularly support 11 Resident shorebird species.

If you would like to volunteer and become involved in future hooded plover and Shorebird 2020 counts please contact the Natural Resource Centre in Ceduna on (08) 86 253 144.

Local Counts

Scotts Beach, Mexican Hat and Cape Adieu Count

12th November 2014

Amanda Richards, Andrew Brooks, Seth Clark, Tammy Cox and Yasmin Wolf

Natural Resources AW and EP staff with the assistance of two volunteers undertook counts on the beaches near Fowlers Bay. Species noted included hooded and red-capped plovers, sooty and pied oystercatchers, caspian terns and pacific gulls.

Yalata Coast Count

25th – 28th November 2014

Leah, Daniel, Andrew B, Andrew S Nathan, Paul and Lachlan.

On the first day Paul and Andrew B completed the first transect on the NR AW Gator. The second transect was covered by Andrew S and Leah completing one transect and Daniel, Nathan and Lachlan completing the other.

Paul and Andrew also used the Gator to collect marine debris while conducting the shorebird count, collecting a large wool bail or rubbish, both marine and from recreational fishers in the area. They also located a dolphin which had been washed up on the beach for some time.

The second day the third transect was divided into two with Andrew S and Leah undertaking the count on one section and Andrew B, Daniel and Lachlan completing the other.

“numbers are declining and without some sort of intervention it won’t be long before they become extinct.”



Whiskered Tern, Tourville Bay



Crested Tern, Yalata Coast



Sooty Oyster Catchers (above) and Red-capped Plover and Sanderling (below), Yalata Coast





AW and EP team up for Far West Shore bird monitoring (cont...)

Tourville Bay Count

22nd October 2014

Louise Mortimer, Julian Marchant
Andrew Brooks and Paul Gregory

Tourville Bay was scouted by boat and foot while the Ocean Beach count was completed on foot.

A pair of nesting Ospreys in the mangroves at Davenport Creek and a rare White-bellied Sea Eagle were amongst the birds counted.

St Peters Island Count

24th – 27th October 2014

Peter Wilkins, Aislinn O'Neill Robbie Sleep, Andrew Brooks and Paul Gregory

The group travelled to St Peters Island on a Ceduna Fisheries boat. The Mount Younghusband spit transect the longest (a 10.5km walk) presented some challenges with the high tide reducing the width of the beach towards the end of the transect forcing counters to navigate around several mangrove estuaries.

The group camped on the Island in the old homestead so there was time in the evenings to enjoy photographing the Island's Betongs and to watch the Mutton Birds (Short-tailed Shearwaters) returning to their nesting grounds at dusk.

Lachlan, Dan and Andrew Brooks counting shorebirds along the Yalata Coast

Getting around the island proved to be quite a challenge, finding the overgrown tracks to the transects and having to repair numerous tyres on the island based vehicle.

On the up side the numerous nest shorebirds which included, sooty and pied oystercatchers red-capped plovers, caspian terns, fairy terns, pacific gulls and on the southern part of the island a pair of nesting white-bellied sea eagles.

Leah and Lachlan checking equipment



Paul noting the location of the dolphin carcass



Louise Mortimer (EP) and Erin Gibson (AW) talk to interested passers by about Natural Resources

Talking NRM at Oysterfest

Natural Resources AW and EP again joined forces to promote and inform the public about what is involved in natural resource management at this year's Ceduna Oysterfest.

Being one of the biggest weekends in town, the event provided a good opportunity to host an information stall to showcase some of the projects across the region and raise awareness about what the Ceduna Natural Resources Centre (NRC) has to offer.

Locals and tourists alike visited the stall, stopping to ask questions, pick up some information or find out more about the type of work we do.

One hundred native plants were given away to people from the area, along with NRC promotional bumper stickers.





What a *Whale of a day*

The spectacular Head of Bight Whale Centre on South Australia's Far West was the perfect location for this year's *Whale of a Day* gathering on 23 September. Even the weather, that had threatened to put a dampener on the planned activities all morning, managed to clear at the last moment.

The annual "Whale of a Day" event aims to raise awareness and stewardship for Southern Right Whales that migrate to Head of Bight annually to bask in the warm waters and breed.

With heavy rain clouds looming, the organising team, Erin Gibson (Community Programs Coordinator), Nathan Williams (Community Project Officer) and Yasmin Wolf (Coast and Marine Officer) from Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara along with members of Yalata Land Management, the Women's Centre and Admin team from the Yalata Community optimistically set off from Yalata for the two hour drive to the Head of Bight.

Children looking for whales at the Head of Bight



As the team started setting up the equipment, the clouds parted and the rain circled around the location just as the school bus and cars loaded up and the entire Yalata School arrived. Forty two school kids bounced out of the vehicles ready to get started on the day's fun and educational activities. The school kids were divided into four groups with a teacher for each group to help supervise students. As Yalata staff were setting up the barbecue, NR AW staff and the 42 school children grabbed their binoculars and headed down to the whale centre boardwalks

Yalata School children creating artwork about whales



where the school children caught sight of Southern Right Whales basking close to the cliffs at the bottom of the boardwalk. Nathan and Yasmin led two groups of school kids each giving them a pair of binoculars and asking what they could see the whales doing while they talked to them about the behavioural characteristics of southern rights such as tail slapping and spy hopping. They also asked the children to count the number of mother and calf pairs they could see. They then talked about why the whales came to the area to mate and breed.

By the time the group headed back from the boardwalk Erin and the staff from Yalata Community had begun cooking the barbecue and setting up the fun and educational activities.

When the kids returned, 30 helpers were ready to indulge them in a range of activities focused on increasing their knowledge about the whales, including minimising human impact on various species and teaching identification methods.

The younger kids were given a worksheet that involved putting together the parts and cutting out a dolphin that was jumping out of the water, a task to make a three dimensional whale out of some recyclable materials and the older kids in attendance were given educational workbooks to complete with support provided.

The day was a great success, not only for the children but also as an opportunity for staff to chat with community members and gain a better understanding of what is important to them in relation to their land and community.

With so many people coming along once again, it is hoped that we can build on the event even further next year with presentations and information booths about other projects occurring in the region.



Ceduna Marine Debris sculpture

swims through *Our Mob* exhibition

Written by Yasmin Wolf, photos courtesy of Pam Diment

The Ceduna-based Marine Debris Sculpture project culminated with a spectacular 4 metre long Southern Right Whale made entirely of debris material being a highlight of the “Our Mob” Exhibition held in Adelaide.

The project, aimed at raising awareness about debris along our coastline and its impact on marine life was the collaborative effort of Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara, Anangu Ku Arts, Ceduna Arts and Culture Centre and the Yalata Community.

Over the past 5 years, Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara has worked with Yalata Community undertaking Marine debris surveys and beach clean-ups along the Far West Eyre Peninsula coastline and within the boundaries of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park. These surveys are used to inform future management strategies and mitigate impacts to local marine life.

Material collected on previous cleanups was put into landfill as there was no other option for disposal.

The idea of using these materials to raise public awareness became reality with Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara contributing funds to run the workshop and Anangu Ku Arts applying for funding through the Australian Council for the Arts. Pam Diment from the Ceduna Arts and Culture Centre was instrumental in forging the success

of the project. She invited artists from across the Far West Eyre Peninsula to participate in the workshop, provided the ideal location as well as essential support and guidance with both the project and for the artists.

Two artists from the Queensland based Ghostnets Art Program, Sue Ryan and Gina Allain, art directed the project. Local indigenous artist, Josephine Lennon, worked closely with the two Ghostnets artists learning a range of skills that she could pass on to other local artists. In total 25 artists from Yalata and Ceduna worked on the project producing many small marine sculptures and an amazing 4m long southern right whale sculpture.

The ‘whale’ and other sculptures produced from the workshops

be created from the rubbish and debris washing up on our beaches.

The feedback received was remarkable and the goal of raising awareness about the issue of marine debris exceeded initial expectations.

At the invitation of the curator of the “Our Mob” indigenous art exhibition the whale sculpture was transported to Adelaide to feature in the exhibition held at the Festival Centre, which opened on the 23rd of October 2014 and continued to the 7th of December 2014.

The Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resource Management Board kindly sponsored a group of 8 artists from Yalata and Ceduna to support them in attending the event.

This enabled them to discuss the project with interested parties and further generate awareness around marine debris in the wider community.

Their pride in being part of creating these stunning sculptures was clearly evident.

Coast and Marine Officer Yasmin Wolf said she was delighted when the youngest of the artists who attended the workshop said “this is going to be a life changing thing for me. I think I want to start drawing again after being involved in this project”.

first made a timely appearance in Ceduna’s main exhibition hall during the local Oysterfest festival held over the October long weekend. It was accompanied by debris collected on beach clean-ups demonstrating what the piece was made of and what could





Pam Diment and Yasmin Wolf



Irene Peters and Carmel Windlass



Jess Viersma, Yasmin and Ashley Sandsbury

Artists and organisers attending the "Our Mob" Exhibition in Adelaide



THANK YOU

The artists would like to take this opportunity to extend their warmest thanks to the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resource Management Board for their kind sponsorship that enabled them to see the whale at the exhibition. Special thanks also needs to go to Pam Diment whose constant support and effort for the project made it possible and Bruce Macpherson who saw the potential in the project and helped it come to realisation.



Verna Lawrie (above) and Ashley Sandsbury (below),



Creating artworks from marine debris at the Ceduna Arts and Culture Centre



Verna Lawrie (above) and Collette Gray (below)



The benefits of this project far exceeded the original aims considered when the venture was first proposed particularly in if we were able to encourage Aboriginal artists to take a positive approach to their futures.

The scope of what can be achieved through involvement in modern natural resource management programs is limited only by our imaginations.



Kanpi- Nyapari Land Management Program

Written and photographed by Laura Mitchell

L-R Richard, Walter ,Roderick, Jason, Roland and Jerome

Rockhole fence construction and training

A fence is being constructed around a rockhole called Puntı south of Kanpi to prevent camels and other wild herbivores from fouling the water. AW contractor Shane Doudle supports the ongoing construction of the fence each month as part of the ranger program at the Kanpi/Nyapari communities. There has been considerable enthusiasm for the program with Shane having fifteen men working with him on the Puntı fence. Roderick Wikilyiri, Anton Baker, Clive Peters, Jason Baker, Roland Baker, Jerome Wheeler, Andrew Baker being the regular crew. Shane is helping the rangers build the fences and also planning other trips on-country to undertake work over the coming months. Training is undertaken as part of the fence construction that will count towards a TAFE Certificate in Conservation.



Roland Baker welding

Buffel Grass control

Murputja Rangers have done some buffel grass mapping and a small amount of roadside spraying. AW NRM have recently purchased a spray unit with a boom and hose reels to help stop the spread of Buffel on a larger scale. We will be using Round up and Flupropanate chemical which has residual properties to control future germinations, however around rockholes Buffel will be dug up and burned. Further consultation with communities on spraying tracks and roadsides will be ongoing.



L-R Jerome, Clive, Jason, Roland



Jason Baker spraying buffel

Women's Land and Culture Work

Two women's trips have been undertaken over the last few months to take care of women's sites near Kanpi. Signs have been placed at important sites so people can understand the significance of the area. These trips are important for the younger women to visit cultural sites with the Elders. The women below are with Traditional Owner's from Fregon and Kanpi communities. These trips on-country are important for keeping women's land and culture work strong.



L-R – Barbara Baker, Sharon Peters, Iwana Ken, Marita Baker, Carolanne Ken, Antjala Robin



L-R – Iwana Ken, Barbara Baker, Carolanne Ken, Antjala Robin, Marita Baker and Sharon Peters.

Healthy Country Plan for Kanpi/Nyapari

A Healthy Country Plan is currently being developed for Kanpi/Nyapari Land Management program. This will be a three year work plan outlining the works the Traditional Owner's would like completed. This plan is being put together by Stuart Cowell from



Conservation Management who has done similar plans with ranger groups in Western Australia.

Ranger logo and Kanpi office

The rangers and Traditional Owner's have decided on a ranger uniform logo, as shown below. This is the Murputja School Logo however it was decided this would also be a good logo showing both Kanpi and Nyapaṛi communities working together. Additionally, the land management program has secured a space in the community office which will be developed in the coming months.



Welcome Latisha

NR AW is delighted to announce that we have recruited our first School Based Trainee in Ceduna. Latisha Richards, will be starting with us in January 2015. Latisha is entering Year 11 in 2015, and has ambitions to study Zoology. She will be working on a range of projects with us while studying at School and will also be working towards a Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management.

Under the terms of the Traineeship she is required to spend at least 7 hours/week on AW NRM projects, with the option of doing additional work in her vacations. In her third year she will be working with us full time. Beyond that, we will offer her support and advice in whatever direction she seeks to pursue.



Welcome Dr Tim Moore

Tim has recently joined Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara in the role of Manager Strategy, Knowledge and Sustainability. He brings with him a wealth of experience focussed on innovation and new initiatives directed at ways of doing business in the bush. Having spent the last decade working on ways to create meaningful outcomes for people, country and society in the Australian rangelands, he founded and ran several consulting and project operations businesses designed to help people create new jobs and ways of earning money related to improving environmental conditions.

Tim has also been deeply engaged in the development and implementation of carbon farming projects across Australia including developing new and assisting existing cattle business, and managing the impacts of weeds, fire and ferals.

He also has a PhD in biodiversity and ecosystem function.

Welcome Baby Jack Bailey

The staff of NR AW are excited to welcome our youngest team member. Congratulations to Dan (our Sustainable Resource Coordinator) and his beautiful wife Cassandra on the arrival of their new son Jack.

Welcome to the world little guy.

Congratulations

Paul and Kim

Paul Gregory (our Project Officer, Communities) and his fiancée Kim pulled a swifty at their Engagement party when, much to the surprise of their guests, they launched into a wedding ceremony.

Sincere congratulations to you both from all of us at NR AW.

Thank you and all the best...

Sara Kumar

Last November, the Manager of Landscapes, Conservation and Public Lands, Saras Kumar took up a new role in DEWNR in the Protected Area Policy and Planning Branch.

Saras has been a fantastic leader of a relatively new team in AW since the start of the year, delivering great outcomes and forming strong relationships with the Board, communities and stakeholders in a short amount of time.

We are happy however to know that we will still be seeing a lot of Saras as she has a lead role in the Planning for the Far West Co-managed Parks.

Lynda Marshall

Sadly for NR AW, Lynda Marshall our Buffel Grass Project Coordinator has headed back to Queensland to take up a position that she has long coveted. She significantly progressed implementation of our strategic operations plan and collaboration across the region and across the state.

Sorry to see you go so soon Lynda.

Latisha (centre) talking to NR AW's Community Engagement Manager Bruce Macpherson



In line with her stated interests we will be offering her the chance to gain experience with Monarto Zoo, the Warru Recovery Program in APY, as well as the usual range of exciting work done within our Region.

Latisha's parents, her school and Career Employment Group, the host employer, and NR AW will meet in coming weeks to discuss her program.

Welcome aboard Latisha!

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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