



# Palya!

**STRONG PEOPLE HEALTHY COUNTRY and WATER**

*Anangu Kunpu, Ngura Kunpu munu Kapi*



02

Adelaide meets the Bush

06

NRM Boards on Country

08

Working on a Seasonal Wheel

10

APY Lands on the move

11

Healthy Country Planning for Kanpi

20

Yalata youth creating change



**Australian Government**



**Government of South Australia**

Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources  
Management Board



## From the Regional Director, Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara



Welcome to the 2018 Winter edition of Palya, where we share stories from the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board and Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara.

There is never a dull moment for the Natural Resources AW team with the last few months being no exception.

### 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:

October 2018, Adelaide

### Ceduna Arts and Cultural Centre

Features genuine local Aboriginal art  
2 Eyre Highway, Ceduna

### International Day of Indigenous Peoples 9 August 2018

As well as working with communities across the region to ensure we effectively deliver on our projects we have been busy with a range of additional activities to build partnerships and to ensure funding for our future operations.

From the process of applying for National Landcare Program funding, to holding a major art exhibition and multiple satellite exhibitions, through to travelling with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board to the remote community of Oak Valley, we are proud to present our achievements in this edition of Palya.

As many readers will be aware, the change in SA government has meant some changes to government policy including repealing the NRM Act and replacing it with a Landscape SA Act. The Minister for Environment and Water is embarking on a series of state-wide community engagement opportunities to discuss these changes. If you are interested in providing feedback or hearing more, please

contact our Community Engagement Manager Bruce Macpherson.

With staff based in Adelaide and Ceduna, our All Staff Muster, held in July at Coorabie farm, was a welcome opportunity for everyone to catch up on each-other's work and personal lives. On the first day we met with staff from the Western District of the Eyre Peninsula NRM Region and were joined by several of our co-management partners. We heard about the work happening in co-management then had a site visit to the old Yalata Homestead where we heard stories about its history.

For a small team, we achieve a lot and I am very proud to be a part of caring for the AW NRM Region. Enjoy our Winter edition.

Palya

Mary-Anne Healy  
Regional Director  
Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara



At the ruins of Yalata Homestead

## 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.



Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board Region



**02 Adelaide meets the Bush**

Exhibition in Adelaide a resounding success

**04 Talking with the locals**

Sharing stories across the region and building new relationships



**05 Satellite exhibitions prove popular**



Spreading insight about the AW Region across the state

**06 NRM Boards on Country**

Boards build a shared understanding



**08 Working on a Seasonal Wheel**

Consulting with women from across the Far West region



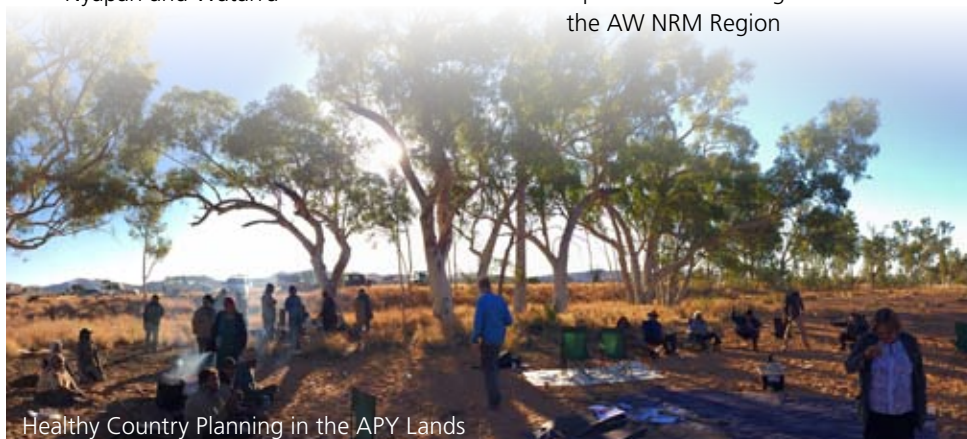
**10 APY Lands on the move**



Talking with locals about NRM and supporting NR AW project delivery

**11 Fire Management Planning**

Surveying fuel loads around Kanpi, Nyapari and Watarru



Healthy Country Planning in the APY Lands

**12 10 Deserts Project launched**

Government support for building resilience across our deserts



**13 Healthy Country Planning**



Workshop consultations in Kanpi and Nyapari

**14 Talking my Language**

National Language Learning Program participants awarded

**15 Tallaringa Management Strategy**

Plans to guide caring for Tallaringa CP



**16 Caring for Tallaringa CP**



Keeping buffel at bay on Tallaringa Conservation Park

**17 Far West Indigenous Tourism**

New strategy to guide regional tourism

**18 Monitoring sandalwood**

Mapping and monitoring locations

**20 Yalata youth creating change**

AW contracts supporting change in Yalata



**24 Co-management in the Region**

Update on co-management within the AW NRM Region

**From the Presiding Member**



Welcome to the 2018 Winter edition of Palya.

The first six months of 2018 was a whirlwind of activity that has brought greater recognition

and understanding of the region and the people who live and work there.

The AW NRM Board has fostered a strong relationship with the AMLR NRM Board that will benefit both regions. This was formalised with the signing of a Pukulpa Tjungu (happy together) Agreement.

I would like to thank the people from Oak Valley Community who hosted a visit to their country for AW and AMLR NRM Board members and staff.

Not only do we appreciate the warm hospitality shown to us, taking us out on country and sharing their Community but also their contribution to the development of a *Tjungu Palya* (good together) Agreement.

The Board continues to seek out and pursue opportunities that will benefit the people and country within our region; from supporting pastoral development in the APY Lands to driving change through youth programs in Yalata.

We also work closely with co-management bodies within the AW Region to assist them to achieve the objectives of their Healthy Country Plans and support them in developing plans for the future.

I would like to welcome three new Board Members, Julie O'Toole from the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation, and Sally Scales and Anton Baker representing the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands. They are strong advocates for their communities and for the care of the AW NRM Region at large.

Parry Agius  
Presiding Member

Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board



# Adelaide meets the Bush Exhibition a resounding success

In early March 2018 the AW NRM Board opened the doors to their *Adelaide meets the Bush* exhibition, and in doing so succeeded beyond all expectations in bringing together the people of Adelaide and the people and country of the AW NRM Region.

The exhibition at Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, presented interpretations of the region's people, country and water, through art, photography and video.

Motivated by their deep love of country and culture, and the desire for a better future for the young people living on their homelands, members of the all-Aboriginal AW NRM Board sought to

find a way to share their world with the wider South Australian community.

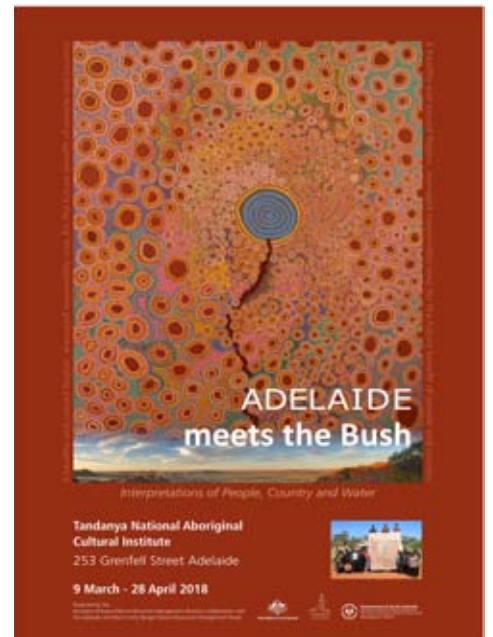
The on-ground work the Board supports takes place out of sight of the public eye on vast, remote and spectacular lands. Owned or managed by the Traditional Owners, the country abounds with many unique creatures and plants adapted to survive the harsh, arid environment.

"The *Adelaide meets the Bush* exhibition is our way of inviting people to our region, to let them see the beauty there, to show what we are doing to help our country and our people, and to understand our dreams for the future. We want to build new friendships and partnerships and forge better prospects for us all" said Board Member Mima Smart (OAM).

Below: AW NRM Board's Presiding Member Parry Agius spoke of his deep love of country at the opening



Below: Members of the AW NRM Board at the launch



Above: Exhibition poster

Below: Members of the Parliamentary Natural Resources Committee, Ministers Steph Keys and John Dawkins attended the exhibition launch



In partnership with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM Board, the exhibition was part of the broader *Adelaide meets the Bush* strategy which includes satellite photographic exhibitions across the state, and an on-country visit to the AW NRM Region.

“The combination of insightful video, spectacular artwork and informative photography made this exhibition uniquely engaging” said Russel Johnstone a member of the AMLR NRM Board.

“Sharing it with the people of Adelaide and indeed the world will leave an enduring and positive impression that will influence public perception into the future” he said.

Sales of artwork included all the punu (wooden handcrafts), artworks and numerous paintings with a total of over \$30,000 are going back to communities within the AW NRM Region.

“This exhibition was absolutely wonderful, breathtaking... definitely the best I have seen at Tandanya in many years” said Raylene Campion (Aunty Mini) who has worked at Tandanya for over 25 years.

The exhibition was visited by over three thousand people many of whom recorded their thoughts about the experience in the gallery guest book.

In response to the popularity of the exhibition, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, requested that the end date be extend an extra month, until the end of April 2018.

Below: The combination of video, photography and artworks were both informative and engaging



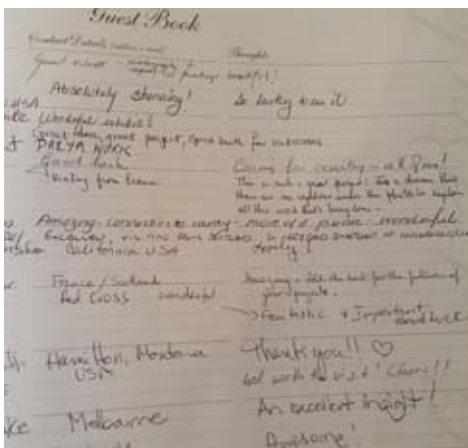
Photo by Darren Clements



Above: Presiding members Parry Agius and Chris Daniels talking with AW NRM Board member Peter Miller



Above: Visitors learning about rockholes



Above: One of many pages in the guest book indicating visitor's response to the exhibition



Above: School groups toured the exhibition



Tandanya's 'Aunty' Mini

## Thank you *Tandanya*

Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute was the perfect venue for the *Adelaide meets the Bush* exhibition.

“The support and dedication of the staff at Tandanya was integral to the success of the exhibition” said AW's Community Engagement Manager Bruce Macpherson.

From the incredible effort put in by the Corporate Manager Gemma Page who hit the ground running to bring everything together in record time, to the wonderful Aunty Mini whose warm smile and lovely manner always greeted the AW team and visitors alike.

“The gallery team, headed up by Verle Williams and including Matthew Hein and Harry Koch, really knew their stuff and we all enjoyed working with them” said Bruce.

Thanks also to Tandanya's Adam Jenkins whose support setting up the technical side of the videos was much appreciated.

'Uncle' Verle hanging artworks





### Special Thanks

The *Adelaide meets the Bush* exhibition was greatly enhanced by the efforts of the Far West Coast Aboriginal Women’s Council members, their friends and family and the Far West Coast Language Centre who created a special, tangible connection to the region with soil and sand, flora, fauna sculptures and descriptors in language.

The AW NRM Board appreciated and was greatly impressed by their displays that highlighted the important links between language, country and culture and showed the adaptive creativity of the Far West Coast basket weavers in incorporating marine debris into their works to create unique and colourful pieces.



Photo by Darren Clements

## Talking with the locals

Limited capacity to visit a major city is an isolating reality for most people living in the AW Region’s remote communities.

“Even when we come to Adelaide we often feel uncomfortable because we know that many people don’t understand our culture and how we view the world” said AW NRM Board member Debbie Hansen from Tjuntjuntjara in Western Australia.

“Even when Anangu come down from communities there are very few opportunities to speak with people about our lives. Sharing our thoughts on video while we are on country was a good way to tell people. The videos are for sharing for a long time” she said.

Natural Resources AW staff and photographers traversed the region recording people’s thoughts and photographing the spectacular country.

Not only did this process produce an invaluable collection of films and photographic records, it built and extended relationships and demonstrated the genuine commitment of the AW NRM Board to the welfare of the people and country.



Above: Margaret Dodd and her daughter Lorna share a joke during a recording session



Above: Roderick Day Senior Aboriginal Education Officer from Yalata Community



Above: Lyndon from Yalata Community worked on the beach clean up

Below: Photographer Amy Pynton showing the children at Yalata the pictures she had taken



Photo by Ninti Media and Amy Pynton

# Satellite exhibitions proving popular



The AW NRM Board in partnership with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM Board have, during June-July, installed satellite exhibitions in the Barossa Valley, Victor Harbor and Ceduna. The exhibitions form part of the *Adelaide meets the Bush* strategy that promotes greater understanding and stronger relationships between the people from both regions.

Photographs and interpretive information were tailored to suit each venue and provide visitors with the maximum opportunity to learn about the people and country of the AW NRM region.

The Barossa Valley Bush Gardens exhibition, held to celebrate Reconciliation also coincided with their Open Day, attracting over 300 people. Adjahdura Elder Quentin Agius welcomed guests to country and his talented grandson performed a traditional dance. AMLR NRM Board Member Russell Johnstone along with AW NRM Board representative Helen Donald welcomed visitors to the exhibition. The exhibition continued until the end of July.

In celebration of NAIDOC week and aligning with the beginning of the school holidays, exhibitions were also installed

at the SA Whale Centre in Victor Harbor and another at the Memorial Hall in Ceduna. Artwork from Ceduna Arts and displays from the Far West Coast Aboriginal Women's Council were included with the photographic and video exhibits in Ceduna.

The AW and AMLR NRM Boards would like to thank all those who made the success of these exhibitions possible.

Above: SA Whale Centre Coordinator Amelia Graham viewing the new Adelaide meets the Bush installation



Above: Opening at the Barossa Valley Bush Gardens exhibition



Above and below: Ceduna Memorial Hall exhibition



# ADELAIDE meets the BUSH at WoMADelaide

In the true spirit of collaboration and sharing, women from the Far West Coast Aboriginal Women's Council and Aboriginal women from the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region shared their skills in traditional weaving with visitors at the 2018 WoMADelaide.

The women set up on a beautiful grassed area under trees so that people could sit down in a natural space and learn a new skill.

"The response was wonderful, so many people came and enjoyed making their own pieces while talking with us about our culture and about themselves" said Tamahina Cox from Ceduna Natural Resources Centre.

"It was a great opportunity to share thoughts and ideas" she said.

"The children took special delight in making colourful baskets and hangings using all sorts of natural bits and pieces."

The Far West Coast Aboriginal Women's Council members travelled down to Adelaide to support the AW NRM Board's *Adelaide meets the Bush* exhibition and to share their skills with others at WoMADelaide.





# AW and AMLR NRM Boards build a shared understanding on country

Photo by Robert Sleep

In late-June the AW NRM Board hosted a two-day visit to the Oak Valley community, on Maralinga Tjarutja Lands for the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM Board members and staff. The board recognised the trip to country as a critical component of the *Adelaide meets the Bush* strategy, especially in developing stronger relationships between the people of Adelaide (and broader SA) and the people of the AW NRM Region.

Oak Valley is a six-hour drive northwest of Ceduna. After a long day of flying and driving, the group was formally welcomed to the community by Oak Valley Chairperson Mr Jeremy LeBois and treated to a BBQ. It was an opportunity for everyone to relax and get to know each other before settling in for an early night.

That evening, by the light of head lamps, the AW NRM Board's Presiding member Parry Agius and AMLR NRM Board's Presiding member Chris Daniels signed a *Pukulpa Tjungu* (happy together) Statement of Intent Agreement formalising the working relationship between the two boards.



Some of the group bunked in at the visitor quarters while others chose to sleep under the stars, but the campfire drew everyone together each night to share hot faces, cold backs and many good yarns.

The AW NRM Board's meeting with the Oak Valley community the following day centred on development of a Memorandum of Understanding style agreement. At the request of the community members the resultant draft agreement will be called *Tjungu Palya* (good together).

The AMLR visitors observed discussions that covered various topics including work for rangers, community priorities and ways of working together. A lovely highlight enjoyed by all was a visit from

community school children who sang in Pitjantjatjara *Kata Alipiri Muti Tjina* (head and shoulders, knees and toes).

The meeting was followed by a visit to the local art centre where artworks were admired and numerous pieces were purchased. The group also learned more about the history of the community and gained insight into the impact of the 1950's Maralinga nuclear bomb tests on the people, their country and their culture.

Oak Valley School Principal Roxanne Boyce showed the visitors around the beautifully organised and impressive school. She explained that the duties of the three



Above: Visitors and community on Country

Below left: Presiding members sign the *Pukulpa Tjungu* using headlamps

Below right: Oak Valley school children sing for the visitors







staff (herself and two teachers) extends beyond the children's educational needs to include preparing and serving breakfast and lunch, as well as supervising them with showering and washing their school clothes.

The cool clear weather was perfect for a bush tucker trip, with men and women out on country in separate groups to experience traditional food gathering and hunting. The skilled Anangu ladies found an abundance of *maku* (witchetty grubs) while the men cooked *malu* (kangaroo) on an open fire and showed the guests how plentiful food was in the surrounding bush.

On the last night, the community gathered around a blazing fire while Mima Smart and Debbie Hansen led community members in performing a number of cultural songs and dances.

"Visiting Oak Valley and having the opportunity to better understand the perspective of the people who live there was an amazing experience for me and our Board members. The incredible beauty of the country, the resilience of the people and their driving passion to build a better future for their community is truly impressive. This is one of the best



things our Board has done since I have been Presiding Member" said AMLR NRM Board Presiding Member Chris Daniels.

Above: AW NRM Board member Debbie Hansen and two of her grandchildren from Oak Valley

Bottom left: Cindy Watson expertly digs for maku

Bottom right: the "men's" group cooking up malu

Below: With Mima Smart tucked up in bed behind them, AW's Executive Officer Sue Agars and Ranger Tamahina Cox enjoyed the camp fire



## Learning about commercial bush harvesting



In late February 2018 AW NRM Board member Kristy Richards and Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board member Wanda Miller attended the *Bush foods and bush medicines: Harvesting in Central Australia* workshop to hear from Aboriginal harvesters who sustainably harvest bush foods and bush medicines across central Australia.

"It was a great opportunity to network and build new relationships with so many and varied people involved in traditional harvesting" said Kristy.

"We learned how to protect indigenous ecological and cultural knowledge by considering the different business models operating across the region and nationally."

This workshop is part of the Australian Native Food and Botanicals *Growing the Grower* roadshow series across Australia showcasing the expanding native food and botanicals sector.

As the extraordinary health benefits and medicinal properties of unique Australian plants are being "discovered" the market demand is enormous.

"The prospect of viably harvesting native produce on Country as a community income stream is really exciting" said Kristy.





# Working on the Wheel

## Developing a seasonal wheel in the Far West

In June 2017, the Far West Aboriginal Women’s Council (FWCWC) held an on-country camp which focussed on considering the many aspects associated with sharing cultural and scientific knowledge.

This sparked conversation and excitement amongst the women who were inspired to create what would be, the first Seasonal Wheel calendar for their region.

To achieve this, FWCWC formed a partnership with AW NRM Board, Eyre Peninsula (EP) NRM Board and CSIRO Perth.

Initial research into the ways in which other Aboriginal language groups and communities had documented and

displayed their knowledge in seasonal wheels resulted in locating a suitable framework and template.

Coincidentally, when the creator of the preferred template design Emma Woodward (CSIRO Perth) was contacted, she was seeking Aboriginal groups to partner with her on a new and closely related project.

Emma has over ten years experience working with Aboriginal groups documenting seasonal knowledge. She suggested that partnering in the Far West Coast (FWC) Seasonal Wheel consultations would be of help to her as well as support the research team achieve the best results.

The aim of her project was to give

greater prominence and recognition to Indigenous biodiversity knowledge by creating a specific Indigenous Ecological Knowledge platform within the Atlas of Living Australia.

It was determined that Emma would provide support and training in the development of the women’s Seasonal Wheel, and that the results of the consultations would assist her to develop the online knowledge platform.

### Community consultations

Early on Sunday 3 June, Emma, EP Ranger Tamahina Cox and NRM Aboriginal Partnerships Officer Karrena Veltman from the Ceduna Natural Resources Centre set off from Ceduna for the remote community of Oak Valley.

Above: Young women in the Oak Valley Art Centre consider what the wheel might look like

Left: Cindy Watson showing plants in her community

Below: Researching botanical names for native flora

Right: Budding local bush food





It was the start of a busy schedule covering consultations in Oak Valley on Monday, Yalata on Tuesday, Scotdesco on Wednesday, Koonibba on Thursday and Ceduna and its surrounding homelands on Friday. In total sixty women contributed their knowledge to the creation of the Seasonal Wheel.

### Oak Valley

At Oak Valley's Womens Art Centre participants were surrounded by beautiful local artworks where six girls joined the consultations listening and learning from their mothers and the Elders as they exchanged knowledge.

Two of the youngest girls later showed the researchers where to find bush foods.

### Yalata

In Yalata Community the women sat beside a fire on the ground surrounded

by mallee and gudua scrub; a fitting place to learn about flora, the ways it can be used and when it is available.

### Scotdesco and Koonibba

At Scotdesco the women gathered in the training room warmed by a crackling gudua wood fire.

In Koonibba the team visited a lookout and rockhole overlooking the community with Ceduna and Thevenard visible in the distance.

### Ceduna

The paintings hanging on the walls in the Ceduna Natural Resources Centre conference room were created at past State AW NRM Women's gatherings and illustrate stories and bush food. This reminder of the history of the work they were undertaking re-inspired the women, many of whom had spent long days travelling and consulting across the region.

***At each location, plants were identified and information about when they flower or fruit, what they were traditionally used for and if they're still used today was recorded.***

The information also included the times when particular activities needed to be performed such as burning.

Above: Josie Rohl considers the information recorded  
Below: The researchers and contributors visited a lookout at Koonibba

The information from each community was written onto blank 'wheel' templates. This was then transferred by Emma and Tamahina onto a single large laminated wheel.

The research team would like to thank FWCWC, Chairperson Cecelia Cox and the council's board members who live in the communities for initiating and supporting this very worthwhile endeavour. Thank you also to the Women's Coordinators from Oak Valley and Koonibba who organised the ladies and venues making sure that everything ran smoothly.

Over the next twelve months, video recordings taken during the trip will be edited to document and showcase the process in a short video entitled 'The Making of the Far West Aboriginal Women's Seasonal Wheel'.

With completion of this first draft, a second round of community consultations is planned to ensure all the information is correct and that the women are happy to share this knowledge with the world.

When all the information is agreed upon, a colourful and informative Far West Aboriginal Women's Seasonal Wheel will be designed. Once approved it will be published and will provide an important cultural knowledge record for generations to come.

Below: Karrena Veltman talking with the women from Oak Valley

Photos by Tamahina Cox





# APY Lands on the move



In May 2018, Natural Resources AW's Planning and Sustainable Landscapes Manager Leah Feuerherdt spent two weeks based in Umuwa in the APY Lands talking with the locals about NRM and supporting NR AW's staff with project delivery.

After presenting the outcomes of the most recent Natural Resource Audit (NRA) to the APY Lands Pastoral group, Leah sought their endorsement to use the NRA to guide grazing practices on APY Lands.

The report was endorsed by the group, but it was determined that it also needed endorsement from the APY Executive.

Natural Resources AW's Data and Information Management Coordinator Adam Wood was also in the APY Lands to support pastoral projects. Leah joined Adam and local Regional Landcare Facilitator Walter Tjami to see first-hand the ground truthing of spatial hub mapping being undertaken.

"The spatial hub will be an invaluable tool for pastoral management into the future. It will provide the APY Pastoral Management team with the tools to undertake accurate on-ground planning, monitoring and evaluation and financial planning. Considering how vast and sparsely populated the region is, Walter and Adam's work on the ground truth mapping is a significant step toward full utilisation of the program" said Leah.

During the week Leah met with Training Co-ordinator Meryn Codell and APY Land Management's Program Manager Wayne Davis to plan for delivery of a fire risk assessment workshop.

She also held discussions with APY Lands Council General Manager Richard King, Pastoral Manager Michael Clinch and Contractor Steve Petty about the review of the Sustainable Pastoral Development Plan (SPDP). The review, funded in part by the Federal Government's National Landcare



Above: Leah caught up with AW's Ben Daly and HCP Facilitator Stewart Cowell in Umuwa

Program was completed in August 2018. "This revised Plan will provide critical guidance to sustainable pastoral development in the APY Lands" said Leah.

Camel and cattle management and wild dog issues were also discussed with interested locals.

Leah joined the Warru Rangers, APY Land Management Ecologist Caro Galindez Silva, and the Warru Project Coordinator Helen Palmer in a reconnaissance visit to the rocky site where warru were released back into the wild from the Pintji (predator-free enclosure) in 2016. The teams set out to locate all the warru traps before an intense trapping session planned for the following week.

Attending the first day of the two-day Healthy Country Planning workshops held at Kanpi Community, Natural Resources AW's Ben Daly and Facilitator Stuart Cowell provided a closer understanding of the community's NRM aims and concerns.

Above: The warru team preparing to collect traps

Below: Early morning view across the APY Lands



Photo by Leah Feuerherdt



Above: Talking with AW's Regional Landcare Facilitator Walter Tjami

APY Anthropology plays a significant role in ensuring that cultural concerns are respected and considered as part of NRM based plans. Leah talked with APY Anthropology about the Kanpi community meeting and how we can work together to deliver the Kanpi's revised Healthy Country Plan.

As part of her busy schedule, Leah also met with AW contractor Will Powrie to discuss about the Kanpi project, Walter Tjami to evaluate the regional landcare facilitation process, and with Michael Clinch to plan NLP2 project and the delivery of final activities for 2017/18 contract.

Thank you to all who made Leah's trip so worthwhile and to the APY Land Management staff who invited her to dinner. Thank you also to Michael Clinch and his wife for a lovely brunch, Helen Palmer, and the two Anangu ladies from Pukatja-Jariwa and Impati who took her maku digging.

Leah joined the Warru Rangers in a reconnaissance visit to the rocky outcrop of Wamitjara



A survey of the remote north western corner of the AW NRM Region in April 2018 provided critical information for the development of ongoing fire management plans including location, density and types of fuel load.

Monitoring and managing the remote areas away from roads and communities plays an important role in sustaining the overall health of the region.

The assessment of the fuel loads along tracks found that lower storey vegetation is a combination of spinifex and ephemeral grasses. Areas where burning would be beneficial were recorded electronically on a map.

The probable approach will be small mosaic burning in the winter months to stimulate healthier structural biodiversity and reduce infestation by Buffel grass. It would also reduce spinifex fuel loads and create multiple age classes. This forms a richer, more diverse habitat for native herbivores that are important bush food for Anangu.

Consultation with Traditional Owners, APY Anthropology and APY Land Management to ensure cultural aspects are fully considered will be undertaken as part of the planning process.

While on country, the opportunity was taken to speak with people about the local upcoming Healthy Country Planning workshops.

Discussions were held with Kanpi and Nyapari community members to assist them in understanding the way in which Healthy Country Plans are developed by the community, including best ways to monitor and assess progress of works undertaken.

Healthy County Plans are created by the people who live on country, whose ongoing seasonal and long-term observations and understanding of cultural context is invaluable.

This survey was undertaken with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

Based on the Kanpi and Nyapari Fire and Healthy Country Planning report by Will Powrie

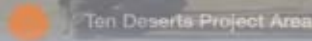




Ten Deserts Project Launch



## 10 Deserts Project Launched: *building environmental resilience across the desert*



**The 10 Deserts Project, an exciting new Indigenous land management collaboration across Australia's desert country, was launched in March 2018 at Old Parliament House in Canberra.**

The 10 Deserts Project, led by Desert Support Services (DSS) and enabled by the BHP Billiton Foundation aims to build the capacity of Indigenous groups to look after country for a range of economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes.

"The 10 Deserts region is vast, spanning 2.7 million square kilometres, or one-

third of Australia," Mr Peter See, DSS spokesperson said.

AW NRM Board Presiding Member Parry Agius said the board welcomes the opportunity to support this unified multi-organisational approach as a proud partner of the 10 Deserts Project.

"We have recently committed to support the development of a Ranger Program in Oak Valley as part of the Maralinga Tjarutja's Tjungu Palya (good together) Agreement.

"We continue to work with Land Holding Authorities in the AW Region to build capacity, employment opportunities and

Visit: [www.tendeserts.org](http://www.tendeserts.org)

environmental resilience" Mr Agius said.

Indigenous land management will be supported at a local and regional level, complemented by a representative structure for Indigenous land managers designed to be effective into the future.

The desert landscape's unique natural and cultural values are under threat from reduced capacity of the Indigenous owners that live there, declining water availability and quality, vast destructive wildfires, invading noxious weeds and feral animals. These threats will be further exacerbated by climate change.

This project is designed to build environmental resilience across the desert and sustain the largest Indigenous-led connected conservation network on earth, and it will bring training and employment opportunities, reinstatement of cultural authority and help secure long-term funding and revenue streams.

Margaret Rose, Senior Cultural Advisor, Nyangumarta Warrarn IPA and ranger team said:

"This project is about all desert groups working together and not letting all the borders that have been put up between our various lands stop us looking after Country and learning from each other."



AW NRM Board's Presiding Member Parry Agius, Board Member Kristy Richards and Natural Resources AW's Regional Director Mary-Anne Healy joined other delegates at the 10 Deserts Project launch in Canberra



Margaret Rose from Nyangumarta Warrarn presented Karen Wood from BHP Billiton Foundation with traditional jakapiri sandals representing the start of the journey for the 10 Deserts Project

Ms Karen Wood, Chairman, BHP Billiton Foundation, said the 10 Deserts Project demonstrates the foundation's approach to working with international institutions, governments, civil societies and businesses.

"With continued support, the 10 Deserts Project will take collaboration and outcomes to a whole new level," Ms Wood said. "I look forward to seeing the project support and empower the Aboriginal Traditional Owners who live in this remarkable landscape and look after this country."

The partner organisations that DSS will work with during the life of the project are: Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board, Central Land Council, Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa, Kimberley Land Council, Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation, Indigenous Desert Alliance, The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Nature Conservancy, and Arid Lands Environment Centre.



## Now you're talking my language...

### Congratulations course graduates

The AW NRM Board recognises and supports the importance of languages as part of retaining culture and connection to country. We extend our congratulations to the nine Aboriginal women who were awarded a Certificate II in the Master Apprentice Language Learning Program, held in Ceduna 2017.

The National Language Learning Program was created and delivered by Resources Network for Linguistic Diversity. It was designed to revitalise and preserve Indigenous languages and was facilitated by the Far West Language Centre, a program of the Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation.

Participants attended three blocks of teaching sessions and other interim activities and projects over a six month period, starting in February and ending in August 2017.

This included 100 hours in immersion sessions where no English was spoken.

"The program is about reviving and strengthening endangered languages," Far West Language Centre coordinator Lynette Ackland said.

"The aim is to revive the endangered languages and for people to be speaking them fluently. Participants who knew some of a language now have greater confidence and are keen to learn more so they can teach others," Ms Ackland said.

With at least five Indigenous languages being spoken within this region,

participants have a better understanding of the differences of languages and selected their choice of language to learn.

The course is based on a Native American program offered in the United States and is the first nationally accredited course in Australia.

"When I was younger I spoke the Gugada language fluently but was forbidden to speak it as being part of the Stolen Generation and so I forgot it" said participant Joylene Haynes.

"This course has been really beneficial to me. Now we can pass our learnings on to the next generation and can encourage young people to engage in these languages" said participant Susan Betts.

Ms Ackland said there were a lot of Indigenous language speakers in the area but a course such as this will ensure they can gain tools and techniques that will allow for teaching to happen on country so that continual passing on of the languages can happen through day to day activities.

The Certificate II in Master Apprentice course is focussed on training participants to pass on their language skills to family and friends who will then pass on to their family and friends and so on.

If you are interested in finding out what the Far West Languages Centre is doing to assist in the revival and restoration of local Indigenous Languages please visit the Far West Languages Centre located in the Ceduna Arts Centre building and speak to the staff.

Photo by Lynette Ackland



# Kanpi Nyapari: Healthy Country Planning



Day one of the workshop was held under the shade of river red gums in Umuwa creek

Written and photographed by Ben Daly

The APY Lands Executive Council has endorsed development of Healthy Country Plans (HCP) as the basis for planning across their Lands. AW's Regional Planning Coordinator Ben Daly has been leading the process and in May 2018 coordinated a two-day HCP workshop for the Kanpi and Nyapari communities.

Funded by the AW NRM Board, APY Anthropology had previously carried out consultations with Traditional Owners and Anangu from the Kanpi-Nyapari Undeclared Area (KNUA) in preparation for the workshop.

Day one of the workshop was held in the dry river bed of Umuwa creek under the shade of the stately red gums. Day two was held in the APY Executive meeting room in Umuwa.

The impetus for these consultations was to gather the right people together to consider and plan for future options for land management work in KNUA.

While Healthy Country Planning has been adopted for some time as the

Day two of the workshop: Kanpi Community member and AW NRM Board member Anton Baker (right) listening to Will Powrie's (left) presentation

standard approach for updating the APY Land's five Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) plans, planning for the KNUA area was seen by APY Anthropology as a priority. This is because unlike each of the IPAs which have ongoing funding, current funding for the KNUA is coming to an end in June 2018.

Earlier in the week and before the two day workshop, AW provided an overview of Healthy Country Planning to APY Anthropology staff. The aim of this session was to present the HCP methodology as a way of updating and adaptively managing future land management projects, and presenting this as one of many options that may be developed further in APY.

AW NRM Board has been supporting land management works in the Kanpi and Nyapari areas for the past six years.

However as of July 2018 the funding that the board has historically been able to secure will no longer be available. As such, the board has been assisting APY to plan the process for managing the withdrawal of these funds.

Below: Ben Daly and Walter Tjami prepare kangaroo tails to cook on the fire





As future opportunities are explored, the impressive work Anangu have undertaken during the previous six years of funding will be an excellent foundation from which to base future investment.

On day two of the Kanpi and Nyapari HCP update workshop, participants increasingly recognised the part they wanted to play in the future.

“We have to speak up for all the people. It’s up to us to stand up and speak up. It’s our culture and country. This way, white people know it is not white people making it up, it is the truth from Anangu” said Mr Adrian Wilson.

He also shared his disgust that camels were ruining the land saying “this camel came from another country and has no respect for this country. It has destroyed this country for kangaroos. Camel is the destroyer”.

“We can’t be greedy (as Elders), we have to pass on knowledge of this country (to the younger generation)”.

As a first step toward exploring these future opportunities, APY Anthropology has been working with Anangu and Traditional Owners from the KNUA to develop a working group for the KNUA.

The meeting in Umuwa was an important part of this process and went part of the way to achieving this outcome.

Right: Roadside sign leading into the workshop area

Supported by AW NRM Board, APY Anthropology organised a working group for KNUA at the end of June 2018.

The formation of this group is a key step toward determining the future of land management work in KUNA, as it is these members who will decide on significant aspects of NRM.

As this particular chapter comes to an end, AW staff Ben Daly, Leah Feuerherdt, and Conservation Management Director Stuart Cowell, would like to again thank the Anangu Tjuta (many Aboriginal people) who participated and shared their expert knowledge during the first workshop in March 2017 as well as for the most recent participants for their valuable input in May 2018.



Tea break at the workshop at Umuwa creek



Sandhill dunnart

## Endangered species range extended

**The discovery of sandhill dunnarts during surveys undertaken along the dog fence bordering Yellabinna Regional Reserve extends the known range of this endangered species by 80-90km.**

Natural Resources AW’s Ecologist Brett Backhouse and Project Officer Tori Ronan spent five days in May surveying the eastern section of the reserve, approximately 100km north of Ceduna.

They were joined by John Read from Ecological Horizons and Aboriginal workers from Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation.

The two sandhill dunnarts found were females, one in its first year, the other a breeding female. Both were found in long unburnt habitat, with the most recent fire scar being a 1988 burn.

The team also captured a kultarr, a marsupial carnivore with a brush tail like a hopping mouse. This is the third caught along the eastern edge of Yellabinna with its usual stronghold closer to Coober Pedy.

Spinifex (Triodia) in the area was measured, assessed, and searched for tracks by sandhill dunnarts and malleefowl.

Photo and report by Brett Backhouse



Kultarr marked with red ink on tail



# Keeping country healthy ...and protecting cultural places

A new management plan has been released to guide the future of Tallaringa Conservation Park.

Tallaringa Conservation Park, a 1.26 million hectare park in the state's arid centre located about 90km west of Coober Pedy, protects significant archaeological and Aboriginal cultural sites and a range of native flora and fauna.

Dr Matthew Ward, deputy chair of the

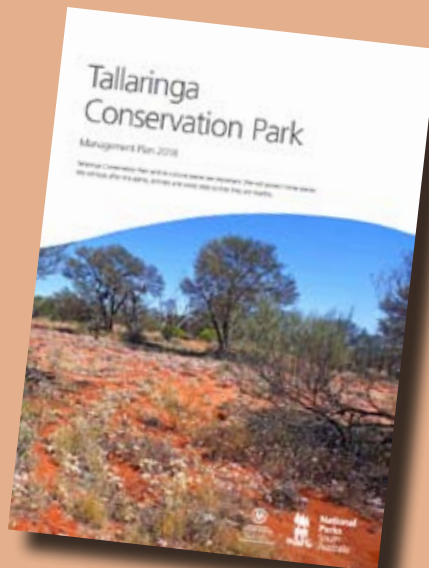
Below: Former Chair of the Tallaringa Conservation Park Advisory Committee Ian Crombie



Tallaringa Conservation Park Co-management Advisory Committee, said the Tallaringa Conservation Park Management Plan was an important achievement for the Advisory Committee, and for the future of the park.

"The management plan sets directions for management of the park, communicates management arrangements to the public, and supports the aspirations of the traditional owners for their Country" he said.

"It proposes strategies to protect Aboriginal cultural values and enhance connection to Country, protect and restore the environment, and provide a unique experience for visitors.



The new management plan will help to achieve Antakirinja Matu Yankunytjatjara peoples' vision and goals for how their Country will be managed into the future."

The lands and waters of Tallaringa Conservation Park are connected to a diverse network of creation story associations that are central to the lives of the Antakirinja Matu Yankunytjatjara people.

The plan was developed using an approach called Manta Palya (Healthy Country) planning. This approach is based on a traditional conservation action planning process that has been expanded to encompass Aboriginal social and cultural values.

Left: The Tallaringa Conservation Park Management Plan is available at [www.environment.sa.gov.au/parkmanagement](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parkmanagement)

Below: Working on pitfall traps to survey and record threatened species and other small animals living in Tallaringa Conservation Park





Ian Crombie, Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara traditional owner and member of the Tallaringa Conservation Park Advisory Committee, said “it is really good to see Tallaringa having a plan for management. The involvement of Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation members in the development of the Healthy Country Plan which was the basis for the park management plan gave a great opportunity to contribute our cultural knowledge and experience for the future of the park. We look forward to working with the Department for Environment and Water in managing Tallaringa Conservation Park for our children and grandchildren”.

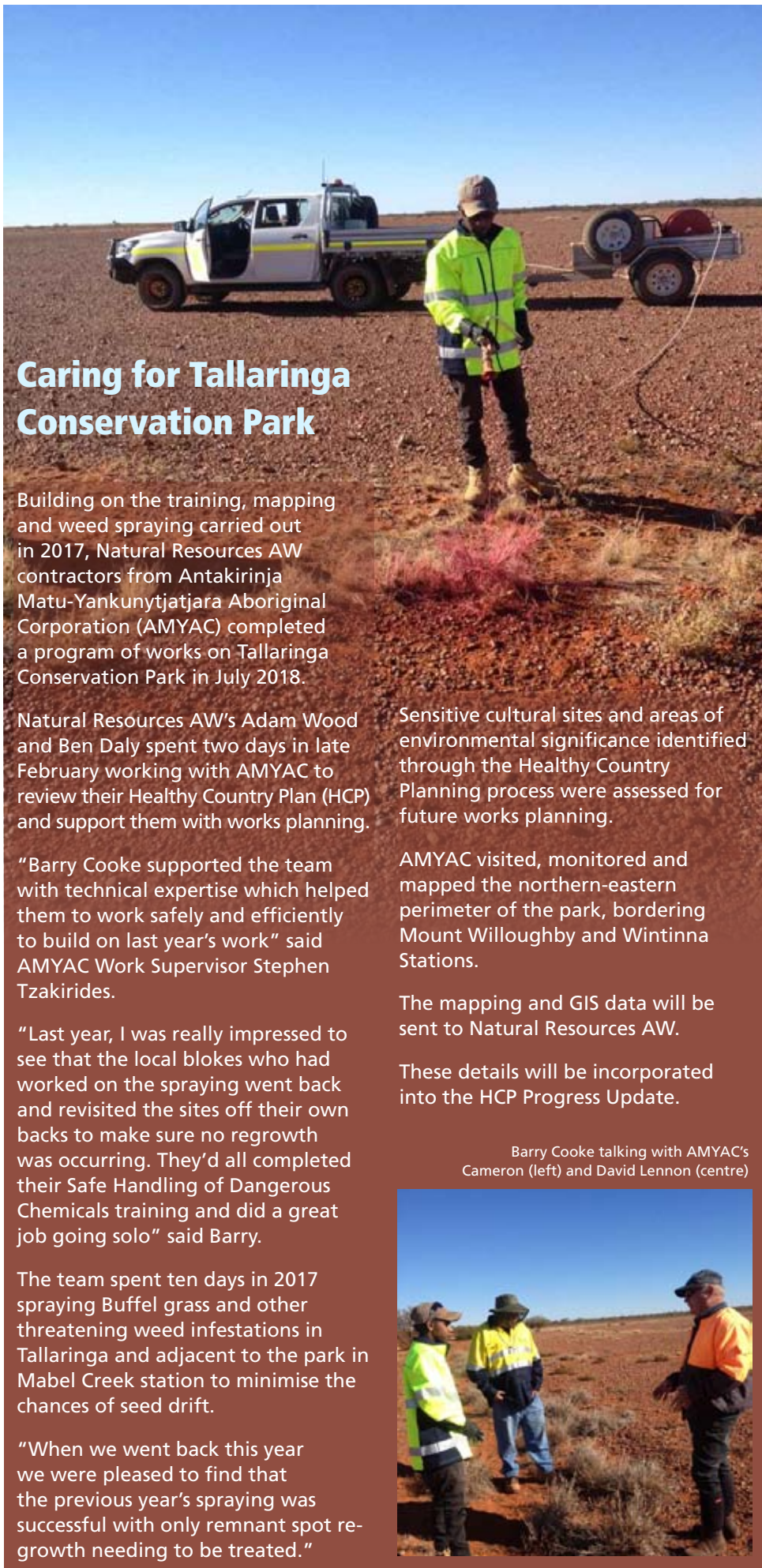
For more information on the Tallaringa Conservation Park Management Plan, please visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/parkmanagement](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parkmanagement)

Below: Josh Dingaman (left) and Ian Crombie take a break at the Park

Bottom: Visitors enjoying the Park’s beauty



## Caring for Tallaringa Conservation Park



Building on the training, mapping and weed spraying carried out in 2017, Natural Resources AW contractors from Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC) completed a program of works on Tallaringa Conservation Park in July 2018.

Natural Resources AW’s Adam Wood and Ben Daly spent two days in late February working with AMYAC to review their Healthy Country Plan (HCP) and support them with works planning.

“Barry Cooke supported the team with technical expertise which helped them to work safely and efficiently to build on last year’s work” said AMYAC Work Supervisor Stephen Tzakirides.

“Last year, I was really impressed to see that the local blokes who had worked on the spraying went back and revisited the sites off their own backs to make sure no regrowth was occurring. They’d all completed their Safe Handling of Dangerous Chemicals training and did a great job going solo” said Barry.

The team spent ten days in 2017 spraying Buffel grass and other threatening weed infestations in Tallaringa and adjacent to the park in Mabel Creek station to minimise the chances of seed drift.

“When we went back this year we were pleased to find that the previous year’s spraying was successful with only remnant spot regrowth needing to be treated.”


Sensitive cultural sites and areas of environmental significance identified through the Healthy Country Planning process were assessed for future works planning.

AMYAC visited, monitored and mapped the northern-eastern perimeter of the park, bordering Mount Willoughby and Wintinna Stations.

The mapping and GIS data will be sent to Natural Resources AW.

These details will be incorporated into the HCP Progress Update.

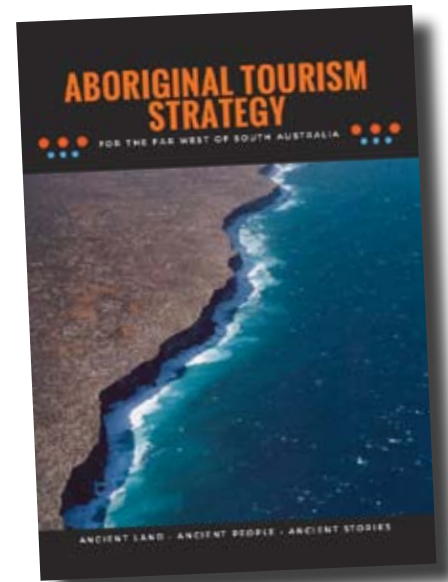
Barry Cooke talking with AMYAC’s Cameron (left) and David Lennon (centre)





# Far West Aboriginal Tourism Strategic Plan

Extract from the 2017 Aboriginal Tourism Strategy



The intention of the Far West Aboriginal Tourism Strategic Plan is to provide support to current and emerging Aboriginal tourism enterprises and mainstream tourism ventures that employ Aboriginal people in the Far West of South Australia. The Far West region is defined as the area between Ceduna and the Western Australian border.

The business culture of Aboriginal people in South Australia has a focus on Aboriginal tourism activities. These activities include arts and crafts, occasional performing arts, and some limited nature-based experiences. The nature-based experiences help visitors to develop an understanding of the relationship Aboriginal people have with the land and the sea.

Consultation with Aboriginal communities, existing Aboriginal tourism businesses, non-government and government agencies has been extensive with over 70



Image courtesy Lutheran archives: Davenport Creek near Koonibba Circa 1920s

**The AW NRM Board, in accordance with its Tourism Policy, is committed to help facilitate and support development of tourism opportunities in the AW NRM Region.**

individual consultations, workshops and presentations to date.

Experience has shown that for tourism ventures to remain commercially viable and provide secure employment, the businesses must provide a diversity of services including accommodation, hospitality, and heritage and history tours.

The Far West region has many tourist attractions and offers a range of tourism activities, however there is currently a lack of tools and resources to assist tourism business viability. Existing and emerging tourism ventures require appropriately trained human resources to ensure that the

ventures do not fail, and to help promote the region as a tourism destination.

Geographically, the Far West region is isolated from many of the state's tourist attractions, however this isolation is an asset for attracting the adventure tourist market.

Since 2002, there has been substantial development in tourism in the Far West. This has included support from the South Australia Tourism Commission, Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula, the Indigenous Land Corporation, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The development has been supported by the vibrant nature of local Aboriginal organisations with their quest to establish economically viable businesses.

To see the full Strategic Plan visit: [http://www.rdawep.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/FINAL\\_Far-West-Aboriginal-Tourism-Strategy-PDF.pdf](http://www.rdawep.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/FINAL_Far-West-Aboriginal-Tourism-Strategy-PDF.pdf)





## Monitoring sandalwood across the AW NRM region

Australian sandalwood is at risk of rapid depletion as a result of illegal harvesting, grazing pressure from introduced herbivores, and changing fire regimes in the AW NRM Region.

Australian sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*) are a slow growing species, found in a narrow distribution range from Western Australia (WA) into South Australia (SA), extending as far east as the Flinders Ranges.

The trees are hemiparasitic, (dependent on a host plant - normally an *Acacia* sp) until they are well developed, in which time they become independent of the original host.

Highly prized for their timber due to the essential oils contained within the wood Australian Sandalwood has been heavily harvested particularly in the early 1900s. Over harvesting worldwide has caused the price of the wood to sky rocket.

The species is now listed in SA and WA under State legislation for protection, with wild harvest being highly restricted and heavily regulated.

This in turn led to an increase in illegal harvesting of the species with timber fetching up to \$15,000 a ton. As such, large areas of the known wild stocks in



Western Australia have been collected and sold through the black market.

It is feared that the same may occur to SA's populations of sandalwood, many of which are found at various sites within the AW NRM Region.

### Systematic monitoring

Over the past three months, supported by Roy Dunn and Isacc Willis from Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation and contractor Phil Landless, Natural Resources AW systematically surveyed trees within known habitats in Yellabinna regional reserve and the Nullarbor area.

Local Aboriginal community workers were trained in the use of the CyberTracker software, tree identification and how to assess them for damage.

It was their hard work and dedication, sometimes in tough conditions, that allowed all of the data to be collected.

The GPS point location was noted for each tree, and an individual identification number was assigned.

Trees were also examined for damage and ranked according to the extent, noting the suspected cause e.g. from camel or harvest, as well as the approximate age of the damage.

The reproductive stage each tree was in (fruiting or flowering) and the amount of seed on the ground were recorded.

Each tree was then photographed to provide a photographic catalogue of all trees assessed.

In addition, DNA samples were collected. This means any seized illegally harvested timber can be analysed for its origins, further protecting the species within the Alinytjara Wilurara region.

Over 500 trees were located and catalogued, greatly enhancing our knowledge and supporting ongoing monitoring and protection of the species.

Report by Ecologist Brett Backhouse

## Bye-bye Ben...



Photo by Ethan Dagg

## We miss you already

After the team had finished admonishing Ben for leaving us last month, we farewelled him with heartfelt best wishes as he left to take up a new and exciting position with BHP.

Ben's extensive ecological knowledge, calm, intelligent approach to problem solving and generally friendly manner made him a much valued member of our team.

As NR AW's Regional Planning Coordinator, Ben frequently visited the APY Lands where he formed many constructive relationships with the Traditional Owners and Anangu across the region.

He worked tirelessly on the development of Healthy County Plans, organising consultations and workshops to ensure that outcomes truly reflected the NRM priorities of the people and country.

Ben started with NR AW at the end of 2016 and in that time proved he was destined for a bright future, a path he seems to already be on.





Joseph Peters throwing one of the spears made by Derek Bryant

# Yalata Youth... *Creating Change*

**For the past three years Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara has contracted Yalata Community Council to undertake work on its behalf.**

This is supported by the Yalata Land Management crew and through the Yalata Youth Program managed by Nigel Asplin.

## Camps on Country

In early April 2018, youths from Yalata Community camped in the Ooldea area where they learned a range of bush crafts and skills in conjunction with Yalata Anangu School, Tullawon Health, Yalata Youth Program and Yalata Land Management.

Community Elders shared stories about the region and their invaluable knowledge of collecting and cooking bush foods.

## Bush medicine project

A Youth Program to collect, produce and market bush medicine was started at the beginning of 2018.

Youth Program staff, Elders and young people took several trips to collect plants for making bush medicine (Eremophila with olive oil and bees wax base).

Labels are designed locally and the product is sold in two different size glass jars through the Yalata Youth Social Enterprise Shop.

There is a regular customer base of Anangu community members, visitors, and purchasers from further afield in Adelaide and interstate.

Left: Yalata Elder Mima Smart picking bush medicine with Lydia Windlass (left) and Valerie Stewart

Centre: Preparing Bush medicine

Right: Products for sale at Yalata Youth Social Enterprise Shop

## Mapping and identifying weeds

Indigenous Protected Area's (IPA) Land Management team involve youth in identifying and mapping weeds within the Yalata IPA.

Four on Country trips were conducted in which the Yalata youths learned how to identify weeds and watched weed control measures demonstrated.

## Marine debris surveys

Three marine debris surveys were undertaken over the past 12 months.

The surveys aimed to:

1. continue to monitor the amount and type of marine debris across IPA
2. collect material for use in the Marine Debris Art Project.





The Yalata youths were trained in identifying and weighing marine debris, collecting and producing bush medicine, weed identification and mapping, and planning and preparing a project.

Five staff from Youth Program and five Yalata Land Management staff worked on organising and delivering the projects.

A total of 15 youths were engaged to participate in the projects. This work is very popular with the young people as they gain an income whilst doing something that they know is benefitting the Yalata environment.

“The relationship between the Youth group and IPA staff is now really strong as a result of these programs” said Nigel.

Above: Boys from Yalata Youth Program proudly show off marine debris retrieved from local beaches

Centre: Looking for whales at Head of Bight

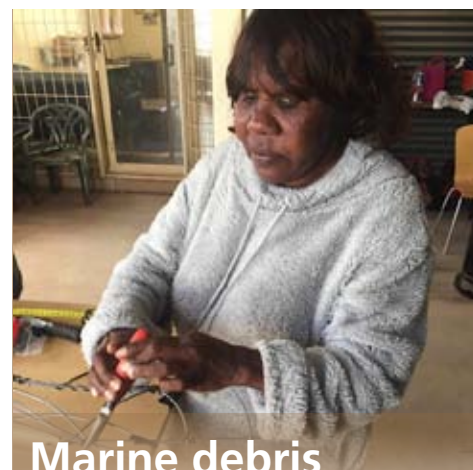
Below: Zachariah Queama digging weeds



### Trip to Head of Bight

Yalata youths visited the Head of Bight Whale Centre during the July school holidays where they watched Southern Right Whales frolicking in the waters below Bunda Cliffs and learned about local marine life.

Three Elders were engaged to pass on knowledge to youth, particularly for the bush medicine project and camp to Ooldea.



### Marine debris sculptors go to new depths

The AW NRM Board and Ceduna Arts Centre have once again partnered to support Far West Coast artists to create sculptural pieces from marine debris.

This is the third time such project is undertaken with the first two resulting in highly acclaimed pieces being exhibited internationally including the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco and the Geneva Art Gallery.

Both Jidirah (the whale), and Guldamara (the crab) were consequently purchased and in both instances, all sales have been used to fund Marine Debris Sculpture projects.

The aim of creating these sculptures is to draw attention to the impact that marine debris has on the marine environment.

This year the creative process is taking place in Yalata Community.

Ghost Net Art's Sue Riley from Cairns and well-known Ceduna local Pam Dimment have teamed up to assist the project.

Yalata Youth Group collected drift nets, plastic and other debris all year and stored it at the Yalata Tip in readiness for the project.

The women from Yalata are in the process of deciding what this year's creation will look like, and rumours abound so stay tuned...

Above: Rosalyn Yabadi begins work on a wire frame



# Working with the Co-Management Boards and Advisory Committees



## Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee

In April 2018, the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee (NPAC) met in Ceduna where talks centred around the Nullarbor Parks Management Plan and regional tourism.

Department for Environment and Water Protected Area Unit Coordinator Barry Hayden presented the Draft Nullarbor Parks Management Plan. He talked about the process for consultation and how to finalise the draft before it can be submitted for Ministerial approval.

Barry spoke to the board about nature-based tourism and the role of co-management boards and advisory committees in managing it.

He also discussed the possibility of Aboriginal people having the right to undertake tourism ventures without permits. Current legislation requires that all tourism ventures must have authorised permits.

Steve Milner from Ancient Land Tours spoke about his interest in the NPAC partnership with Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and possible plans for tourism in the park. Howard Coote from Regional Development Australia presented on the "Eyes on Eyre" Regional Development Australia Project.

Members then discussed ensuring that local Aboriginal people were involved in developing signage, ways to attract and keep tourists in the region, and how visitor's experience might be improved.



## Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board

Held at the Ceduna Natural Resource Centre, the ninth Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board (YCPCB) meeting covered a wide range of topics including: governance, school information packs, bush foods, tourism, and cultural heritage.

Board Member Wanda Miller talked to the group about the benefits she gained from attending the recent AW NRM Board meeting and encouraged other co-management board members to attend them in the future.

She also spoke about the Australian Native Food and Botanicals Bush foods and Medicine Harvesting workshop that she recently attended in Alice Springs.

Wanda pointed out that traditional bush foods and medicines are being used overseas, but that intellectual property rights remains a hot topic.

Below: YCPCB's Chair Leonard Miller on Country



Barry Hayden presented a draft of the Yellabinna and Warra Manda Parks Management Plan and discussions were held around the potential role of the Board.

Howard Coote spoke about the "Eyes on Eyre" Regional Development Australia Project.

Kerrie Harrison from Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (FWCAC) talked about the outcomes of the recent workshop held at Scotdesco. They included building a stronger partnership between FWCAC and the AW NRM Board.

She also discussed Ranger programs and how these might be funded.

Natural Resources AW's Parks and Co-management Manager Pia Richter spoke about the various AW NRM Board projects currently underway in line with the objectives of the Far West Coast Healthy Country Plan.

Projects include:

- Buffel grass control
- Camel management
- Malleefowl monitoring
- Sandhill dunnarts monitoring
- Hooded plover management
- Wombat monitoring
- Visitor management
- Maralinga flora interpretive trail
- Marine debris clean up
- Funding applications.



## ... in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Region

### Consulting with the Board on Country

In early June, a group of members and deputies of the Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board took part in a park management field trip along part of Googs Track.

The aim of the trip was to provide an opportunity to talk with board members on Country about the way in which Natural Resources AW traditionally made visitor access management decisions. The aim was to discuss ways to better engage Traditional Owners in the process and cultural considerations related to access in the future.

The group of six Traditional Owners plus support staff assessed the current campsites and visitor management strategies in place within Yumbarra Conservation Park as well as the visitor experience of travellers as part of the Healthy Country Planning process.

Four key sites were visited around Yumbarra Conservation Park.

Future improvements to campgrounds, signage for information, education and safety were some of the items discussed.

“We welcome visitors and we invite schools to look after and respect country” said the Board’s Chair Leonard Miller.

“We are preserving and protecting our cultural sites, and teaching our young people about our culture.”

Below: Cooking around the camp fire



### Maralinga Lands Unnamed (Mamungari) Conservation Park Board

The February Maralinga Lands Unnamed (Mamungari) Conservation Park Board meeting was held at Maralinga Village.

The key point of discussion was the development and ongoing management of a Ranger Program based in Oak Valley.

The board viewed a presentation by Executive Officer Belinda Margan and Oak Valley (Maralinga Tjarutja) Aboriginal Corporation General Manager Sharon Yendall about the Oak Valley Ranger Program.

Sharon spoke about the need to form an Oak Valley Ranger Steering Committee. It was agreed that an experienced Ranger Program Coordinator should be employed to assist with the start-up.

The coordinator would be responsible for employing six rangers (with gender balance) and ensuring rangers keep constant connection with community and project officers from Department for Environment and Water.

Rangers would have the authority to ask for permits within the park and carry out a range of maintenance roles.

The establishment of a subcommittee of the board was considered and its responsibility is to ensure the views of others whose stories run through the park are included. This would support

Right: Tori Ronan (left) and Belinda Margan (right) with Mamungari Board Member Marie Baker at the entrance to Maralinga Village

strong strategic direction and ensure appropriate cultural decisions are made.

The board also heard about work on park from two reports. Both focussed on Buffel grass including where it has been treated, control methods and the history of the chemicals used, success rates, environmental factors and work planned for the remainder of 2018.

The board endorsed the planned and opportunistic culling of camels in the park. This recommendation is to be taken to Maralinga Tjarutja Council.

Update: Ben Desland was employed as the Ranger Program Coordinator in July 2018 and is now in the process of recruiting Rangers.





# Maralinga Tjarutja... Camel Country

Large feral herbivore management is a constant key objective raised by communities across the AW NRM Region.

The largest of these, feral camels pose safety concerns for travellers and community members, destroy fragile flora, damage and foul water supplies and exacerbate erosion.

Using GPS tracking collars and the most current fire scar maps to locate camels, an accredited marksman from Ceduna Natural Resources Centre, traversed the Maralinga Tjarutja Lands west/north and south of Oak Valley by helicopter.

“Although the five GPS tracking collars deployed in early April were located with ease, most animals appeared to have crossed the border into Western Australia and out of our jurisdictional range” said Project Manager Robert Sleep.

“We observed fresh camel padding all trending to the west. The good seasonal rains that fell earlier this year around Tjuntjuntjara in WA would possibly account for this.

“On our first trip, while basing our

search on deploying the collars we found more visible sign of camel activity than camels, pointing to a time of higher than usual activity.

“The next time we went out, pre-planning included using fire scar mapping which worked to great effect.

“The majority of animals located were found in fire scar areas, especially where burns had occurred after 2013.

“Being familiar with camel behaviour patterns learned from GPS tracking collars and prior field observations was very useful, prompting us to target known reliable congregation points, such as salt lakes, fire scars and water points such as rock holes.

“Having a good relationship with the local community members also helped us learn useful information about camel sightings.”

In total over 600 camels were removed in 2018.

This project was funded through the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program.

# All quiet on the Nganamara front

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) or Nganamara is a unique species in its nesting habit, building large mounds in the soil, and utilising leaves and bark to help to keep the mound warm as they decompose.

The species has severely reduced throughout its range, with pressures occurring from land clearing, introduced feral animals, particularly cats and foxes, invasive weeds and changes to fire regimes. As such, monitoring breeding mounds is of particular importance to their conservation.

All Nganamara mounds previously recorded within the Yellabinna and Maralinga Tjarutja regions were surveyed during July 2018 to assess nesting activity, and signs of potential breeding.

Many of the mounds appeared to be old and disused, however three mounds in the Maralinga Tjarutja region showed signs of activity, which will hopefully result in young malleefowl being produced.

In addition to the mound visits, a number of footprints and tracks have been noted, many in areas with no known mounds. These areas will be revisited in the coming months, with a team of people, to undertake grid searches which will hopefully locate any other mounds in the region.

Within South Australia, malleefowl are found in a number of regions, including the AW NRM Region where their strong holds are within Yellabinna and Yumbarra, the Maralinga Tjarutja Lands and into the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands.

Malleefowl monitoring in the AW NRM Region is funded through the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program.

Report by Ecologist Brett Backhouse

# All about the crew...



## Keep up the good work Latisha

At the end of June, Latisha Richards received a heart-felt farewell after three and a half years with us at the Ceduna Natural Resources Centre (NRC), in the role of School-based Trainee.

Latisha was recruited as the first Natural Resources AW School-based Trainee at the end of 2014 when she was near completion of Year 10. For the next two years she worked one day a week in the Ceduna NRC, combined with training towards her Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management in addition to all her school studies.

When the School-based Traineeship formally ended in December 2017, Latisha enrolled herself in the Adelaide University's Indigenous Pathways Program in Ceduna. AW NRM Board agreed to continue to support her studies with a part-time wage for six months.

Latisha will complete the pathways program and commence her bachelor degree in 12 months time.

We wish her all the best for her future and will continue to do what we can to give her the support and experience she needs to succeed along her career path.



## Adam brings home the National Cup

Congratulations to Natural Resources AW's Adam Wood who captained his team when they won the National Cricket Inclusion Champions Deaf Division Tournament Cup.

The last time the Cup was won by South Australia was in 1991.

The match was telecast live via the Cricket Australia Facebook page to thousands of people around Australia and overseas.

"I'm extremely proud of the boys. We trained very hard for seven months to get into shape and we played like a team. I could not have asked for more. The joy on their faces is something I'll never forget" said Adam.

"Many thanks to South Australia Cricket Association who provide amazing support to the deaf cricket community, lending us their training facilities and providing uniforms, and to Cricket Australia for putting on such a fantastic tournament."

Adam was also named to take part in the Australian squad training camp from which a side will be selected for November's Deaf Cricket T20 World Cup in India.

All the best Adam!

<http://www.ncic.cricket.com.au>



## Welcome back...

### Yasmin Wolf

After taking some time away from work to care for her beautiful new son Kieon, Yasmin Wolf returned to Natural Resources AW at the Ceduna Natural Resources Centre (NRC) part time in mid-August.

It is a pleasure to work with her again.



### Angela Whiting

Welcome back to Angela Whiting who left us in 2016 to work as a consultant with DEW's People Capability and

Culture group. Happy to say, Ang is now back on board... sad to say, only one day a week.



## Welcome...

### Tina Falcone

Welcome to Tina who joins us in the Adelaide office two days a week as Business Support Officer.

Tina has worked in DEW for over 15 years and brings with a her broad understanding of the wider department.



### Tori Ronan

Thanks Tori for coming on board to staff the front desk at the Ceduna NRC while the lovely Amanda Richards is taking a 12 month breather.

In Tori's previous position as Co-management Executive Assistant, she developed many relationships across the region, a valuable asset as she manages the NRC staff's administration.



Parry Agius  
Presiding Member



## AW NRM Board

Mima Smart  
Yalata Community



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

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Kristy Richards  
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Mick Haynes  
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Sally Scales  
Board Member, APY Lands



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