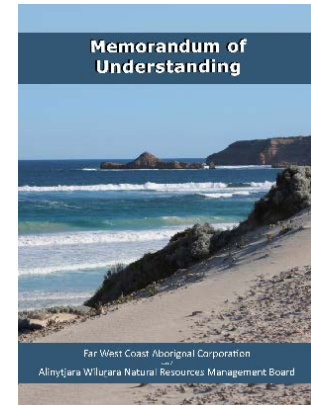


Achievements in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region 2016/17

The Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management (AW NRM) Board works to deliver on a range of outcomes as outlined in our Business Plan 2014 - 2017. The following are some of our 2016/17 achievements.

Board: Building collaborative partnerships

- As part of the Board's approach of relationship building with strategic partners, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in November 2016 with the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation. An Agreement is already in place with Yalata Council, and MoUs are being progressed with the APY Lands Executive and the Maralinga Tjarutja Council. The MoUs will guide development of a range of positive outcomes for the environment and the people in the region.



- A regional first, at the invitation of the AW NRM Board, members of the Eyre Peninsula (EP) NRM Board joined a combined workshop session to discuss how the boards might support each other in planning and undertaking future NRM business and on-ground programs. This collaborative approach supports resource and knowledge sharing.
- In March 2017, the AW NRM Board met in Port Augusta to provide an opportunity for the SA Arid Lands (SAAL) NRM Board members to join them and discuss ways they might work together.
- In June 2017, the AW NRM Board met in Adelaide with the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM Board members and AMLR staff to discuss how the boards might work together. Some issues discussed on the day were Aboriginal education, training, employment, involving young people in NRM and business development in the AW region.

The AW NRM Board's Presiding Member:

- became a member of the National Landcare Network to help support and give a strong voice for the AW region and the State's Aboriginal people
- advised relevant SA Government bodies on Indigenous engagement around the SA Nuclear debate
- attended the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-management Board meeting and discussed a number of mutually relevant NRM issues including development of an Oak Valley Ranger Program.



- joined the Presiding Member of the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Board to participate in the development of the *Regional Development Authority's Far West Coast Indigenous Tourism Strategy*. This will support further development of existing Aboriginal owned and run tourism ventures in the area, and encourage and support new initiatives.
- attended the 2016 National Landcare Conference in his role as a member of the National Landcare Network Members' Council. Two members of the Natural Resources AW team also attended to gain greater understanding of National Landcare and the part Natural Resources AW play in supporting it.

People: Engagement Strategy: *Adelaide Meets the Bush*



- The AW Board and the Natural Resources AW team worked together to develop the *Adelaide Meets the Bush* Engagement Strategy to better connect people in the city with the people from the region and to expand understanding of the region's NRM challenges and successes.
- As part of the *Adelaide Meets the Bush* strategy, Board members held a series of town hall style meetings at various locations with Adelaide residents (pictured above). Key topics discussed were culture and the work currently being undertaken in the region. Interest was strong and reflected the thirst for greater understanding of Aboriginal culture and SA's northern regions generally.
- The AW NRM Board introduced the *Adelaide Meets the Bush* Engagement Strategy to the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM Board members and AMLR staff and initiated a cooperative approach to progressing various elements of the strategy.
- The Board began recording videos featuring Elders and other community members sharing their knowledge and memories. This included technical and interview techniques training for young Anangu. These will form part of the *Adelaide Meets the Bush* exhibition which will be staged during the 2018 Adelaide Festival in Tandanya.



People and Country

Working with Community: threatened species projects



Malleefowl

- AW staff worked with Tjuntjuntjara Community (WA) and Oak Valley Community (SA) on a 10-day Malleefowl survey in the Maralinga Tjarutja Lands. The collaborative work covered 200 km of roadside 100 m transects. Training delivered throughout the survey successfully built Aboriginal capacity to undertake future surveys. Data collected was added to the National malleefowl Register.

Warru

- Ongoing support of the APY Land's Warru Recovery Program including:
 - trapping survey in the Musgrave and Tomkinson Ranges, located in the north-east and north-west of the APY Lands in South Australia. Indigenous Rangers, Traditional Owners, IPA coordinators, project officers, ecologists and volunteers came from the APY Lands, interstate and overseas to take part in the survey.
- participating in the first release of captive-bred warru into the wild as part of an eight-year recovery program undertaken in partnership with Monarto Zoo (Zoos SA), APY Lands Rangers, University of Adelaide researchers, Ecological Horizons and the Australian Museum.
- assisting Warru Rangers to create a video invitation for the Threatened Species Commissioner to visit the APY Lands for the warru release... which he gratefully accepted.
- actively reducing the numbers of predator exotic species in the release area to ensure warru and the best chance of survival.



Shorebirds

- Natural Resources AW's 2016 Shorebird survey undertaken in early December along the Yalata shoreline, added significant findings to state and national data. Over three days 1130 individual birds were identified from 22 bird species along the Yalata coastline.

Sandhill Dunnart

- Sandhill Dunnart survey was undertaken and data collected to inform future management plans, such as fire regimes, feral predators and access to areas for exploration purposes. A previously unrecorded site was found between two known populations, indicating possible corridor activity.



Managing Pests

Camels

- Together with the *Friends of the Great Victoria Desert* a Camel Browse Survey was undertaken to assess the extent of damage to vegetation by large feral herbivores in Maralinga Tjaratja Lands and to inform plans for restoration and remedial measures.

Buffel Grass

- Working with Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation staff an extensive Buffel grass inspection was undertaken along the 266 kms of the Eyre Highway and numerous tributary roadsides between Fowlers Bay and Border Village and along the railway corridor between Watson and Ooldea. Infestations were mapped and where possible destroyed.
- Five community members contracted through Antakarinja Martu Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation to identify, map and spray Buffel grass and other pest weeds across the Tallaringa Reserve, and adjacent land for four weeks.
- Traditional Owners from Angatja/Amata communities were supported in mapping the spread of Buffel grass growing along 70 kms of roadsides around Kanpi/Nyapari in the APY Lands. Buffel grass had spread. Plants that occurred in isolation were destroyed. Rockholes, soaks and clay pans in the local area were also cleared of debris and silt.



People: Community engagement

- Natural Resources AW delivered a three-day workshop at the APY Land Management (LM) Office in Umuwa in April 2017 as part of the Healthy Country Planning (HCP) process. HCP is a holistic and inclusive approach to land management, and involves community directing priorities in caring for country.



Developing skills

- The Board supported three students from Ceduna Area School who share a keen interest in Conservation and Land Management, to travel across the state to gain work experience in the AMLR and SAAL natural resources management regions.
- Young Aboriginal trainees working toward completion of Certificate II and III in Conservation and Land Management joined the AW team to review previous work done on visitor infrastructure and landscape restoration at Googs Lake.
- Throughout 2016/17 Natural Resources AW have worked closely with Yalata Community, Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation (CAC) and Ceduna Area School to link land management training, to work across the region. Eight Cert III Conservation and Land Management were achieved over 2016-17 including:
 - two by Regional Landcare Facilitators, Natural Resources AW Regional Landcare Facilitator Jamal LeBois and APY Land Management Officer Walter Tjami
 - three by Yalata IPA workers
 - three by members of CAC
- In addition, three Year 12 students are progressing in Cert II and over 20 people enrolled in the training strategy.
- Natural Resources AW's Aboriginal trainee Casey Reynolds was awarded the Aboriginal Trainee of the Year Award at a ceremony in October 2016 after he completed the DEWNR-led *Jobs for Youth* program.
- The AW NRM Board provided a five-day Chemical Accreditation course to six Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation participants to enable them to safely and efficiently eradicate pest plants and animals, as part of the Tallaringa Healthy Country Planning process.



- APY Pastoral team were supported and trained to enter on-ground data and use local information in the NRM Spatial Hub. The Hub was developed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRCSI) in partnership with numerous stakeholders within the Rangeland NRM Alliance of which Natural Resources AW is a member.



Listening to Communities

- Natural Resources AW staff coordinated an on-country visit for Ministers and DEWNR's Chief Executive who attended the Country Cabinet held in the APY Lands. This provided the opportunity for them to learn about land management, pastoral enterprise building, and species conservation work in the region.

Connecting government and communities to regional NRM issues

- Demand for AW NRM Board's bi-annual publication *Palya* increased by approximately 50%.

Water

Supporting local economic and social growth: Marine debris sculpture success



The AW NRM Board supported creation of an impressive four-metre sculpture of a blue swimmer crab made by local Aboriginal artists using marine debris collected during Natural Resources AW's 2016 beach debris surveys. The aim of the project was to raise awareness

about the significant hazards that marine debris presents to marine life. The sculpture has been purchased by a renowned Swiss art collector along with *Jidirah*, the whale sculpture produced in a similar project in Ceduna in 2014. Proceeds are used to support similar on-going art projects with Indigenous artists in the AW region.