

Palya!

STRONG COUNTRY STRONG PEOPLE



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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 Winter edition of the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board and Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara's publication for 2015.

who live in our region to keep their country healthy (good, usable) now and for the future.

The first six months of the year have been busy, productive and challenging.

A particular highlight was the Board enacting its Water Plan for the first time – assessing water applications from another government agency to take water order to facilitate the building of the APY Lands Road upgrade. This is a significant step forward in the responsibilities and region-wide authority the Board can play, whilst demonstrating efficient and collaborative cross-government delivery.

Also of note has been the work that has been undertaken establishing a Green Army project in the region. Our staff and community members from the Far West of the region have been working closely with the Australian Government and Conservation Volunteers Australia to trial a model which is suitable to the region. This has not been without challenges but we look forward to continuing to work with these partners in order to achieve on ground outcomes and training outcomes. The partnership the Board and staff have with community members have been critical to this.

Finally, our *Healthy Country Planning* process is now underway in partnership with communities and co-management Boards. This is an ambitious and exciting program which when complete will further strengthen the partnerships between the Board, the Australian Government and communities of the region. With Healthy Country Plans for key land holding authorities and communities of the region, the AW NRM Board and its future NRM plan will truly reflect the aspirations of communities in a coordinated and strong regional framework.

The Board and Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara look forward to continuing to support the region's communities to deliver the Regional NRM Plan and the National Landcare Programme in partnership with the South Australian and Australian Governments.

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:

24-26 August 2015, Ceduna

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.





Breakfast meeting on the Nullarbor, State and Federal Executives talk with locals and AW NRM about country

From the Presiding Member



Welcome to the Winter edition of *Palya* 2015. As with most organisations at this time of year, our Audit and Risk Management

team have been busy assessing budgets and, along with the NR AW's Regional Management Team, planning and prioritising spending for the next Financial Year. Key amongst these is continuing to support Healthy Country Planning being undertaken by communities across the AW region (see pages 14 - 17).

The AW NRM Board is proud to announce that the latest Climate Change Addendum to the Alinytjara Wilurara Regional Management Plan has been published. Congratulations to Nathanael Wiseman and Douglas Bardely from Adelaide University on developing this comprehensive study (available on the AW NRM website).

The Board is also very pleased to have progressed development of an Agreement with the region's recently established Co-management Boards and Advisory Committees with a view to strengthening and unifying management strategies across AW's Parks and Reserves.

Recently I attended the Indigenous Leader's Roundtable discussions in Broome which reinforced to me the need to seek every opportunity for Aboriginal people to gain economic independence. NRM can play a major role in supporting this and we will continue to pursue environmental outcomes with this strongly in focus.

Parry Agius
Presiding Member

Alinytjara Wilurara Natural
Resources Management Board

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Sue Haseldine with her granddaughter and local volunteers on Mt Finke



DEWNR Executives

Written by: Bruce Macpherson Photos by Matt Ward

See the land through the eyes of Traditional Owners

In the first week of June, Native Title holders from the Mirning, Wirangu and Kokotha Aboriginal peoples and the Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara (NR AW) Management team, hosted a visit to the southern half of the AW NRM Region, by Executive staff from DEWNR, Dept of Premier and Cabinet, and the Federal Dept of Environment.

The group travelled in convoy from Ceduna to the Inla Rockhole site, located within the Yumbarra Conservation Park, where they were met by Wanda Miller, Sue Haseldine and West Mallee Protection Group members who are implementing a management plan for the area through the Australian Government *Green Army* programme. Sue explained the cultural significance

of the rockholes and the workers expressed how important it was for them to be paid to work on sites which are an integral part of their heritage.

“This trip meant a lot to everyone involved. It provided an opportunity for high-level government decision makers to gain an on-the-ground perspective of the NRM challenges faced by the people of the region” said Matt Ward, NR AW Regional Manager.

From Inla, the convoy travelled to the historic Gilgerabbie Hut, where the group set up their tents and swags, before enjoying a sunset meal prepared by NR AW and NR Eyre Peninsula staff.

The next morning the convoy travelled to the Head of Bight viewing area, where

Standing L-R: Tim Moore (AW), Bruce Macpherson (AW), Jim Barker (Dept of Environment), Michelle Griffiths (DEWNR Director), Tim Goodes (DEWNR, Group Executive Director), Tammy Cox (NR EP), Michael Garrod (DEWNR Director), Samantha Doudle (AW), Yasmin Wolf (AW), Dirk Holmann (Manager, GAB Marine Park), Ben Bruce (DEWNR Group Executive Director), Dorcas Miller (Nullarbor Advisory Committee), Jamal LeBois (NR EP), Robbie Sleep (NR EP)

Kneeling L-R: Ingrid Haythorpe (Deputy Chief Executive, DPC), John Schutz (DEWNR Group Executive Director), Clem Lawrie (Nullarbor Advisory Committee), Sandy Pitcher (DEWNR Chief Executive)

Dirk Holmann, Manager Great Australian Bight Marine Park, talked about the Marine Park and its management. They then travelled down to Twin Rocks within the Yalata IPA where Coast and Marine Officer, Yasmin Wolf talked about her work and the how Yalata Community’s collaboration and support was key to achieving coastal NRM outcomes.

The group then drove to Yalata, where the Yalata Festival was in full swing. There they spent several hours talking around a fire with AW NRM Board members Mima Smart, Debbie Hansen and Brian Queama, and others about the community, the community’s relationship with DEWNR, co-management and other issues. Following lunch, courtesy of the women of Scotdesco, the group returned to Ceduna, in time for the flight back to Adelaide.



Yasmin Wolf at Twin Rocks



Wanda Miller, Sue Haseldine and West Mallee Protection Group members talk to the visitors

Managing the Far West Coast Parks and Reserves **TOGETHER**

Two new co-management arrangements have been established for national parks of the Far West Coast. Traditional Owners of the Far West Coast region and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) will now manage the care these fragile and unique environments in consultation with each other. This follows more than twelve years striving for Native Title recognition by members of the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation.

The Minister for Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Minister Hunter (MLC) said “the establishment of these Co-management Boards will mean that strong, well informed decisions related to management of the particular regions will be arrived at by combining local knowledge, culture and priorities with broader scientific knowledge and resources”.

There are a growing list of co-managed Parks across the State with twelve South Australian Parks and Reserves now being managed jointly by Traditional Owners and DEWNR through Co-management Agreements.

With members nominated in equal number by the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and the Minister for Environment, Water and Natural Resources, the Yumbarra Co-management Board and Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee held their first meeting in Ceduna in late February.

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee will oversee the

operations and management of the Nullarbor Wilderness Protected Area and Nullarbor National Park.

“I’m really happy to be part of protecting and taking care of the land and the culture of the Far West Coast parks. This is good for future generations of all Australians” said Clem Lawrie, Deputy Chair of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee.

Yumbarra Conservation Park will be managed by the Yumbarra Co-management Board, which will also have an advisory role over numerous parks on the Far West Coast including those close to Ceduna.

At the meeting, members of the two co-management bodies spent time discussing the way that the land has been managed up until now, and the development of a joint approach to planning and working on Park. Both groups agreed that the time has come

to work together to look after country for a prosperous future for Traditional Owners and the whole community. Yumbarra Co-management Board member Wanda Miller, said...

“the land is important to the whole community, so it’s good that we can work together to make sure we all enjoy it and keep it healthy. There were a good group of people at our first meeting, people who could work together as a team.”

Both groups also agreed that it is important to keep the community informed and consulted about decisions and activities occurring in the area, and that a communications plan will be an early consideration. Members of the public are encouraged to discuss any concerns, ideas or queries with the representatives of these groups.

Yumbarra Co-management Board and Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee members inaugural meeting



“The Co-management Boards are the foundation formed by the hard work of the people before us. The dream has never changed. The people who laid the foundation opened the door and now we can follow...”

Leonard Miller Senior, Far West Coast Co-management Start-up Day

Samantha Doudle, Manager, Co-management and Public Lands, NR AW 0439 447 921 / samantha.doudle@sa.gov.au



AW NRM Board joins with the region's Co-management Boards and Advisory Committees

On Wednesday 22 April, 2015 members of the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management (AW NRM) Board met in Ceduna with Aboriginal representatives from the NR AW region's Co-management Boards and Advisory Committees. This gathering was a state-wide first with the all-Aboriginal AW NRM Board seeking to establish a formal Agreement with the Co-management Boards of Mamungari, Yumbarra and Conservation Parks and the Nullarbor and Tallaringa Advisory Committees.

"This meeting signified the first step in creating a powerful alliance that will serve to make our country and our people stronger through sharing knowledge and resources and having a united front on important NRM issues" said the AW NRM Board's Presiding Member, Parry Agius.

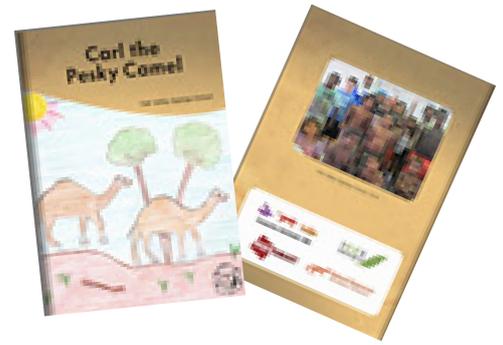
A resounding message from the group was the need for mutual respect and trust between Traditional Owners and government bodies. They emphasised the importance of Aboriginal people

being recognised as the original custodians of the land, the first conservationists and that protecting the environment is an integral part of their culture.

"We need the Government to understand what Aboriginal people want and how to work with us. We're doing our best to understand what we need to do to make our voices heard – to be effective in the way we work so that we can have good outcomes for our people, and our land" said Dorcas



Carl the Pesky Camel has been released



Last November students from Oak Valley School wrote and illustrated their own book on camels and the problems they present to their Community and the land. The creation of *Carl the Pesky Camel* was supported through the “Feral Animals” Enviro-Stories Program, Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre. Oak Valley School worked with local community members and Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara to develop the content for the book.

“This wonderful little book has now been published and is a great credit to the kids and the Oak Valley Community. The captivating illustrations give a unique insight into the significant damage that feral camels cause from the perspective of the people who experience it first-hand in their Community” said Jessica Marsh from the Invasive Animals CRC.

To celebrate publication of *Carl the Pesky Camel*, more than 30 people gathered with the students from

the school on 11 May at the Oak Valley Arts Centre where certificates were presented to the students and everyone who attended received a copy of *Carl the Pesky Camel* along with other small gifts related to Feral Animal management. The children all read the book together at school the next day.

“The kids loved finding the pictures that they had drawn and were thrilled to see a picture of themselves on the back cover, it’s really proven to be a great tool for learning about pest animals and for telling others about our community” said the School Principle Ineke Gilbert.

Copies will also be distributed to other Communities including Tjuntjuntjara (WA), Yalata and schools in the APY Lands.

The i-book can be viewed at: www.envirostories.com.au

Miller from the Nullarbor Advisory Committee.

“Our shared vision is of strong, healthy land and people, a place where our young people know and respect their culture, including their traditional languages, and are able to make a living caring for their own country. By sharing knowledge, teaching and learning from others, we see a stronger future” she said.

The Boards/Advisory Committees decided on the key strategic factors that would form the basis of their Agreement including the development of policies that are consistent with, and inclusive of, each-others business and NRM objectives.

“Building a future together based on mutual trust and respect will help us meet the challenges of moving toward self-sustaining economies in our communities. As leaders in Communities across our region we represent a powerful channel through which government can work and help us all achieve significant NRM and economic goals. We are ready, and want to be able to influence the important decisions that affect our country” said Clem Lawrie, Deputy Chairperson of the Nullarbor Advisory Committee.

Photographed left:

(l-r) Standing: Parry Agius (AW NRM Board Presiding Member), Matt Ward (NR AW Regional Manager), Leonard Miller Snr. (Yumbarra), Sydney Chamberlain (AW NRM Board), William Newchurch (Yumbarra), Gary Lewis (AW NRM Board), Sue Haseldine (Yumbarra)

Seated: Mima Smart (AW NRM Board), Wanda Miller (Yumbarra), John Mungee (Mamungari), Dorcas Miller (Nullarbor)
Attendees not in photograph: Debbie Hansen (Mamungari), Clem Lawrie (Nullarbor) and Brian Queama (AW NRM Board)

Maureen Williams from the Tallaringa Co-management Board was unable to attend.

Maxine, Lyndon and Simon read through their new copies of *Carl the Pesky Camel* at Oak Valley School





Mt Finke Public Consultation



Mark Hewitson and Brenton Bergmann



Alex Ware, Jacinta, Shelly, Tanyta and Shanea Haseldine

Vital restoration projects on some of the regions most iconic natural areas began taking shape through consultation with, and the help of local communities.

More than 30 people attended the community consultation meeting to discuss and determine access management options at Mt Finke within the Yellabinna Wilderness Protected Area near Ceduna.

The Mt Finke project follows the successful restoration of the Googs Lake area by local volunteers and Ceduna's NRM staff. Over the past three years, track closures, signage installation, campsite and track definition and picnic table installation have considerably improved both ecological and cultural heritage outcomes.

NR AW Community Programs Coordinator, Erin Gibson said that "the consultation night provided the basis for the plans for similar access management work at Mt Finke where increased visitation has caused damage to soil and vegetation. This is mainly because people drive off the main track and also set up campsites at random locations".



Helping Mt Finke to shine

Photography by Paul Gregory

Mount Finke is a small, isolated mountain located approximately 180kms north east of Ceduna, off the well-known Googs track in the remote Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area. Over recent years, more people are visiting the area and unfortunately, a minority of them cause damage to cultural sites, soils and the native vegetation surrounding Mount Finke.

Following a community consultation evening, held at Ceduna's Natural Resources Centre (NRC) in April 2015, restoration works were undertaken in partnership with the local community in mid May 2015. The revegetation and rehabilitation works undertaken around Mount Finke included defining camping areas and closing unnecessary tracks to protect culturally and environmentally sensitive areas.

The success of the Mount Finke Restoration Project was, in the main, due to the sustained positive collaboration between Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara (NR AW), Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula (NR EP), the West Mallee Protection Group (WMPG), Conservation Volunteers Australia and Green Army team and members of the wider community.

Undertakings such as this maintain and develop relationships with community

The group above included members of the West Mallee Protection Group, members of the Conservation Volunteers Australia and Green Army team, local farmers, community members and staff from NR AW and NR EP.

members and encourage meaningful consultation and positive involvement in the natural resource management.

Employment

The Mount Finke Restoration Project provided significant training and employment opportunities for local Aboriginal people. Members of the West Mallee Protection Group and Conservation Volunteers Australia's Green Army team made up the bulk

Keith Saunders, Eddie Fuschtei and Ashley Binell (kneeling)



of the workforce on site, with 11 local Aboriginal people gaining paid employment and training over the seven day period.

Community Engagement

With community consultation increasing community awareness about the cultural and ecological values of Mount Finke, the response to the need for access management work was very positive. Four people from the Friends of the Great Victoria Desert and two local retired farmers from Ceduna volunteered their time to contribute to the on-site work with volunteers coming from as far as Murray Bridge to assist.

On-ground works

Following the community consultation, a week long field trip and camp was undertaken with Erin Gibson, NR AW Community Programs Coordinator and Paul Gregory, NR AW Project Officer, joined by 19 people from the WMPG, the Green Army and volunteers.

Four tracks were closed and disguised around Mount Finke during the week. Another track that had been re-opened by vehicles driving around the bollards was blocked by creating a low rock wall. A total of 2km of track was closed, and as a result, an area of approximately 1000ha around Mt Finke is protected from further damage.

Green Army team installing 'Camping Area' signage at campsites
L-R Keith Saunders, Ashley Binell, Eddie Fuschtei, Dennis Hocking, Wayne Haseldine



Mount Finke Restoration Project sign

In summary, the group managed to:

- define numerous campsites using post and chain fencing or natural materials (rocks)
- install picnic tables
- install 'Camping Area' and 'Mt Finke Restoration Project' signs as well as directional signage
- collect 15kg of rubbish (mainly broken glass)
- close numerous tracks using natural materials (rock) and campsite fencing.

An outstanding effort particularly considering the remoteness of the location and lack of facilities.

Real NRM Achievements

- Increased protection of culturally sensitive sites from vehicle damage on Mount Finke and at numerous specific sites around the perimeter.
- Protection of native vegetation from damage by vehicles in a region where regeneration is already very slow.
- Reduction of erosion and soil compaction from vehicles.
- Increased protection of aesthetic values.
- Enhanced visitor experience by the installation of picnic tables, defined campsites, and signage.

Volunteers – Bob Skinner and Brian Doughty





Australian Government's

First remote Indigenous Green Army

The Department of Environment recently announced their first remote Indigenous Green Army Project, in partnership with Traditional Owners, the South Australian Government, Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board, Conservation Volunteers Australia and the West Mallee Protection Group.

The project, *Protecting the Inla Rock-Waters Cultural and Habitat Values*, will build on environmental work which NR AW have been carrying out in this region in partnership with the Traditional Owners for some time.

Federal Minister for the Environment Greg Hunt says "the Green Army project will employ 5 Aboriginal people in the Far West of South Australia to carry out cultural conservation work in a series of remote locations to the north of Ceduna in the Yellabinna and Yumberra Conservation Parks." The Aboriginal workers involved will be guaranteed 6 month's work and trained to Certificate 2 or 3 level in Conservation and Land Management.

Ms Sue Haseldine, head of the West Mallee Protection Group and a Traditional Owner of the Region, said "I am thrilled that after years of volunteering and casual work, we have the opportunity to help give some of our young people real employment and certified training through the Green Army project. This will be a real confidence boost for them."



Sue Haseldine, working as a volunteer on the 2014 Googs Lake Restoration project

South Australian Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister Hunter (MLC) indicated that "the South Australian Government is pleased to partner with the Australian Government in order to integrate programs such as Green Army and our co-management approach for the benefit of our remote Aboriginal communities."

Mr Parry Agius, Presiding Member of the Board, said "The Green Army project will build on the skills and training database that the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board has developed for the region. The Board is committed to providing long

term career opportunities in connecting and looking after country and contributing to the local economy".

The Green Army project commenced in April and will deliver a range of natural resources management outcomes including management of camels, removal of weeds and track rationalisation work required to improve the tourist visitor experience to the parks.

Contact: Bruce Macpherson, Community Engagement Manager, Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara



Government of South Australia



attended by AW NRM Board's Presiding Member

Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board's Presiding Member Parry Agius, travelled to Broome to attend the Indigenous Leader's Roundtable on economic development and property rights in May 2015.

Parry's commitment to pursuing economic development opportunities within the AW NRM Region has, and remains, one of his key priorities.

The roundtable, convened by the Australian Human Rights Commission on the land of the Yawuru people was held at the Nulungu Research Institute at the Notre Dame University.

The purpose of the roundtable was to identify options for addressing the challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in creating economic development opportunities.



"Listening to people who are dealing with similar issues to those affecting the AW region highlighted to me how well our Board is going, particularly in terms of governance and planning and how effectively these have translated into on-ground outcomes" Parry said.

In light of current conversations about closure of communities in WA, some participants at the roundtable expressed concern at the limited effective processes for recognising and protecting Indigenous peoples' rights to land and resources. Concern was also expressed about the lack of engagement by governments with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on issues that affect them.

Moving forward

Five sets of issues to better enable economic development within the Indigenous estate were identified as:

1. Fungibility and native title – enabling communities to build on their underlying communal title to create opportunities for economic development.
2. Business development support and succession planning – ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres

AW NRM Board's Presiding Member Parry Agius, in Broome attending the Indigenous Leader's Roundtable on economic development

Strait Islander peoples have the governance and risk management skills and capacity to successfully engage in business and manage their estates.

3. Financing economic development within the Indigenous estate – developing financial products, such as bonds, to underwrite economic development through engaging the financial services sector and organisations including the ILC and IBA.
4. Compensation – rectifying the existing unfair processes for compensation for extinguishment of native title and considering how addressing unfinished business could leverage economic development opportunities.
5. Promoting Indigenous peoples right to development – promoting opportunities for development on Indigenous land including identifying options to provide greater access to resources on the Indigenous estate.

Participants recognised the role of existing mechanisms in advancing the issues discussed including:

- the COAG Expert Indigenous Working Group investigation into Indigenous land use and administration
- constitutional recognition process.

Participants expressed determination to continue to work together to advance these issues.

Mick Gooda, Australian Human Rights Commission's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner speaking at the Roundtable. Patrick Dodson in background.





Mirning Traditional Owners advise on Nullarbor NRM work

Dorcas Miller and Clem Lawrie at old Nullarbor Homestead

Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara’s (NR AW) focus on healthy country planning for the Nullarbor region is informed by the Traditional Owners of the region, the Mirning people.

Funded through the Australian Government’s coastal competitive fund, staff from the Natural Resources Centre in Ceduna worked with Mirning Cultural Advisors in April this year to review tracks, upgrade signage and assess maintenance priorities along the Nullarbor Plain in SA’s Far West.

Mirning Cultural Advice

The Mirning Advisors requested that signs be placed south of Border Village in language as well as English, pointing out that it is important to respect the area and its cultural heritage. This signage would instruct visitors not to move rocks around and to stay off revegetated and closed areas. They also suggested that the creation of defined parking areas would reduce damage to the area.

A number of tracks were identified as needing to be closed or altered in the Wilsons Bluff area, as well as the need

to better protect rockholes and old flint working areas.

It was agreed that any plans for track closures would be shown to the Mirning Advisors prior to commencing work.

Assessment and Maintenance

NR AW’s Coast and Marine Officer Yasmin Wolf coordinated track mapping along a 200km section of the Nullarbor Plain to identify and classify sites of high risk, map cultural access roads

Clem Lawrie, cleaning out a coastal rockhole



and determine surplus tracks. The area assessed extended south of (and included) the new Eyre Highway to the coast and between the Yalata boundary and the WA/SA border. In this zone, 560 km of tracks were identified within the 200 km section with a number of tracks leading to the same destination. These surplus tracks will be rationalised with community consultation in the future to determine where closures should occur.

While the mapping contractor worked, the Mirning Traditional Owners, Clem Lawrie, Dorcas Miller and Verna Lawrie advised NR AW’s Project Officer Nathan Williams about areas of cultural importance. This was vital to ensuring that significant Aboriginal heritage areas remain and that visitors to the area do not unknowingly cause damage.

Community Consultation and Involvement

The information collected during the mapping stage will later inform community consultation sessions to ensure that the traditional owners are able to influence decision making.



High risk areas, cliffs undercut



Road to cliff edge, no signage



Rope cut on cliff barrier fencing



Verna Lawrie and Dorcas Miller

Sensitive cultural information captured will not be included on consultation maps. Tailored maps will be created for consultation to ensure that culturally sensitive information is kept from being inappropriately viewed.

Appropriate signage and community involvement in decision making processes will ensure that we can make well informed decisions for greater protection of this unique and fragile environment.

Managing Risks

During the course of the mapping, many previous track closures in the area were found to have been reopened or had new tracks alongside them.

Visitors will continue to come to this region so, taking this into account the challenge is to offer the best possible outcomes for the environment and preservation of cultural heritage by putting in appropriate and safe access.

One of the greatest concerns is that tourists, particularly those not used to distance driving may easily misjudge driving around the cliff edges. There was clear evidence of vehicles pushing through tracks alongside and extremely close to the cliff and of campsites set up right at the lip of the cliff. One cliff track had collapsed into the ocean without any warning signage.

A risk assessment was undertaken at each site along the Nullarbor cliff edge to determine if there was a risk of drive off and/or potential track collapse. The tracks were classified into high, medium and low categories with 55 risk sites identified along the 200km section. Additional hazards identified during the mapping included roll over risks down escarpments and track washouts. To ensure that the risk classification was appropriate with DEWNR and National Park risk management processes this was followed up 2 weeks later by Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula (NR EP) Regional Services Officer Anthony

Kennedy and Graduate Ranger Aislinn O'Neill. Anthony and Aislinn spent a week on the Nullarbor Plain evaluating the risks and determining a course of action for each site to ensure that the risks to the general public, researchers and visitors is managed and mitigated. These assessments have been vital for the project and will form the basis of all works to be undertaken in the first stage of the project.

Future works

The project will be divided into 3 stages with risk management prioritised in the first stage to ensure that visitor safety is significantly improved.

The second stage will be the closure of access to significant cultural areas with the last stage focussing on closure of surplus tracks.

It appeared that most of the tracks that had been created along the Nullarbor Plain within the 200km zone, were due to visitors seeking camping and parking areas. Some of the tracks snaked inland as visitors to the area go off road in search of an appropriate place to camp for the night.

Further discussions with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure may be required around rationalisation of camping and parking areas along the Nullarbor Plain to reduce the impact and damage that visitors are causing to this unique area.

Clem Lawrie at the Western Australian, South Australian border





Warru *return to country*



Warru Ranger Sherada Stanley releases warru into the main enclosure

April update and photos courtesy of Anna Miller, Monarto Zoo

Warru, or black-footed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis* Macdonell Ranges race), is one of South Australia’s most endangered mammals. Once common across the rocky ranges of central Australia, there has been a dramatic reduction in their distribution and abundance. Only two wild populations of warru are currently known in South Australia. These are in the eastern Musgrave Ranges and the Tomkinson Ranges of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in north-western South Australia.

On 18 April 2015 six warru from Monarto zoo were translocated in a light aircraft from Murray Bridge to Pukatja Airstrip, in the APY Lands.

Warru Rangers and minyma (senior Anangu women) from Kalka/Pipalyatjara and Pukatja were at the landing strip to greet the new arrivals. The warru were then transported by vehicle to their new home at Donald’s Well, safe from predators within the warru *pintji* (fence).

At sunset the warru were released into the enclosure by Warru Rangers, under the watchful eye of minyma tjuta, two Monarto Zookeepers, Warru Project coordinators and other Land Management staff.

Looking healthy and alert the warru emerged into their new home, back on their native lands, but safe from predation within the vast enclosure.

Three warru were released into the medicine pen, and three into the main enclosure. All the new warru were tracked to *koolpi* (caves) close to their release sites on the following days where they spent time adjusting to their new environment.

Sadly, nine days after their release the collar of one of the females called *Tjintir Tjintir*, put out a mortality signal.

Her body was retrieved by rangers and sent to a vet in Alice Springs to try and establish why she died. Although no particular cause was found, an old hip injury was noted that may have contributed to her inability to survive.

Eleven days after the release, the gate between the medicine pen and the main enclosure was opened. Rangers monitored activity closely and found tracks through the gate four days after it was opened, but at this stage, the three translocated Monarto warru still choose to remain in the medicine pen.

Rangers continued to monitor the warru on a daily basis for two more weeks, and then dropped back to twice weekly radio tracking.



Warru Ranger Jacob McKenzie



Warru Rangers taking the warru from the plane

Minyma from Kalka/Pipalyatjara and Pukatja waiting at Pukatja Airstrip, APY Lands for the warru to arrive.



What is the warru recovery program?

In 2007, the very real concern that warru could become extinct in South Australia led to the formation of the Warru Recovery Team. This team is a partnership between:

- traditional owners of the APY Lands
- the communities of Kalka, Pipalyatjara, Pukatja and Kenmore Park on the APY Lands
- the Australian Government
- the South Australian Government (Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara)
- APY Land Management
- Ecological Horizons Pty Ltd
- Conservation Ark (Zoos SA)
- University of Adelaide.

Since then the Warru Recovery Team has implemented a range of recovery actions that bring together contemporary science, practical on-ground threat management and traditional Anangu ecological knowledge.

The Warru Recovery Team is focussed on five main areas of work in order to recover populations of warru:

- managing existing warru populations
- establishing a captive warru population in order to facilitate eventual reintroductions
- research into the ecology of warru
- ongoing governance of the program through the Warru Recovery Team
- monitoring warru populations.

The crew who helped prepare for, and celebrate, the arrival of the six warru from Monarto



NR AW has a long association with this program playing a key role in establishing the Warru program in 2007 and is proud to be a financial supporter of the recent highly successful translocation of warru in the APY lands.

Support for this financial year extended to:

- Operational costs to cover the trapping program aimed at investigating density and health of the captive warru population located in the Warru pintji
- Translocation of warru from Monarto Zoo in Adelaide included funds for plane hire and radio collars to enable tracking of translocated warru
- NR AW staff participation as members of the Warru Recovery Team.

Some cost savings made in the above program also enabled NR AW to support the Warru Ranger Team to undertake the following activities in addition to the trapping and translocation program:

- Manage Buffel Grass infestations along all main tracks around the New Well and Donald's Well populations in the east; and Maku Valley and Hinkley populations in the west
- Attend the 2015 Buffel Grass Management Conference in Port Augusta. Buffel grass management is a significant factor in the conservation of warru on the APY Lands as it threatens their habitat and food sources. Attendance assisted rangers in gaining up-to-date information and techniques regarding its control.

Iluka Mine



Environmental Impact discussions

Iluka processing plant

In May 2015, Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara's Sustainable Resources Officer, Daniel Bailey visited SA's Iluka Mine in conjunction with representatives from DEWNR's Conservation and Land Management team and the Department of State Development (DSD).

The Iluka Jacinth Ambrosia mineral sands mine is located in the remote far west of SA within Yellabinna Regional Reserve.

The group toured the plant and mine further building constructive relationships between the departments and Iluka personnel. Assessments and suggestions were made to ensure that exploration and natural resource management is undertaken in line with legislative requirements.

After viewing the mine in operation including the processes used to extract minerals from the mined sand, the group discussed how exploration and mining processes have improved, particularly with regard to minimising impacts on flora, fauna and in showing greater regard for cultural aspects across this remote environment.





Healthy Country Planning

SA's Far West Coast

Written by and photos courtesy of Adam Pennington

Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara and DEWNR's Protected Area Unit are currently supporting the Nullarbor Advisory Committee (NAC), Yumbarra Co-management Board (YCMB) and Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (FWCAC) in developing *Healthy Country Plans* for the parks and reserves within the Far West Coast Native Title Determination Area.

The Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation administers land on behalf of the Far West Coast Native Title Claim Group, this includes Mirning, Wirangu and Kokatha peoples.

The YCMB and NAC members were appointed in early 2015. On 24 February 2015 their members met up with representatives from the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation to consider the use of *Healthy*

Stuart Cowell (facilitator) presenting examples of Healthy Country Plan development processes used by other Indigenous communities to FWC HCP Working Group

Country Planning to develop plans for management of the Far West Coast parks and reserves.

Stuart Cowell from Conservation Management presented the group with the principles and processes involved in *Healthy Country Planning*, along with examples of how the methodology has worked in other communities. After all questions had

been answered and at the completion of the day, the use of *Healthy Country Planning* to develop management plans for the Far West Coast Parks was unanimously endorsed.

The need to develop management plans for the Far West Coast Native Title Area parks was part of the native title determination and is also a requirement of the Co-management Agreements.

Map of FWC area indicating planning areas covered by Nullarbor Advisory Committee (Purple hatching) and Yumbarra Co-management Board (green hatching).



Below: Break-out group exploring pre-planning and scoping questions to inform development of Healthy Country Plans for the Yumbarra and Yellabinna parks and reserves within the Yumbarra Co-management Board's area of responsibility.

L-R: William Newchurch, Wanda Miller, Stuart Cowell (standing), Adam Pennington (seated), Mark Anderson, John Mungee, Georgina Stockfish, Sue Haseldine, Bruce Macpherson.





The Nullarbor Advisory Committee and Yumbarra Co-management Board have a lead role in the development of these plans. The Co-management Agreements outline three park management plans; Nullarbor Parks, Yellabinna Reserves and “Other” Parks (predominantly parks along the coast within the Far West Coast Native Title Area; refer to map opposite).

During the first planning meeting in February 2015, a ‘planning to plan’ exercise was undertaken with fourteen members from NAC, YCMB and FWCAC, with three planning support staff and one facilitator. The purpose of this session was to break up into different groups – one for each group of parks – and set out some parameters for planning for each group of parks to be undertaken together. The session considered things like, who would lead the planning effort, what will be produced and the scale and scope of the work. This helped establish the parameters for planning the agreed work.

Following this planning process design workshop, 10 members of YCMB, NAC and FWCAC came together in early May to finalise some of the ‘pre-planning’ and confirmed the planning process. This included finalising who would be in the working group, who else should be involved and how they would work together.

A situation analysis of stakeholders was undertaken to work through who the group saw as potential stakeholders and then prioritise which of them

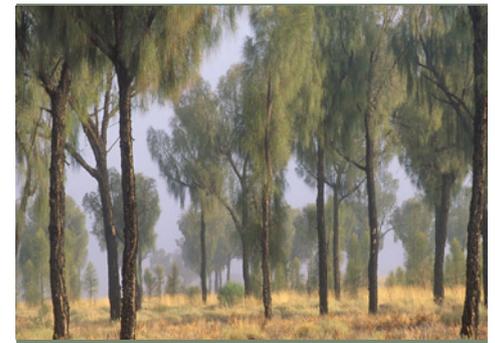
really needed to be involved. The group also worked through logistics and participants for the first round of on-country planning workshops.

It was agreed that, there would be four on-country planning workshops (two for each co-management body) and five working group meetings where NAC and YCMB will come together with NR AW and Protected Area Unit staff to go through material generated during on-country workshops, drive the planning process and view draft versions of the plans.

The next step in this process is to conduct on-country planning workshops for each group of parks. Topics for discussion will include scope, vision, targets and threats.

These are planned for mid-August and will be held at Scotdesco for Yellabinna Reserves and “Other” parks, and Koonalda Homestead for Nullarbor Parks.

Meeting Facilitator Stuart Cowell talks to the group about the development of management plans for the parks in the Far West Coast Native Title Area



Healthy Country Planning is...

Healthy Country Planning (HCP) is an adaptation of the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (Open Standards) being used and adopted by Aboriginal land management teams across Australia.

HCP is consistent with the Open Standards, but with language and some of the facilitation approaches and tools tailored to community needs, focusing on participation and engagement and the inclusion of community and traditional knowledge and priorities. HCP follows five main steps, each with a number of sub-steps:

1. Deciding what the plan is about: Clarifying what the plan will focus on, including vision, scope, targets (assets), threats, and stakeholders
2. Making the Plan: Developing strategies, actions and monitoring plans
3. Doing and monitoring the work: Putting into practice planned actions
4. Deciding if the plan is working: Reviewing progress and making changes if needed
5. Telling ourselves and others: Communicating our progress



Healthy Country Planning

Tallaringa Conservation Park

Written by and photos courtesy of Adam Pennington

During the week 18-22 May, the first *Healthy Country Planning* (HCP) workshop for management of Tallaringa Conservation Park was held at Umoona Community in Coober Pedy.

The development of a Tallaringa HCP is underway through the collaborative efforts of members of Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation, NR AW staff, Conservation Management and the Tallaringa Advisory Committee.

Tallaringa Conservation Park (Tallaringa), proclaimed in 1991, is located approximately 90 km west of Coober Pedy in the central East of the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Region, on the eastern margin of the Great Victoria Desert. Tallaringa covers approximately 12,000 km² and is bound by the Dog Fence on its Eastern and Southern boundaries.

A productive group came together for three days to work through the first steps in the Healthy Country Planning Process:

- Vision (what does success look like)
- Targets (important things we want to look after)
- Indicators (things we check to gauge health of targets)
- Threats (things that challenge the health of targets)

The first two days were dedicated to brainstorming the above topics. Day two involved a day trip to Tallaringa via Mabel Creek Station (AMYAC Nominees) to view first-hand the values of Tallaringa and discuss some of the threats identified during the first two days brainstorming.

The same group returned on the third planning day to refine the vision, check targets, prioritise indicators and rank threats. Threats were also ranked according to scope, severity and irreversibility in order to prioritise on-ground actions. It was decided that this group would form the Tallaringa HCP Planning Team. The role of the Planning Team from here-on is to oversee and guide the planning process to make sure it stays on the right track.

Tallaringa HCP Planning Team (L-R): Adam Pennington, Samantha Hayes, Julie O'Toole, Chevahn Hoad, Andrew Dingaman, Joseph Lennon Jnr, Joel Kowald, Josh Dingaman, Ian Crombie, Pauline Williams, Janet Walton, Maureen Williams
Absent: Stuart Cowell

Development of Tallaringa Conservation Parks' HCP is an important step towards fulfilling the AW NRM Board's vision of 'One Story, One Plan'. This HCP project is funded through the Australian Government's *Culture and Conservation: implementing landscape ecosystem management in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Region* program.

L-R: Julie O'Toole, Samantha Hayes, Pauline Williams, Janet Walton, Chevahn Hoad and Maureen Williams discussing values within Tallaringa Conservation Park after lunch





Ian Crombie (L) and Josh Dingaman discussing values within Tallaringa Conservation Park after lunch.

Targets identified by the group were:

- Bush Tucker – plants used as a source of food
- Bush Medicine – plants used as a source of medicine
- Important Plants – plants that are important to the ecology of Tallaringa but are not bush tucker or bush medicine e.g. *Apara* (River Red gum)
- Stories and Culture – old people telling young people stories and maintaining connection to country
- *Kapi* (water) – rockholes, soaks, creeks and other water sources
- *Kuka* (game meat) – animals hunted for meat e.g. *Malu* (Red Kangaroo), *Kalaya* (Emu)
- Private Business – places and stories of cultural significance that cannot be spoken about openly.

L-R: Adam Pennington, Joel Kowlad, Janet Walton, Chevaun Hoad, Sam Doudle, Pauline Williams, Samantha Hayes.



Following the threat ranking process, 23 threats were identified as challenging the health of targets. Of these threats, Buffel Grass was ranked the highest, followed by drought, camels and donkeys and not sharing knowledge. The high ranking of Buffel Grass is indicative of the highly invasive nature of the species (and its varieties) as well as the recognition of the major threat it poses to all values within and adjacent Tallaringa.

Importantly, the Planning Team was able to visit a known Buffel Grass site located by a Traditional Owner (and Planning Team member) during a recent cultural heritage clearance, to view the current status of the species within Tallaringa. During the field trip two new Buffel Grass locations were also discovered and recorded.

NR AW's Samantha Doudle leading discussion on the threat of Buffel Grass and how to manage it. Buffel Grass is known from a number of small, manageable populations along one track running SE-NW within Tallaringa



Tallaringa HCP Planning Team prioritising indicators of target health.

There are currently quite small, manageable populations of Buffel Grass within Tallaringa that, with some early intervention, could be eradicated relatively quickly and easily.

The Planning Team also visited Mabel Creek Station Wool shed. Despite no use for a number of years the Shearer's Quarters are still in good condition, as are the shearing shed and diesel generator. Members of AMYAC aim to secure funds to renovate the site and its facilities with the view to it acting as a Ranger Station. From there Rangers can undertake land management and cultural heritage activities within and adjacent Tallaringa, monitor visitors to Tallaringa and check permits of users of the Anne Beadell Highway.

The Planning Team meeting was held at the end of June in Umoona Community. Topics discussed included reviewing material from the first workshop and adjusting if required, identification of strategies to mitigate threats, and setting goals and objectives to enable progress to be monitored.



Putting training to good use

Controlling Athel Pine and Cactus

The Australian Government's Biofund Central Corridors funding was put to good use last May when Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara's Sustainable Resources Coordinator Dan Bailey along with Leah Feureherdt (Rural solutions SA) ran Weed Management workshops with Pukatja and Indulkana Skillhire teams. The chemical and chainsaw handling and safe practice training included practical control of Athel Pine and Opuntia Cactus infestations from Kenmore Park through to Mintabie.

To help train and guide local Anangu in chemical and chainsaw safe practices the participants made a training DVD in Pitjantjatjara on practical application. Filmed in English and in language will

provide local trainees with a practical guide for them to refer back to when eliminating problem weeds from culturally significant areas.

Five local Anangu from Pukatja Skillhire, including Landcare Officer Walter Tjami worked alongside trainers for two days on Athel Pine control at Kenmore South. Upskilling the workers by providing step by step practical training while helping control Athel pine infestation proved very successful.

The Indulkana Skillhire team, joined by Danielle Shallow from APY Land Management on the first day, focused mainly on control of Cacti (Opuntia), a weed of national significance, while training in the Safe Use and Handling of

Standing: L-R Leah Feureherdt, Jarrod vanHoren, Dan Bailey, Duncan O'Toole, Vernell Uluru, Walter Tjami
Kneeling: Jacob Taylor



Dave Blewett filming chemical safety in language



Walter Tjami sharpening the chainsaw blades



Athel pine's immature branches removed, ready to be cut and poisoned

Chemicals and looking at the different methods for applying poison.

On the second day Alec Baker, a well-known Traditional Owner Elder joined the group. He said that he was happy for the team to get rid of a 60 year old Athel pine growing on his homeland.

This presented a good opportunity to demonstrate safe chainsaw use and the looping techniques used on big trees. Different application techniques for the safe application of chemicals were also practiced.

With further supervision and help from the new DVD recording, Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara hope to support and up-skill Anangu groups further. Controlling weeds around the APY lands, helps to preserve cultural heritage and the land for future generations to enjoy.

Written by and photos courtesy of Dan Bailey



Welcome to the World little Sebastian

Congratulations to Aude Loisier and her partner Julian on the arrival of their beautiful son. Aude, who began working with AW back in 2010 as the Coast and Marine Officer, will be returning parttime in August to take up her current role as Performance and Innovation Officer. We're all looking forward to seeing her soon...



Standing (L-R) Aaron Glossop (DPTI), Dan Bailey (NR AW) Karl Dowling (DPTI), Nyunmiti Burton (teacher from APY Lands), Kate Holmes APY Lands Management), and Paul Gregory (NR AW). Seated (L-R) Adam Pennington (NR AW) and Braydon Ames (DPTI)

AW staff attend Pitjantjatjara Language Summer School

Amongst the 50 students attending this year's Pitjantjatjara Language Summer School, were three NR AW team members who were keen to gain a better understanding of the language and culture of the people they work with. Indigenous tutor Nyunmiti Burton travelled from the APY Lands to teach the course at Magill campus as a part of her formal studies towards becoming an Indigenous language teacher.



Congratulations Keisha

Congratulations Keisha, on being recognised as an Aboriginal Trainee of the Year Award Finalist in the 2015 Jobs4Youth Awards held 29 May at Tandanya, National Aboriginal Cultural Institute.

Now in its second year Jobs4Youth aims to employ 200 young South Australians people each year over four years to support young people in getting a start in the public sector. Successful trainees graduate from the program with a nationally accredited qualification.

"As her first paid employment, Keisha quickly proved herself to be a capable and well liked member of the Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara (NR AW) team. Over the past year she not only learnt about the many facets of undertaking an Administration role but also about what it is like to have a supportive and fun team behind her" said Thuy Phan, NR AW's Regional and Business Partnerships Manager.

"Joining Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara's team first up was an amazing experience. They work with Anangu from the West Coast and APY Lands so, as an Adnyamathanha woman, it was great to get some understanding about Aboriginal people from a different region" said Keisha.

After spending her first year with NR AW and successfully completing a Certificate III in Government, Keisha is continuing to further her skills with DEWNR's River Murray Operations and Major Projects' team.



Where is our Whale??

The spectacular 4 metre long Southern Right Whale sculpture created in Ceduna by Aboriginal artists through the Marine Debris Sculpture project, is currently on Exhibit at Sydney's Toronga Zoo where it will feature in their NAIDOC week (July) exhibition.

Discussions are currently underway with the biggest dealer of Australian indigenous art in Paris about purchasing the whale.

We'll keep you posted....



A great day for Coober Pedy's Opal Festival

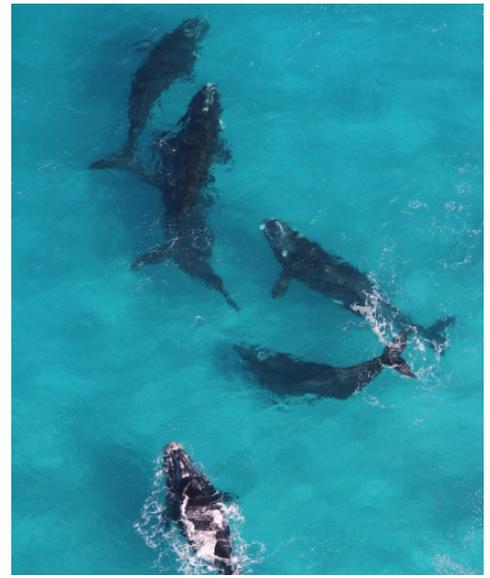
This year's Coober Pedy Opal Festival, held in April, was well attended by locals and visitors from across the country.

Chevahn Hoad, Executive Officer for the Breakaways Co-management Board and Tallaringa Advisory Committee manned the District Council tent where information was available about natural resource management undertaken across the region.

"The weather was perfect and many visitors showed an interest in what is happening in NRM" she said.



Written by and photos courtesy of Dirk Holmann



Adult southern right whales photographed during the aerial monitoring project

The Great Australian Bight Marine Park which incorporates the Far West Coast Marine Park, is jointly managed by the Australian and State Governments.

The overarching goals of the park are to protect conservation values while allowing ecologically sustainable uses and contribute to regional and national development.

The Great Australian Bight (GAB) contains the longest ice-free east-west running coastline in the world. It's topography and bathymetry fosters the world's only northern boundary current system, called the Flinders Current. From November to May, this current, combined with local prevailing winds, drives a coastal upwelling system in the eastern GAB which brings cold, nutrient rich waters to the surface from as deep as 250 meters. These highly productive waters support a rich biomass of small pelagic fish such as sardines, anchovy, mackerel and redbait. These rich fish assemblages in turn support a rich and diverse range of marine predators including seabirds (shearwaters, albatross and little penguins), seals (Australian sea lion, long nosed fur seal, Australian fur seal), whales (pygmy blue whales, pilot whales), predatory fishes (southern bluefin tuna, yellowtail kingfish) and sharks (shortfin mako, white sharks, dusky and bronze whaler sharks). The central and western GAB also supports



Yalata Youth Group community members helping remove marine debris at Twin Rocks



AW NRM officer Yasmin Wolf with a load of marine debris being removed from the beach



the largest aggregation of the south-west population of southern right whales during their breeding cycle.

Ecologically, the GAB MP focuses on monitoring Australian sea lions (ASL) and southern right whales (SRW) which are both listed as vulnerable under the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Act. There are 23 sea lion colonies which have been surveyed on a regular basis since their discovery in 1994. Survey methods are challenging, requiring researchers to look down at colonies from at least 2 vantage points per colony on the cliff top with a telescope or binoculars to count and classify pups present. Measuring pup production in the colonies is a method of assessing the trends of animal abundance and population health. Unfortunately the ASL numbers at the Bunda Cliffs appear to be in significant decline since the first surveys in 1994. Extreme philopatry and a slow reproductive cycle means the populations at these colonies are vulnerable to collapse. Further



Bronze whaler sharks feeding on a school of salmon off the beaches at Yalata



A school of dusky whaler sharks near Fowlers Bay



Southern Right Whale with her white calf

research in the upcoming summer breeding season will add further data to help understand the plight of these animals. In what appears to be a positive development, an opportunistic helicopter survey of the entire length of the Bunda Cliffs uncovered around 50 more potential colonies which to this point are unsurveyed.

Due to the logistical difficulties in cliff-top surveying, in 2013 the GAB MP started a project to conduct aerial surveys of the southern right whale aggregation across the course of the season. Conducted in a Robinson R44 helicopter, these surveys enabled whales to be photographed for individual identification via their callosity patterns, geo-referenced in terms of their position across the habitat range and classified in terms of behaviour and whether they are cows with calves or unaccompanied adults.

A maximum count of 206 individuals was recorded in July 2014 across the habitat ranging from Fowlers Bay to the WA border. While population estimates aren't yet possible until surveys have been completed in each year across the three year breeding cycle, we discovered that the animals seem to be moving in and out of the area more often than previously thought, as 70% of the animals were only sighted once during the surveys and only 3% of individuals being sighted on all three surveys.

The GAB MP works closely with NR AW supporting several of the coastal projects being run in the region. These include a mullock recreational fishing survey and tagging project in conjunction with members of the Yalata community which helps assess the catch per unit effort of the recreational fishery which occurs seasonally at Yalata beaches each year. Other components of this project measure habitat usage and fish movements through tagging as well as growth and age structure of the population via otolith analysis and tissue sampling. AW NRM and GAB MP also support a marine debris survey and beach clean-up at Twin Rocks, Merdeyerrah Sandpatch and Mexican Hat with the Yalata community. This project not only removes rubbish from the beaches but contributes towards outcomes in numeracy and art with Yalata community participants. There is also the annual "whale day" held at the Head of the Bight Whale Watching Centre where research results are presented to the community, and art and craft activities are provided for the women and children.

The GAB MP is situated in a unique part of the world and has a vast array of biological and community assets. Marine parks work aims to better understand these assets, and partnerships with NR AW help to deliver environmental and community outcomes for the region.

Farewell

Dan, Erin and Lynda

It's always sad to see colleagues move on, particularly when their skills contributed so much to successful outcomes across the region.



Daniel Bailey, as AW's Sustainable Resource Coordinator, undertook numerous difficult, but highly effective camel management projects and was a key player in developing strategies around feral animal and invasive plant management.



Erin Gibson worked tirelessly as Community Programs Coordinator in Ceduna where she forged many strong and effective working relationships with community members from Oak Valley and Yalata as well as the broader local community.



Lynda Marshall worked as the Buffel Grass Project Coordinator where she succeeded in monitoring and managing the invasion of Buffel into the pristine regions in the south of the Alinytjara Wilurara Region.

All the best to you and sincere thanks from the AW NRM Board members and the NR AW Team.

Welcome Belinda

Welcome **Belinda Margan**, NR AW's new Executive Assistant Co-management. Based in Ceduna, she began her role, part time (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) in late June.

Having spent many years in Ceduna, Belinda came highly recommended by Ceduna TAFE, where she worked as the Information Services Officer.

Belinda will be kept very busy providing support for the region's Co-management Boards and Advisory Committees. She will be supported by the fabulous crew in Ceduna as well as AW's Adelaide based Admin team.

Parry Agius
Presiding Member



AW NRM Board

Serving the

PEOPLE, COUNTRY, WATER
of the Alinytjara Wilurara Region

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Board Member, APY Lands



Mima Smart
Board Member, Yalata



Gary Lewis
Board Member, APY Lands



Ian Crombie
Board Member, APY Lands



Mick Haynes
Board Member, West Coast



Brian Queama
Board Member, Maralinga Tjarutja



Debbie Hansen
Board Member, Tjuntjuntjara



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