



# Palya!

**STRONG PEOPLE HEALTHY COUNTRY and WATER**

*Anangu Kunpu, Ngura Kunpu munu Kapi*



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Australian Government



Government of South Australia  
Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources  
Management Board





## From the Regional Director, *Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara*



Welcome to the 2017 Winter edition of *Palya*, where we share stories from the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board and DEWNR's Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara (NR AW).

Hello, my name is Mary-Anne Healy.

I've been sitting in the Regional Director's chair for about a month now and will be acting in this role for the next few months until the position is awarded on a longer term basis.

I'd like to thank Fiona Gill for all she contributed to the region (see page 25) over the past 17 months and on a personal level, for her thorough and very helpful handover.

Although I still have much to learn about the Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) NRM region I have many years of experience in environmental and natural resource management including working on threatened species and nature conservation policy, as well as the State NRM Plan.

I've worked in non-government organisations and the Department of Environment, most recently with DEWNR as Manager, Planning and Evaluation for Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM region.

Prior to coming back into DEWNR, I worked for 12 months as CEO of South West NRM based in Charleville in Queensland and before that on an

Australian Government funded climate change project that covered seven outback regions from WA, NT, Qld, NSW and SA.

Having only held the AW Regional Director position for a short time I'm not able to offer much comment on Natural Resources AW's activities over the past 6 months. I did however attend the joint meeting of the AW NRM Board with the AMLR NRM Board held last month in Adelaide.

The AMLR NRM Board members and NR AMLR staff who attended were captivated by the AW region and it was agreed that the next joint meeting should be held on country. It is hoped that this will take place in early 2018.

I'd like to thank everyone for the warm welcome to the region and look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming weeks and months.

Palya,

Mary-Anne Healy  
A/Regional Director,  
Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara

### INVITATION

The Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board invite you to join us on **Facebook** [www.facebook.com/awnrm](http://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:**  
21-23 August 2017, Scotdesco

**Ceduna Arts and Cultural Centre**  
Features fabulous genuine Aboriginal art  
2 Eyre Highway, Ceduna

**National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's day** 4 August 2017

## 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.







Inaugural Southern Desert Ranger Forum meet in Spinifex country at Ilkurka

## From the Presiding Member



Welcome to the Winter edition of Palya 2017.

The new financial year, so often a time of change, will see the AW NRM Board

welcoming three new members. I look forward to announcing their names early in August.

I would like to thank retiring member Gary Lewis from the APY Lands for his heartfelt contributions to the Board and wish him well for the future.

One of the key roles of the Board is to consider the impact of proposed business opportunities on the region's natural and cultural environment. With an increasing state-wide interest in tourism we are particularly interested in those that create employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in the region.

To this end, the Chair of the Maralinga Lands Un-named Conservation Park (Mamungari) Co-management Board John Mungee and I were pleased to be involved in the development of the Regional Development Authority's Far West Coast Indigenous Tourism Strategy.

As a potential driver of tourism in the region this strategy considers opportunities for tourism/business and attracting people to the region e.g. scientific/recreation/bush trips.

We also continue to build strategic alliances and strong partnerships across SA with other NRM Boards as well as local groups outside of the AW region. (see pages 2-3)

*Parry Agius*

Parry Agius  
Presiding Member

Alinytjara Wilurara Natural  
Resources Management Board

### 02 Building relationships

AW NRM Board meets with NRM Boards from across the state

### 03 Adelaide meets the Bush

Sharing knowledge and building greater understanding



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Students from SA's West Coast learn about NRM in eastern regions



### 05 Monitoring success at Googs Lake

Aboriginal trainees review restoration works at Googs Lake



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AW's Aboriginal Landcare Facilitators training on-country

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Monitoring Buffel on transport routes

### 08 In search of Sandhill Dunnart

Photo: Jacob Dunn



Recent find increases known range of Sandhill Dunnart

### 10 NRM Spatial Hub Mapping

APY Pastoral use latest geospatial mapping technology



### 12 APY considers Healthy Country Plan



### 14 Country Cabinet visits APY



AW introduces Country Cabinet to APY Land Management

### 15 Finding arid land "gold"

Abundant water source in APY region

### 16 Looking out for our warru

APY Land's warru survey

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Turning point in warru recovery



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Sharing knowledge across the country

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Marine Debris Arts Program produces amazing sculpture







# Building relationships across NRM Boards

The Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management (AW NRM) Board is actively undertaking an innovative collaboration approach to the way SA NRM boards operate.

By inviting NRM boards from other regions to join them at their meetings, all members gain a better understanding of each other's work. This also provides the opportunity to discuss ways that the boards can mutually support each other in meeting their regional objectives.

The first of these joint meetings was held last year with the Eyre Peninsula (EP) NRM Board. Local member Peter Treloar MP also attended (see Summer Palya 2016).

In March this year the AW NRM Board held their meeting 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.

With both SAAL and AW being vast, sparsely populated arid regions the boards found they shared many similar challenges and prospects for the future.

In June, the AW NRM Board met in Adelaide with the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) Board members and AMLR staff.

After the Presiding Members of both boards provided an overview of their regions and discussed their NRM

Top: Members of the AW NRM and AMLR NRM Boards

Below: Members of the SAAL NRM and AW NRM Boards



Top right: AW NRM Board members with Peter Treloar MP after the joint EP, AW Board meeting

priorities, attendees broke into small groups to discuss various topics including the AW NRM Board's *Adelaide Meets the Bush* strategy (see page opposite) and why and how the boards might work together to the benefit of both regions.

On conclusion of formal proceedings the group were joined by DEWNR's Chief Executive Sandy Pitcher and Deputy CE/Group Executive Director John Schutz for dinner.

Discussions continued over the evening about Aboriginal education, training, employment and business development in the region as well as the importance of involving young people in NRM.



Above: DEWNR CE Sandy Pitcher and Mima Smart at the post AMLR/AW NRM Board meeting dinner

Below: Talks presented during the SAAL/AW NRM Board meeting in Port Augusta







## Sharing knowledge and building greater understanding

Building understanding and relationships between the people of Adelaide and those who live in the AW NRM Region is the key driver behind the AW NRM Board's *Adelaide meets the Bush* engagement strategy.

Sharing knowledge, building partnerships and forging new friendships not only increases the Board's ability to attain its objectives but also underpins a deeper understanding of reconciliation.

Representatives from the AW NRM Board talked with two groups in the Adelaide Hills region on the evenings of 5-6 June.

The first gathering was held at the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Centre in Norton Summit. Over forty people took up the opportunity to join the two Aboriginal women from the AW NRM Region and the AW NRM Board's Presiding Member Parry Agius.

"The genuine interest shown by those who attended was greatly

Peramangk/Kaurna Elder Ivan Copley welcomes to country (L-R) Parry Agius, Helen Donald, Debbie Hansen and Mima Smart from the AW NRM Board and other attendees at the Norton Summit NRC

appreciated, particularly as the ladies had both travelled long distances from their remote communities, (one from Yalata and the other from Tjuntjuntjara in WA), to share their stories with the local residents" said Parry.

The following evening the AW NRM Board representatives spoke to a similar group at the Torrens Valley Community Centre in Gumeracha.

Mima Smart, who was an AW NRM Board member for over five years and now acts as interpreter at the meetings, talked about the Yalata community and the many NRM projects they have been involved in.

She also spoke of her experiences as an ambassador of her people, locally, nationally and internationally.

In 2005 Mima received the NAIDOC SA Person of the Year Award and in 2012, an Order of Australia for service to the Indigenous community in SA.

AW NRM Board member Debbie Hansen spoke about her community Tjuntjuntjara, and the history of how it was first established. She described the effect on her, as a young woman, and her family, of having to move away from their traditional lands after nuclear testing at Maralinga. She also talked about bush foods, and how

important caring for the country is as an integral part of Aboriginal culture.

"I was really glad to see so many people come along to learn about our region and our culture. For people to understand what it's like living in remote communities and learning about how we care for our people, our country and our culture is very important to me" Debbie said.

(L-R) Parry Agius, Debbie Hansen, Mima Smart and Turkindi Chairperson Ivan Copley



Mima Smart talks about her community of Yalata







# Students go East for NRM Work Experience

Three students from Ceduna Area School who share a keen interest in Conservation and Land Management, travelled across the state to gain work experience in two DEWNR natural resources management (NRM) regions.

Juran LeBois and Gavin Buckskin returned to Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) region where they had undertaken work experience the year before along with fellow student Jaiden Hansen.



This year however, Jaiden headed further north where he was hosted by the South Australian Arid Lands (SAAL) region in the Flinders Ranges.

## Gaining experience in the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges

Gavin and Juran assisted with various NRM tasks including:

- removing pest plants (Amazonian Giant Reed)
- attending a meeting with the local council, Landcare and an ecologist in Upper Sturt
- erecting signs in Shepherds Hill Recreation Park
- assisting with the removal of old permapine fencing and replacing with a post and wire fence at Sandy Creek Conservation Park.

They also assisted Fire Management Officers and learned about fire recovery techniques, weed control and methods of timing required for weed control in Giles Conservation Park and Morialta Conservation Park.

Jaiden Hansen heads up St. Mary Peak to trim back the top section of walking trail



Above: Gavin Buckskin (left) and Juran LeBois erecting signs at Shepherds Hill Conservation Park

“Both Juran and Gavin proved themselves to be willing and competent work experience students who performed their tasks diligently” said Eric deSmit, A/Ranger in Charge.

## Work Experience in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

As one would expect, working in an iconic park like I-FRNP, Jaiden’s main tasks revolved around visitor management including campground and visitor infrastructure maintenance.

Teaming up with the Ranger in Charge and the Manager, Parks and Co-management, he worked on a major trim back of the top section of the iconic St. Mary Peak walking trail to reduce the risk of visitors getting lost.

He also worked with the Senior Cultural Ranger and a Green Army Team, to install bollards and a gate to restrict access to a vehicular trail.

“Jaiden was a very willing participant throughout the week, and in particular was a valued member of the team while we were up clearing the trail” said Alan Harbour, Ranges District Ranger in Charge.



# Monitoring Success at Googs Lake

**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.**

“When South Australia’s west coast community first came together to restore this spectacular salt lake and its surrounds in 2013 it was hard to imagine how much would be achieved. None of this would have been possible without the time and incredible dedication of the volunteer Traditional Owners, local farmers and the many others who have worked together with our staff” said Natural Resources AW’s Manager Community Engagement, Bruce Macpherson.

“Taking the trainees out on country meant they could gain relevant work experience as they learnt new skills from their trainer Bob Ford (TAFE SA)”.

Under the direction of Codee Spitzkowsky (Natural Resources AW Project Officer) the group assessed and recorded progress of the revegetation works, effectiveness of access restrictions, and the state of the designated visitor camping areas.

The trainees were supported by Natural Resources AW’s Regional Landcare Facilitator Jamal LeBois, Bruce Macpherson, and members of the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation, Sue and Wayne Haseldine.

Trainees included Ceduna Area School students Juran LeBois, Jaiden Hansen and Gavin Buckskin; NR AW Trainee Latisha Richards; and Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation crew members David Lennon, Isaac Willis and Blake Richards-Barrett.

Sue Haseldine, Bob Ford (behind), Juran LeBois, Gavin Buckskin and Jaiden Hansen with Codee Spitzkowsky explaining where work had been undertaken previously



## Project to harvest and mill kangaroo grass

A renowned Aboriginal writer and historian will work with volunteers to process kangaroo grass with the aim of proving the commercial value of native Australian crops.

In his 2014 book *Dark Emu*, Bruce Pascoe put forward the argument that Aboriginal people were not just hunter-gatherers, but farmers who cultivated native plants prior to white settlement.

With the help of \$17,000 raised from a crowd funding campaign, Mr Pascoe and a group of volunteers from Victoria and the New South Wales south coast purchased a specialised harvester to cut kangaroo grass.

He said they would mill the grass to make flour and show how the native grain can be used to make bread.

"Non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal people have been incredibly supportive" he said.

"This will be our first venture into the wide-acre harvest of these grains."

Mr Pascoe said he wanted to encourage modern Australian farmers to look at growing native plants such as kangaroo grass, or murnong, which is also known as the yam daisy.

Above: Kangaroo grass

Article: Based on ABC Rural News 09 Jan 2017  
Photo: Benjamin Healley, Museum Victoria



## NRM Training Strategy looking good

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. This is in line with the AW NRM Board's commitment to further developing the skills and abilities of the Region's Aboriginal people to manage their country into the future.

To achieve this goal, the Board established aspirational targets for Aboriginal people wanting to work in land management; Certificate (Cert) II as the base qualification and Cert III and above for Aboriginal people wanting to work with Natural Resources AW. To achieve these goals Natural Resources AW have linked training to work and recorded the work related to specific competencies, where possible.

Eight Cert III in Conservation and Land Management achieved over 2016-17 including:

- three by Yalata IPA workers
- two by Regional Landcare Facilitators (Walter Tjami and Jamal LeBois)
- three by members of CAC

There are also three Year 12 students progressing to Cert II and over 20 people enrolled in the training strategy.



## AW's Aboriginal Landcare Facilitators training on-country

Congratulations to both APY Land Management Officer Walter Tjami and Natural Resources AW Regional Landcare Facilitator Jamal LeBois who, as part of their AW training completed their Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management in June.

For the past four years the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board has supported Walter's employment as an Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator using funds made available through the Australian Government Regional Landcare Facilitator Programme.

Walter's role, as part of the APY Pastoral Program, is to provide two-way support and communication between the Pastoral Manager and Anangu Traditional Owners. As a Regional Landcare Facilitator, Walter helps Anangu apply the principles of sustainable agriculture. He also advises the Pastoral Manager about

cultural vigilance and protection of significant sites from stock and related infrastructure.

On South Australia's Far West Coast, Jamal LeBois has been a Regional Landcare Facilitator with Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara since mid-2016. Jamal is a Maralinga Tjarutja

man. His role is to support and encourage economic development for Traditional Owners across the Far West Coast. In the absence of large scale pastoral activities, management of the region's unique natural resources creates significant opportunities for employment and economic well-being. Jamal supports Traditional Owners to explore opportunities such as tourism, service contracting and land and sea management.

**Newsflash: Walter receives the SA Caring for Country Award at the Annual NAIDOC Awards (see page 21)**



Left: Walter identifying tracks in the APY Lands  
Below: Jamal recording data on malleefowl survey





# Buffel without borders

The only lines marked on a map that are important to Buffel grass are transport routes. The relevance of state borders however is that in South Australia, Buffel grass has been declared a weed since 2014.

Buffel grass infestations present a significant fire threat to remote communities and to many species of native vegetation. In the fragile AW region, Buffel grass competes for water and nutrients with native flora and if left unchecked destroys the habitat of native fauna.

Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara (NR AW) constantly monitors the roads and railway tracks around the Far West Coast leading into Western Australia to stop this undesirable traveller from crossing the border.

In May this year AW's Project Officer Codee Spitzkowsky, along with Brodey Millera and Jake Dunn from the Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation undertook an extensive Buffel grass inspection covering the roads from the old Colona pastoral station, near Fowlers Bay through to Border Village.

This work was funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

Using a mixture of Glyphosate and Fluproponate, the team inspected and treated infestations along 266 kilometres of Eyre Highway roadside (extending 25 metres on each side of the road). As well as destroying plants found during the inspection they used GPS coordinates to locate and treat new plants emerging at previously recorded infestation sites.

"The accuracy of previous data allowed us to easily find and treat existing Buffel infestations. The immature growth stage makes it difficult to distinguish young Buffel grass germinations from native and introduced grasses. We did however discover and treat three new infestations. The locations were then added to our database.

"We inspected an area within the Border Village parking bay that had been reported by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure to contain Buffel grass but were happy to discover it was only buffalo grass" said Codee.

## Watson to Ooldea Rail Corridor

The following week Codee and Jamal LeBois, Natural Resources AW's NRM Project Officer, took two All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) to a previously recorded Buffel grass infestation site on the railway track between Watson and Ooldea.

This particular infestation had been dormant when previously inspected but was found to have flourished after heavy and consistent summer rains.

"On the southern side of the rail corridor where the infestation was fairly sparse and considerable mobility was required, we used the Rhino ATV mounted with twin 120 litre tanks with separate hose reels. This was the first time we had used the attached spray unit and it worked really well.

"On the northern side where the infestation was thicker and more concentrated in one location we used the ATV that was fitted with a 250 litre tank with a single hose reel.

"It took over 4 hours to spray along both sides of the rail corridor.

"Unfortunately access to some areas was restricted as some roads were closed for cultural reasons. This shortened our planned time in the field and meant we had to leave some areas untreated" said Codee.



Top: Major infestation of Buffel grass  
Left: Aerial photo of Border Village region  
Right: Railway crossing at Ooldea







# In search of the elusive Sandhill Dunnart

**Searching for Sandhill Dunnarts between previously recorded sites revealed promising evidence that this small endangered marsupial may be more widespread.**

This elusive species has only been found in a few locations within Australia. These include the Middleback Ranges on the Eyre Peninsula, Queen Victoria Spring Nature Reserve in Western Australia and throughout western Yellabinna Regional Reserve within the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region of South Australia.

In the AW NRM region Sandhill Dunnarts had previously been recorded within three distinct areas: Yarle Lakes, north-west of Ooldea; the Immarna and Iluka region approx. 140 km east of Ooldea along

the Trans Australian Railway line with the next closest recorded around Pinkawillinie, approximately 400 km away.

Surveys were planned within the Googs region to try and find if the species might also be found in suitable habitat between these known sites.

Sandhill Dunnarts are known to prefer areas where fire most recently burned between 20-40 years ago. On this basis the most appropriate survey sites were selected with reference to detailed fire scar maps.

This 20-40 year time frame allows Spinifex grass (*Triodia*) to gain a suitable density, height and depth, to provide the Dunnarts refuge from introduced and native predators.

Below: Setting up pitfall traps - digging holes for PVC tubes are placed and clearing vegetation for the drift fence line that guides animals to the traps

In April 2017, a nine sites were identified as suitable across various fire age classes and surveyed.

A single young female Sandhill Dunnart was captured in the survey area where fire was last recorded in 1988.

This find indicates that the species is more widely distributed within Yellabinna than previously recorded and assists in defining linkages with other known populations (Pinkawillinie and Middleback ranges etc).

This closes the gap between known populations in Pinkawillinie and Ooldea from 400 kms to under 240 kms.

This project was undertaken with AW staff (Ecologist Brett Backhouse; NRM Project Officer Codee Spitzkowsky) and local experts Dr John Read and Dr Katherine Moseby from Ecological Horizons.

Four staff members from Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation (CAC), Jake Dunn, Adam Coleman, Brodie Milera and Isaac Willis also assisted with the set up and daily checking of the traps.

The team worked together measuring and identifying the wide variety of species caught.

In addition they surveyed Spinifex (*Triodia*) sizes at the site and undertook bird surveys including searching for malleefowl or evidence of their activity. Amongst the 40 species of birds recorded were a





number of state listed endangered species including a scarlet-chested parrot and a bustard that were observed feeding within recently burnt patches along with a population of striated grasswren. Sightings had not previously been recorded for any of these species west of Googs track.

A rare plant (*Maireana suaedifolia*) was also identified in the survey area.

The survey was funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

Below: Jacob Dunn determines the sex of a hopping mouse found in one of the pitfall traps

Below right: Two creatures found in one of the traps, a pygmy possum and a spider



Above: Pygmy possum released into nearby trees



Dr Moseby shows Issac Willis, Jacob Dunn, and Adam Coleman what to look for when identifying Sandhill Dunnart



## Raising awareness about NRM at Ceduna's NAIDOC celebrations



(l-r) Tammy Cox, Latisa Richards and Belinda Margan from Ceduna NRC set up for a big day



Tammy demonstrates her artistic skills making nature themed models to give children ideas



Children enjoyed creating play dough creatures from the land, sea and air (above) leaving their parents free to talk with NRC staff (below)







# NRM Spatial Hub... Mapping APY Pastoral Lands

Written and photographed by Adam Wood

In May 2017, Adam Wood Natural Resources AW's Coordinator, Data and Information Management, headed to the APY Lands to assist the APY Pastoral team to enter and use their information within the Natural Resources Management Spatial Hub.

The Spatial Hub was developed to encourage pastoral properties to be managed more profitably and sustainably. It was designed for use by Rangeland Managers/Pastoralists to efficiently and consistently map, plan, analyse and monitor their property infrastructure, land resources and ground cover.

Walter Tjami entering information into the Spatial Hub with assistance from Adam Wood in Umuwa

The web-based mapping tool uses the latest geospatial mapping technology to overlay pastoral infrastructure of water points, land types and fencing with an analysis of grazing circles and time-series satellite remote sensing of ground cover.

The Hub was developed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRCSI) in partnership with numerous stakeholders within the Rangeland Alliance of which Natural Resources AW is a member organisation. The project was funded through the National Landcare Program.

The NRM Spatial Hub has been adopted by over 400 properties across Australia in the last few years.

When presented with the opportunity, APY Pastoral decided it would be advantageous to use this technology to assist with long-term sustainable pastoral planning.

## Building information

Satellite imagery and local knowledge are used to digitally map fences, gates, ephemeral clay pans and water assets such as tanks, dams, pipelines and troughs. Paddocks are generated, categorised and area sizes are calculated accurately.

## Export Map – Ground Truth

The "Export GeoTiff Map" tool allows the map to be loaded onto a tablet or smart phone and "ground truthing" to occur to ensure the infrastructure on the ground are mapped correctly. GPS waypoints can be captured from the tablet and loaded into the Hub for re-editing.

## Grazing Analysis

Once paddocks are generated the "Distance from Water analysis" tool can be used to generate grazing circles within each paddock. Grazing circles can be set to give the Pastoral team a better understanding of which areas of the paddock may be over or under-utilised. There are numerous options available to set up existing and proposed grazing scenarios on individual or multiple paddocks.







Walter Tjami using a tablet to ground truth Spatial Hub information - in this case, the position of a fence corner



Cattle infrastructure is recorded in the Spatial Hub

### Profile Tool

The Hub has a “profile tool” that provides an accurate profile of elevation from any line drawn on the paddock. A very handy tool for planning for new pipeline directions, length and pumping.

### Satellite Imagery – Seasonal Fractional cover

Satellite imagery uses a colour spectrum to indicate, amongst other things, areas that will green up after rain and produce high fuel loads. The levels of cover are correlated with weather events (rainfall and temp), grazing and fire.

Combined with local knowledge this technology is useful for understanding current land conditions, identifying areas likely to be impacted from over grazing and guiding investment decisions over time.

### Ground Cover Analysis

The basic statistics tool for ground cover analysis provides a summary and graph indicating improvements or declines over time.

For example: the graph below shows a correlation between the occurrence of high fuel load areas (dry vegetation: blue) and bare ground (red: burnt areas) across the APY Rangelands over a time period.

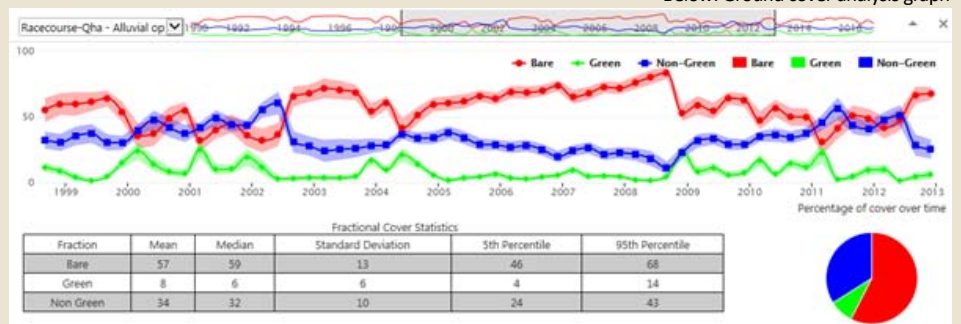
### Land Types and Stocking Rates

Desert Wildlife Services completed a Natural Resource Audit in May 2017 that resulted in mapping and delineation of 31 different vegetation land type units across the APY Pastoral areas.

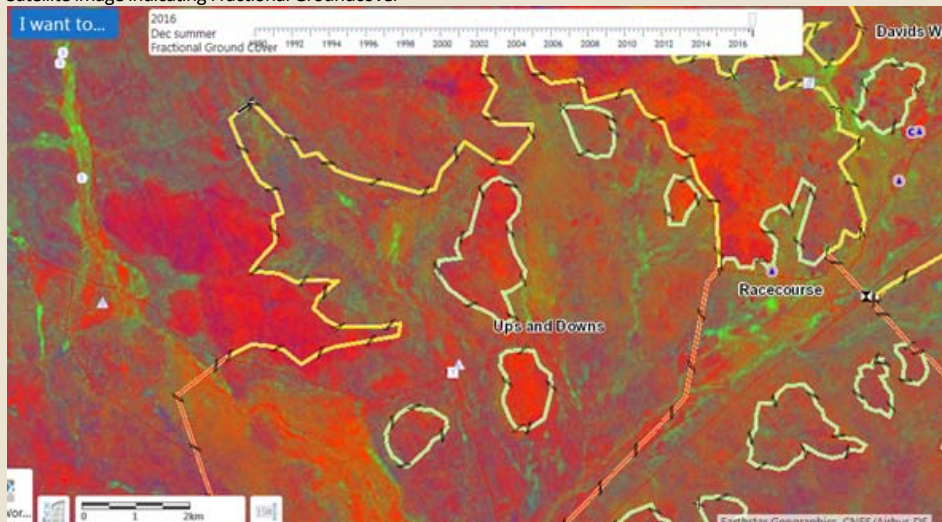
With land type, vegetation and paddocks accurately mapped, the tools in Spatial Hub provide evidence-base science for effective land management decisions.

*Matching stocking rates with the needs and condition of the land is key to keeping the landscape healthy while maintaining sustainable business.*

Below: Ground cover analysis graph



Satellite image indicating Fractional Groundcover



### Long-term use of Spatial Hub in the APY Lands

With less than 20% of the approx. two million hectares of APY Pastoral areas currently mapped, there is still a considerable amount of work to do in building information.

This presents an opportunity for Anangu to continue using this technology and building its capacity. With sufficient long-term training, APY can be in position to self-manage the Spatial Hub furthering the capacity of local Anangu working in the Pastoral Industry.





# Healthy Country Planning...

In response to the on-going interest shown by APY communities in building natural resource management (NRM) plans using the Healthy Country Planning (HCP) process, Natural Resources AW's Regional Planning Coordinator Ben Daly travelled to the APY Lands to provide an introduction to HCP.

Other Aboriginal groups across the Alinytjara Wilurara region have already successfully applied the HCP strategy to clarify and establish NRM Plans.

Together with Conservation Management consultant Stuart Cowell, Ben delivered the three-day workshop at the APY Land Management (LM) Office in Umuwa in April 2017.

"The intention of Healthy Country Planning is to take a holistic and inclusive approach to land management, and to listen to community about how best to care for country in addition to the current activities" said Ben.

(R-L) Facilitator Stuart Cowell listens while Peter Hamnett (Apara Makiri Puntji IPA Ranger Coordinator) talks with Murphy Goodwin and Adrian Inkgaltji

"Based on comments made both during and after the workshop, the Healthy Country Planning approach to caring for country received strong support from attending community members.

"Crucially, it was strongly supported by the APY LM Program Manager Wayne Davis, who along with IPA coordinators and Ranger teams will lead the work with Anangu tjuta (APY community) as the process gets underway" he said.

A key theme emerged from the workshop:

**Healthy Country Planning needs to engage all interested Anangu. It is important that areas currently not under land management must be looked after by the right Ngurritja (Traditional Owners).**

At present the majority of land management activities in the APY Lands occur within five Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs), in designated women's

project areas, or around the immediate vicinity of communities.

However, the vastness of the Lands means this leaves significant areas that require renewed consideration.

In many cases the activities occurring in the area mentioned above have been the result of Anangu and pirampa (non-Anangu) informed plans. Acknowledging this, it was agreed that existing plans will provide useful background for critical review and informing how Anangu lead and develop APY Healthy Country Plans in the workshops and on-country visits to follow.

"On the first day it was especially appreciated to have Elder and long-term warru custodian, Inpiti Winton present" said Ben.

"There are many people to thank for making this workshop a success..."

Antara Sandy Bore Rangers and Murphy Goodwin from Pukatja having lunch at the workshop







# in the APY Lands

Written and photographed by Ben Daly

Sandra Lewis who interpreted on the first day and strongly contributed to the kungka (women’s) group work, as did Laurel Macumba who has worked extensively with the APY LM Women’s Project. Laurel already has her Cert II in Land Management and Conservation and is working to complete a Cert III.

“Antara Sandy Bore IPA Coordinator Mitchell Rosewarne and Rangers Anthony, Christopher and Arnold Dodd, and Neville Entata were present for the full 3 days and contributed strongly to wati (men’s) group work.

“Murphy Goodwin from Pukatja did an excellent job presenting group work back to participants alongside Peter Hamnett (Apara Makiri Puntji IPA Ranger Coordinator).

“Murphy, Peter, Ellen Ryan-Colton (Walalkara IPA Ranger Coordinator) and Laura Mitchell (Kanpi-Nyapari Land and Culture Program) provided

(L-R) Neville Entata with Anthony, Arnold and Christopher Dodd enjoying an end of the day barbeque



the invaluable service of driving interested community members from neighbouring communities to and from Umuwa” he said.

In summary, this first trip to the APY Lands to present and discuss how the HCP approach might benefit land management raised significant interest and support from the Anangu who attended and momentum for future commitment.

## APY Executive Endorsement

Having received positive feedback from Anangu and from APY LM staff, Ben returned to APY in May to present to the APY Executive Board about HCP and to seek formal endorsement for AW to assist APY on this journey.

On 10 May 2017 the Executive endorsed the HCP process, stipulating that Natural Resources AW must consult the APY Anthropology team to ensure the right Ngurritja are involved.

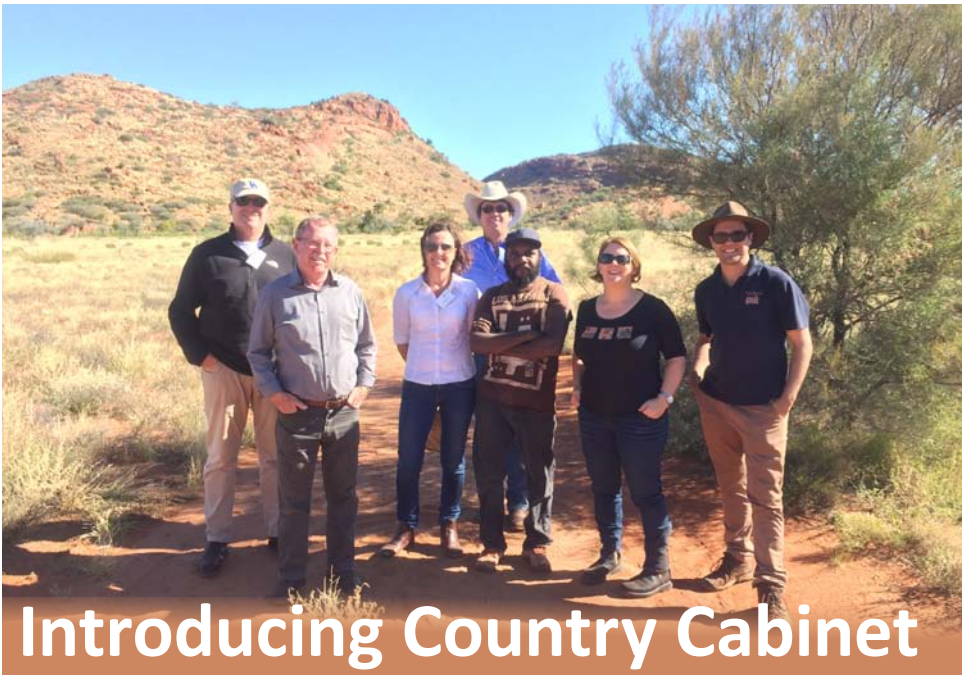
Buffel grass was raised as a major concern. The photo below was taken just outside the workshop and is typical of the widespread, thick groundcover that Buffel grass presents across much of APY



Above: LM Program Manager Wayne Davis  
Below: Murphy Goodwin and Derek Don Summerfield







## Introducing Country Cabinet to APY Land Management

In early May, as part of the Country Cabinet visit to the APY Lands, Ministers and departmental Chief Executives took the opportunity to learn more about land management and Anangu culture during a site visit.

Ben Daly, Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara’s Regional Planning Coordinator helped coordinate the site visit and joined the visiting group as they learned about the region from a land management, pastoral, and species conservation perspective.

The day began with a presentation by the Program Manager of APY Land Management (APY LM) Wayne Davis, who provided an overview of his team’s work including: managing Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs);

Women’s projects; and the Warru (Black-footed rock wallaby) Recovery Project.

Warru Project Coordinator Luke Ireland then explained the history of warru project.

“The focus of our work is not only to recover warru populations, but to provide training and development opportunities to Anangu (local Aboriginal people)” he said.

In his presentation, APY Pastoral Manager Michael Clinch stressed the importance of managing grazing pressure and the complexities of managing camels, horses and donkeys – the most numerous large feral herbivores in the region.

PIRSA Chief Executive Scott Ashby, Hon. Minister Geoff Brock, Ministerial Adviser Skana Gallery, APY Pastoral Manager Michael Clinch, Warru Ranger Gerrada Stanley, DEWNR Chief Executive Sandy Pitcher and Warru Project Coordinator Luke Ireland.

“The challenges and opportunities faced by the pastoral business calls for resilience and hard work to achieve the aims of APY Pastoral, and in realising the vision outlined in the APY Sustainable Pastoral Development Plan” said Michael.

A site visit to the 100 ha fenced area that protects warru from predators allowed Country Cabinet members to see the Warru Recovery Project first hand.

Magdalena Zabeck from APY Land Management and Warru Ranger Gerrada Stanley, who has worked on the Warru Recovery Team for more than 10 years, talked to the group about the program’s history, the fire risk that weeds present to vegetation inside the enclosure and the importance of clearing weeds from around the 4 km of fencing.

Inside the enclosure, the group were shown trapping methods and APY Executive Chairperson Frank Young explained about warru grazing habits and the plants that they eat.

The group were also shown how sensor cameras are used to record predator activity.

Following the field trip and lunch under an ancient bloodwood tree, the group returned to Umuwa for the Country Cabinet Community Forum.



Country Cabinet Community Forum, Umuwa (photos Ben Daly)





## Finding arid land “gold”

Hydrogeologist Michael Gogoll and the team from DEWNR’s Science Monitoring and Knowledge Group struck arid land “gold” during water exploration in the APY Lands.

With over 70% of Australia considered arid or semi-arid, access to groundwater supplies is a life line for some remote communities in the APY Lands.

Although groundwater within the Alinytjara Wilurara region has been explored for almost 100 years it was not until 2015 that a large scale search for water was undertaken by DEWNR in the South Australian desert, in particular in the APY Lands.

Nine communities were assessed to gain early insight into water availability in the region. Of those, eight were found to be in critical need of more water or replacement of old water wells.

During consultations, old men from the communities told stories about water, where people found it in the past and where not to look, either for cultural reasons or because it was dry.

On reviewing previous data related to drilling in the region it appeared that drilling deeper than 30 meters was unproductive.

Using available geophysical data to determine areas where water may be

present, structural interpretation and information gathered from numerous field trips, the team determined where drilling would most likely succeed in finding water.

The team used a digital Total Magnetic Intensity map to interpret the regional geological architecture beneath the earth’s surface such as the locations of faults, shallow hard rock and deep sequences of sediments.

Although advised by experts that drilling beyond 30m would be of no use, the team decided to go deeper... and water was found, close to communities and fresh enough to drink.

By drilling deeper, 22 wells @ 38.4L/sec were established, an amazing result! This was over triple the sustainable supply (not the maximum) of water available to people living in one of Australia’s driest regions.

This also meant that construction of the new road through the APY Lands would also have sufficient water without burdening community resources.

### Developing a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System

Managing multiple pumps and extensive water related infrastructure across over such a vast, remote region demanded an innovative approach.

Using the latest technology, the electrical technician team from DEWNR’s Resource Monitoring Unit designed a huge network of sensors, controls, switchboards and satellite communications to control the entire water reticulation system across the north western South Australian desert.

Everything involving water in 11 communities in the South Australian desert is now controlled and tracked using the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system including:

- levels of groundwater
- pipe flow rates
- reverse osmosis plant performance
- salinity levels
- header tank capacities
- UV treatment
- town usage.

Pumps are also able to be turned on and off remotely.

All these functions are able to be managed remotely if required using a mobile phone via satellites.







By Brett Backhouse  
Photo: Ninti Media

If joeys are present, and can be safely accessed, they are also weighed and measured. Pouch young are not micro chipped, or ear-tagged.

“The information gathered from this survey will be used to assist plans for the translocation of warru from the Pintji to Wamitjara (Sentinel Hill) in the Eastern Musgrave Ranges, where warru are now extinct.

“This species was last recorded living on the Wamitjara escarpment in 2005-2006. Unmanaged fire regimes and lack of feral predator control are believed to be the reasons for warru extinction there. Everyone is pretty excited about the planned release” said Natural Resources AW’s Ecologist Brett Backhouse.

# Looking out for our Warru

In late May, the APY Lands’ Warru Recovery Team (WRT) surveyed the warru population within the pintji, a 100ha predator-proof enclosure. Annual trapping has occurred within the pintji since 2012 to assess the population and ensure that it is moving into positive growth.

A total of 32 soft cage traps were installed along three transects, each baited with a combination of rolled oats mixed with peanut butter and small pieces of apple. The traps were wired open for three days before trapping, to allow the wallabies to acclimatize to the traps, before being set. The traps were set for four consecutive nights, and checked and cleared each morning.

Brett Backhouse carrying the soft trap up the escarpment  
Below right: Brett and Travis Lewis setting the soft trap  
Photo: Ninti Media



Captured warru were scanned for a micro-chip and checked for an ear-tag which indicates if the animal has been caught during previous annual trappings. If not present they were micro chipped between the shoulder blades and ear tagged in the right ear for males, or left ear for females.

These tags are uniquely coloured, allowing for quick identification of individuals, which is particularly useful when using remote cameras for monitoring. The tagging process also allows a small ear biopsy to be taken, which is placed in ethanol and sent to the Australian Museum for analysis and cataloguing.

Once this is complete, measurements of the head, pez (foot) and tail are taken and the animal is weighed.



Top left and above: members of the WRT measuring and recording details of captured warru



Healthy young warru ready to be assessed







# Turning Point in Warru Recovery

**The much anticipated first release of captive-bred warru (Black-footed wallaby) into the wild in the APY Lands was undertaken in early June 2017.**

Warru once roamed widely across parts of South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, but, over the past few decades, feral cats, foxes and Buffel grass have pushed warru to the brink of extinction.

They are now one of South Australia's most endangered mammals.

The Warru Recovery Team in the APY Lands released the first group of black-footed wallabies into the wild as part of a carefully managed eight-year recovery program.

“Over thirty people came together to capture 40 healthy young warru from the enclosure and the New Well wild population and transfer them to the rocky slopes of Wamitjara in the nearby Eastern Musgrave Ranges” said Brett Backhouse Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara's (AW) Regional Ecologist.

The Warru Recovery Project has been running for more than 10 years and presently employs six full-time Aboriginal Rangers.

It has proven to be a highly successful partnership between the APY people, the Department of Environment Water

and Natural Resources (DEWNR), Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) NRM Board, the Australian Government, Zoos SA, Ecological Horizons Pty, University of Adelaide researchers and the Australian Museum.

As part of the program, captive-bred warru from Monarto Zoo were returned to the region and placed inside a 100 hectare predator-proof enclosure in 2011.

Within this safe confine, the population significantly increased. Over the last few years the small, nearby wild population at New Well has also increased due to the Recovery Team's ongoing predator, weed and fire management activities.

“This is a significant achievement and all parties involved in the recovery of the warru are to be congratulated on

their hard work and commitment” said the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Hon Ian Hunter MLC.

“The return of a species we feared we might lose completely is particularly rewarding for the Aboriginal Rangers whose association with the warru has been inter generational and remains culturally significant.

“Prior to releasing the warru into the wild, the recovery team worked hard to reduce exotic predator numbers around Wamitjara to provide the warru with the best chance of survival and increasing their population” he said.

The team will now use radio-tracking to monitor the re-located warru for several months to assess how well they are re-establishing themselves.



Above: Campsite near the warru enclosure

Right: Checking captured warru and assessing suitability for relocating to Eastern Musgrave Ranges





## Threatened Species Commissioner hands on for Warru Release

Wamitjara, near release site two (photo by Brett Backhouse)

Threatened Species Commissioner Gregory Andrews joined the Warru Recovery Team in the APY Lands to celebrate the first release of black-footed wallabies into the wild as part of a carefully managed eight-year recovery program.

As South Australia's most endangered mammal, the release of the black-footed wallaby, or warru, as it is known to the Traditional Owners of the APY Lands, marks what is hoped will be a significant turning point in the recovery of the wild population.

"They've been shooting feral cats and foxes and now they've got the numbers down enough to bring the warru back to the lands where they were once abundant."

Left: Gerrada Stanley with a drone used for aerial observation

Centre: Gregory Andrews and Brett Backhouse

Top right: The Commissioner talks with Elders who have been long term advisors to the WRT

Bottom right: Gregory Andrews recording data on warru release



"As an Aboriginal man, I was thrilled to receive a video invitation from Traditional Owners in the Warru Recovery Team to come to their land and view their work and witness for myself the work they do.

"It was truly moving to be there as the warru were released. Not only was I greatly impressed by the beauty of the land and the dedication of the people, but the achievements made throughout this program are outstanding.

"They've got some really talented Indigenous rangers in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands" Mr Andrews said.







## Taking in the Winter Sun

### Co-management Board meets at Oak Valley

To enjoy the fine winter weather, the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park (MLUCP) Co-management Board held their June meeting outside in Oak Valley.

Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara's Pia Richter (Manager Co-management & Parks), and Bruce Macpherson (Manager Community Engagement) together with the AW

NRM Board's Presiding Member Parry Agius also attended the meeting.

As a strong advocate of collaboration Parry Agius talked to the group about a number of mutually relevant NRM issues including the Oak Valley Ranger Program. He also proposed that MLUCP Board members consider formalising an Agreement to work together with the AW NRM Board.



Above: Bruce Macpherson joined by Keith Peters, Mima Smart and Oak Valley dogs

Left: Parry Agius addresses the Board

Spinifex Ranger Sam Doule presented an update around work done and planned for MLUCP Conservation Park.

Discussion points included the Ranger landscape burning program, Chemical Handling Training, Buffel grass and camel management, shed tank renovations and the delivery of Compliance Training.

## Don McSweeney Aboriginal Lands Cup

What a night! As a proud sponsor of the 13th Annual Don McSweeney Aboriginal Lands Cup, Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara congratulates APY Thunder on their victory at Adelaide Oval. The game was held as part of NAIDOC week

celebrations on Friday 7 July before the Western Bulldogs v Adelaide Crows game.

Maralinga Tjarutja and APY Thunder battled it out under extremely wet, cold conditions with all the players putting in a determined effort combined with good sportsmanship and skill.

Well done to all the players and to all those who supported them, trainers, family and friends.

Most players arrived from SA's Far West Coast and the APY Lands on the Tuesday before the game. The young athletes attended various capacity building seminars and leadership training during their stay.



APY Thunder celebrate their win!

Bottom left: Maralinga Tjarutja team after the final siren  
Below: Adelaide Oval weather added to the challenge







# Inaugural

## Southern Deserts Ranger Forum hits the mark

The inaugural Southern Deserts Ranger Forum was held in mid June in the Spinifex lands at Ilkurlka, approximately 900 km east of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

The forum provided a significant opportunity for rangers from across two states to share knowledge and learn from each other's experiences. It also provided an opportunity for community members to get together to share culture and support each other in meeting the challenges faced in land management in remote arid regions.

The event attracted more than 85 people from across Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory – 60 of whom were Indigenous rangers. Collectively these ranger groups manage an area of approximately 1.2 million square kilometres across Western Australia and South Australia.

They included:

- Spinifex Land Management Rangers (Tjuntjuntjara, WA)
- Maralinga Tjarutja Rangers (Oak Valley, SA)
- APY Lands Rangers (various communities, SA)
- Ngadju Rangers (Norseman, WA)
- Birriliburu Rangers (Wiluna Martu, Wiluna, WA)

- Ngaanyatjara Rangers (Blackstone, Warburton, Warakurna, WA)
- Yalata Rangers (Yalata, SA)
- Goldfields Land & Sea Council Rangers (Kalgoorlie)

Other participating organisations included Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara, Rangelands NRM (WA), National Parks SA, NG Media and Morningstar training.

After being welcomed to country by Spinifex Elders, rangers shared their experiences and knowledge.

Cultural activities were also undertaken to provide an opportunity to share knowledge from the many regions.

A popular part of the forum was rifle safety training as well as the use of technology such as drones and other tools to monitor threatened species and record data.

"It was a fantastic week", said Ten Deserts Coordinator, Jimmy Cocking.

"The rangers were engaged in a variety of knowledge areas including management of feral camels, tourism and Buffel grass. It really hit the mark, the flexible program enabled cultural activities,

soft skills to be developed and a much needed ranger coordinator meeting.

"We truly are the lucky country... lucky to have people already living in this desert country who have the knowledge and skills to look after this land. Hopefully they will be given the certainty and resources needed to continue this important job into the foreseeable future."

"It was great showing other rangers where we come from and catching up with them" said Spinifex Ranger Ethan Hansen.

Fellow Spinifex Ranger Scott Baird agreed. "It made me feel good to see other rangers doing work for the same reasons".







Above: (L-R) Troy Bowman, Tammy Cox, Chris Curnow (behind), Sam Doudle, Shane Doudle, Jamal LeBois (behind), Ethan Hansen and Jimmy Cocking

Great news for Pila Nguru Spinifex Rangers. On the last day of the forum, after ongoing funding concerns, they were informed that funding certainty into the future was confirmed.

The advocacy and support of other groups and local member for O'Connor, Rick Wilson for the Spinifex Rangers plight was greatly appreciated.

“We are excited and relieved to receive funding certainty. The Spinifex Rangers can now continue to implement the communities’ Healthy Country Plan and generate lasting environmental, cultural and social outcomes across their vast Lands” said Ian Baird, Pila Nguru General Manager.

General feedback indicated strong support for the forum to become an annual event.

The inaugural Southern Deserts Ranger Forum was organised by Pila Nguru, Spinifex Land Management with the support of the Indigenous Desert Alliance, Ten Deserts Initiative with funding provided by the WA Government, and sponsorship by AngloAshantiGold. Indigenous Ranger Programs and Indigenous Protected Areas are supported by the Australian Government.

Organisers from Ten Deserts and the Indigenous Desert Alliance are looking for supporting partners to help make this happen. If you would like more information regarding this contact.

Jimmy Cocking, Coordinator Ten Deserts 0423511931



## Congratulations Walter

The AW NRM Board congratulates APY Lands Management Officer Walter Tjami who was awarded the inaugural NAIDOC SA Caring for Country award at the NAIDOC SA Awards held at the Adelaide Town Hall on Monday 3 July.

The AW NRM Board has supported Walter’s employment as an Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator for the past four years with funding from the Australian Government’s Regional Landcare Facilitator Programme.

Walter’s role supports the Pastoral Manager and Anangu Traditional Owners in culturally respectful and sustainable land management.

“Walter has consistently shown that he is highly committed to caring for his country and is a role model for other young Anangu” said Natural Resources AW’s Engagement Manager Bruce Macpherson.

Walter said he is very happy to be working on Country and being part of the good things happening.

“It’s been great working with Michael Clinch (APY Pastoral Manager) and the whole cattle mob.

“Being part of the team managing camels, donkeys and horses out on country, and working to get rid of trees and plants that don’t belong in the APY Lands... like Athel pine, makes me glad to be useful to my community,” Walter said.

Keep up the great work Walter!





# Centenary Celebrations

October 2017



Joining of the rails and opening of the

## Trans Australian Railway

October this year marks the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Trans Australian Railway line. In 1917 the rail lines, constructed simultaneously from Kalgoorlie and Port Augusta, linked at a site 4kms west of Ooldea.

This was a momentous occasion in the history of Australia. The Trans Australian Railway provided nation-building infrastructure that linked the east and west coasts of Australia. A commitment to federally fund construction of the Trans Australian Railway also enticed Western Australia to join the Commonwealth of Australia and establish the Australian Federation.

The railway line provided a supply chain to outback areas in Western Australia and South Australia; and was particularly important for developing the land between Port Augusta and the Western Australian border. This infrastructure legacy still benefits Australia today.



The importance of the Trans Australian Railway was recognised in 1967, when a 50th anniversary of the linking of the rails was celebrated on 17 October 1967 at the exact time and place where the rails were joined fifty years earlier. The celebration included the unveiling of two identical commemorative monuments, designed and built by the Commonwealth Railways, which were placed north and south of the rail line.

The simultaneous construction of the 1,692km railway line east from Port Augusta and west from Kalgoorlie



Above: A rare image of the first westbound Trans Australian passenger train, en route from Port Augusta to Kalgoorlie on 22 October 1917

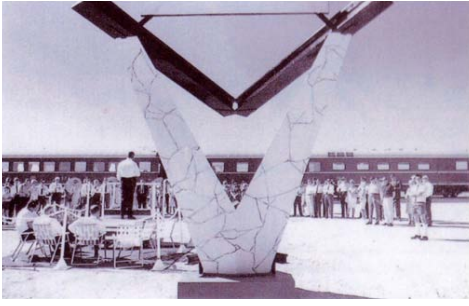
Top right: October 1917 joining the rails celebration

Below: The railway was built using two separate track building teams – starting from Kalgoorlie and from Port Augusta.

during 1912-17 was an incredible achievement given the circumstances at the time. Much of the construction occurred during World War I when communications, men, machinery and materials were scarce. The work was manually intensive and the line was built across a remote, vast and







The Golden Jubilee of the completion of the Trans-Australian Railway was commemorated 17 October 1967 at the exact time and place as the rails were joined 50 years earlier.

desolate environment, which entailed complex and difficult management, operational and supply logistics.

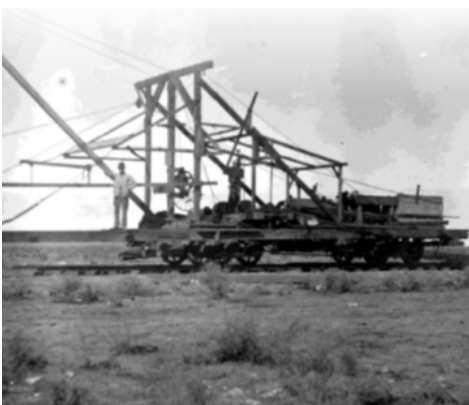
Numerous events and activities are being organised by the National Railway Museum to commemorate the centenary of this heroic achievement in the development of the nation.

Arrangements are underway with the Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society for a steam train re-enactment from Quorn to Port Augusta on the weekend of 21st and 22nd October 2017.

Other historical displays and activities at Port Augusta railway station are planned for that weekend.

People and organisations interested in attending or supporting the celebration should register their interest with RDAWEP. RDAWEP has established a database of attendees, and will be issuing event progress updates by email to keep people informed.

Further information about the celebration can be provided by the RDAWEP Special Projects Manager, Bob Ramsay, on 8623 0516 or bob.ramsay@rdawep.org.au.



## Supporting Reconciliation

For parents and teachers looking to introduce children to the many worlds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, publications from the Broome-based publisher Magabala Books, might be a good place to start.

Magabala Books was established in 1980, partly in response to concerns that Indigenous stories were being taken and published without permission by non-Indigenous academics and storytellers.

Magabala Books:

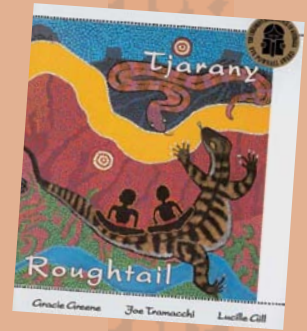
- has released more than two hundred titles from a range of genres
- ensures Indigenous peoples hold copyright of their stories and there is a return of benefits to the Indigenous storytellers and/or their communities
- is committed to bringing the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to all Australians.

### Australian Indigenous Creator Scholarships

Magabala Books established the Australian Indigenous Creator Scholarship in 2013 to support the professional development of established creators and have a commitment to nurturing young and emerging Indigenous writers and artists.

Sharing the above information is part of Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara's commitment and support for reconciliation.

Opposite: Examples of some of Magabala Books children's publications



*A collection of Tjukurrpa (Dreaming) stories of the Kukatja people of the Kimberley region of WA.*

*Young children will enjoy the stories of the Dreaming ancestors. Older children can explore the diagrams that explain the meaning of the symbols used in the artwork, as well as the maps of the Kukatja kinship system which shows the web of relationships between Aboriginal peoples and their homelands.*



*Stolen Girl is a moving tale that gently introduces children to a traumatic aspect of Australian history that echoes through the lives of Indigenous peoples today.*

*It is told in nuanced, sparse text with illustrations that convey the warmth of family, the terror of removal, and the loneliness of life in an institution.*



*A reconciliation tale of friendship across difference, with the poetic text given full expression in illustrations that capture the beauty of the story and speaks straight to the heart.*





# Guldamara

## Giant Blue Swimmer Crab hanging out at West Beach



Using marine debris collected during Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara's 2016 beach debris surveys, a talented group of 12 local artists and volunteers from the Tjutjuna (Ceduna) Arts Centre and GhostNets Australia created *Guldamara*, an impressive four metre sculpture of a blue swimmer crab. The key objective behind the sculpture's creation was to raise awareness about the significant hazards that marine debris presents to marine life.

Having precariously travelled across the state from the Far West Coast, the colossal sculpture was first exhibited at Tandanya Arts Centre during May this year. Happily *Guldamara* has now found a new home beside the sea where it adorns the walls of the South Australian Aquatic Sciences Centre at Adelaide's West Beach.

Far west coast Aboriginal artists using collected marine debris to create *Guldamara* at the Tjutjuna (Ceduna) Arts centre



With many years of experience in the Ghost Net Art Project, Sue Ryan and Karen Hethey supported local artists to develop their ideas and create the sculpture. *Guldamara's* frame was constructed from wire and bamboo, followed by layers of marine debris materials and fibres hand stitched onto the frame.

"We were delighted by the news that *Guldamara* had found a good home where so many people with a keen interest in the marine environment will see it. What an excellent way to raise people's awareness of marine debris issues while simultaneously promoting the talent that resides around the Far West Coast" said Sue.

The South Australian Aquatic Sciences Centre is home to the South Australian Research and Development Institute's (SARDI) purpose-built marine and freshwater research laboratory complex.

SARDI undertakes the stock assessments and monitoring for all South Australia's commercial fisheries, assisting Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) to seasonally manage the state's marine resources.

Professor Gavin Begg, Research Chief of SARDI Aquatic Sciences said "*Guldamara* looks amazing and we are very proud to be housing the display at SARDI's West Beach Aquatic Sciences Centre where it relates closely to what we do. We are placing a description next to the display that will describe the origins of *Guldamara* and acknowledge the artists and supporting bodies who created the work.

"As the key centre for marine and aquatic sciences research in South Australia, we get numerous student and community groups, international delegations, government agencies and industry groups coming to the centre, where they will now get to see *Guldamara* and hear about its story.

"On 19 November we are holding an Open Day which will allow the public to see this incredible display. We usually get between 4000-8000 people attending this event" said Professor Begg.

This was the second marine debris workshop hosted by Tjutjuna Arts Centre and generously supported by Country Arts SA, Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara and GhostNets Australia.

The first marine debris sculpture was a gigantic southern right whale, *Jidirah*. This now resides in Monaco's Oceanographic Museum as part of the Indigenous Art TABA NABA Australia, Oceania Arts exhibition.

Professor Begg  
Research Chief of SARDI Aquatic Sciences





# AW Comings and Goings...

## Fiona Gill



What was initially to be a short stint as Regional Director of Natural Resources AW stretched out to become almost 18 months in which Fiona tirelessly supported the AW NRM Board's endeavours and provided leadership to the AW team.

In June this year, with all the right qualifications for the job, she accepted another role within the department as Director Fire and Flood. Her quick thinking and clear understanding of best practice will undoubtedly serve her and her team well in this new and challenging role.

Fiona once said that AW's greatest strength lies in its connection to people and community, and the power of our story-telling. Her support in building closer relationships between the region's community, AW NRM Board members, Natural Resources AW staff and DEWNR helped strengthen partnerships across the region.

Thanks to Fiona for her hard work, and we wish her well in her new role. We hope that she keeps an eye on the AW region where fire can present a very real danger to communities, and flood... well, that would be a surprise!

## Kenneth Scott



Thank you to Ken for the six months of dedication and leadership he showed as Manager Planning & Sustainable Landscapes. Ken did an amazing job of picking up the demands of this complex position in a very short time.

He leaves us to take up a Senior Project Officer position with the DSD, Affairs and Reconciliation. Good job Ken, and all the best.

## Angela Whiting



Although Angela left the team over a year ago and we waited and waited for her to return it was to not to be. She recently accepted the role of Senior Consultant with her new team in DEWNR's People, Capability and Culture branch.

After nearly seven years working as AW's Human Resources Officer and later Project Consultant, Angela contributed to the development and implementation of various HR policies and procedures; recruitment and selection of AW staff and the co-ordination of Work, Health and Safety management.

Ang formed many close friendships within the AW team and her thoughtful and supportive personality is still missed by all who had the pleasure of working with her.

## Welcome to the team

### Mary-Anne Healy



The AW team and AW NRM Board welcomes Mary-Anne to the role of A/Regional Director and looks forward to working with her. She has already shown that she has much to offer in this role (learn more about Mary-Anne on inside cover page).

### Dalin Song



Taking up the role of Business Support Officer Dalin has worked with AW since January proving herself to be a motivated fast learner and an asset to the team. Dalin works three days a week with AW and two with Community Engagement. Welcome Dalin, keep up the good work.

## Welcome to the team

### Pia Richter



Based in Ceduna's NRC, Pia has joined the AW team for 12 months as Acting Manager Co-management and Public Lands. She brings a wealth of experience to the role having previously worked in the AW Region, as a Ranger, a Land Manager with Yalata Community and most recently as Manager with Child Protection Services.

She has lived in the west coast region for over 20 years and is well acquainted with the local people and Aboriginal culture. Welcome Pia.

## The Leahs return...

### Leah Feuerherdt



We loved having Leah on board last year, (see Palya Winter edition 2016) so, having already seen the great job she did then, the team was delighted when she was awarded the role of Manager Planning & Sustainable Landscapes (PSL).

Having worked closely with the PSL team previously, Leah was a natural fit for the position and able to focus quickly on the demands of the role.

### Leah Kyriacou



Returning from maternity leave, Leah has brought her sunshiny personality back to the team as our Planning and Conservation Systems Officer. It's great to have you back Leah and thanks baby Oliver for the two-days-a-week loan.



Parry Agius  
Presiding Member



## AW NRM Board

Mick Haynes  
Board Member, West Coast



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

Debbie Hansen  
Board Member, Tjuntjuntjara



Kristy Richards  
Board Member, ALT



Ian Crombie  
Board Member, AMYAC



Peter Miller  
Board Member, West Coast



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[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/alinytjara-wilurara](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/alinytjara-wilurara)