

Palya!

STRONG PEOPLE HEALTHY COUNTRY and WATER

Anangu Kunpu, Ngura Kunpu munu Kapi



02	Landscape Board's commitment
05	Malleefowl on the wrong track
06	Regional Indigenous tourism
08	Regional Indigenous tourism
10	Healthy warru in APY Lands



Australian Government

From the A/General Manager, Alinytjara Wilurara



Welcome to the 2019 Winter edition of Palya.

I'm James Thiessen and I've been acting in the role of AW's Regional Manager for the past 3 months

having been AW's Program Manager since April 2019.

I must confess I hadn't contemplated managing the team under the very

unique set of circumstances that became evident within days of my taking over the role.

With the arrival of COVID-19 and the restrictions put in place to manage its spread we have not been able to recruit for positions that were already in the pipeline.

This has left us with a very lean team and I am extremely grateful and ever amazed at their stoic ability to keep our work afloat particularly in the midst of transitioning from being a Natural Resources Management Board to the new Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) Landscape Board. Adjusting to and organising working from home added another layer of challenges.

The closure of the Aboriginal communities across the AW region also meant adapting to new ways to keep up our support for the on-country work being undertaken by Aboriginal rangers and land managers.

Although information technology is not a strong suit for many of our Board members they very admirably rose to the occasion and held their final NRM Board meeting and inaugural Landscape Board meeting on MS Teams.

Becoming familiar with new ways to communicate will undoubtedly be of benefit given the remoteness of the communities where the majority of our board members live and the many responsibilities they carry as leaders within their communities.

As the COVID-19 restrictions ease (hopefully), we will of course continue to observe all necessary behaviours to ensure that the health of our team, and all the people we work with remains paramount.

The feeling of entering a new era on so many levels is both exciting and perhaps a little daunting but none the less, from what I have observed of this team and this Board so far they are more than up for the challenge.

I look forward to continuing to act in the role of General Manager for the AW Landscape Board until the recruitment is finalised.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Palya

James Thiessen
A/General Manager
Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board



INVITATION

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board invite you to join us on Facebook

AW weather stations

Check out data from the weather stations in the AW region on...
<https://www.awnetwork.com.au/>

Next AW Landscape Board meeting

post July 2020, Adelaide

Ceduna Arts and Cultural Centre

Genuine local Aboriginal art
2 Eyre Highway, Ceduna

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

09 August 2020

Where we are and what we do

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape region (previously known as 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 over a quarter of a million square kilometres, and has a population of approximately 3000 people, many of whom identify with the Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara, Ngaanyatjarra, Kokatha, Mirning or Wirangu peoples.

As the only all-Aboriginal board in Australia responsible for managing an NRM region, the AW Landscape Board's aim is the protection of the land for the mutual benefit of the country and its people.





APY Lands: Returnig warru back to country where they had previously become extinct

02 AW region remains focus

From NRM Board to Landscape Board, AW's commitment to the region remains constant



04 Friends of the GVD

With a mutual interest in natural and cultural history FoGVD undertake important research



05 Malleefowl on wrong track



How COVID-19 confused Maralinga malleefowl

06 Regional Indigenous tourism

Partnering to support Indigenous groups develop and manage tourism on their lands

07 Weather and Climate Guide

AW's new climate guide presents historical weather and climate info from last 30 years



08 Tacking athel pine in APY

Sustained efforts to remove athel pine paying off in APY Lands



10 Healthy warru in APY Lands

Increasing warru population needs management to sustain growth



12 Making Maralinga Tjarutja

Telling the real story of what happened to the people who walked, lived and hunted on this land for thousands of years

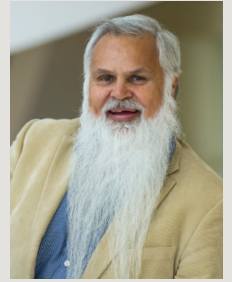


Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board member Mima Smart talks about country while filming Maralinga Tjarutja documentary on location

photo credit: Adelaide Review

From the Chair

Welcome to the 2020 Winter edition of Palya.



As the inaugural Chair of the new Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) Landscape Board I am delighted to once again have the opportunity to drive change for a healthier and more prosperous AW region.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mick Haynes, the AW NRM Board's Presiding Member from February 2019 to February 2020. His competence as a leader shone through with his inclusive, affable manner and ability to gain clarity greatly respected.

The past six months has presented many challenges to our board members and staff who have demonstrated both adaptability and resilience in the midst of state-wide COVID-19 restrictions.

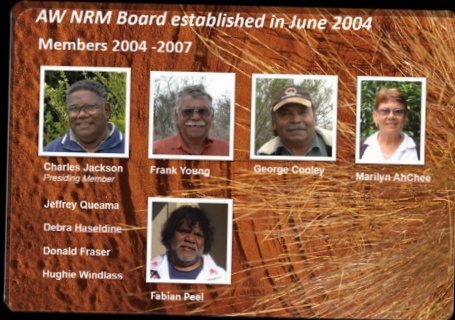
During this time they have been managing an array of complex tasks related to transitioning from an NRM Board, operating under the NRM Act (2004) to the AW Landscape Board operating under the new Landscape SA Act (2019). It is expected that the full extent of these changes will not be completed until mid-2021.

With COVID-19 highlighting just how unpredictable the future can be, it has also forced us to consider alternative ways to operate that will influence our future plans and mechanisms for delivery.

Although our Board is now administered under a new Act, we remain committed to seeking opportunities and delivering better ways to support the region's people in realising their aspirations of keeping Culture and Country healthy.

Parry Agius
Presiding Member
Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board

The Alinytjara Wilurara region remains our focus



On 1 July 2020, the Natural Resources Management Act 2004, under which the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management (AW NRM) Board previously operated was superseded by the new Landscape South Australia Act 2019. Accordingly the AW NRM Board has now transitioned to become the Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) Landscape Board.

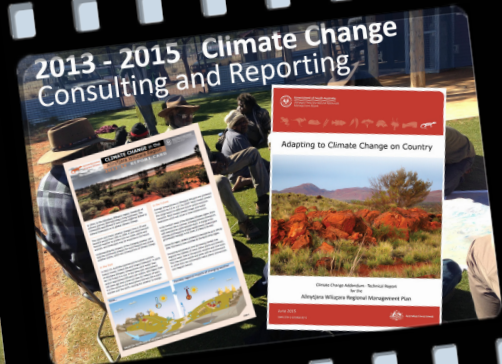
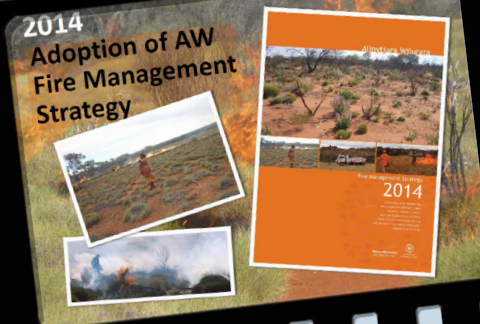
All members of the AW NRM Board transitioned directly, as appointed members, into the Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) Landscape Board on 01 July 2020. They bring with them many well-established partnerships, a strong commitment to driving positive results and a passion to use their considerable skills and knowledge to

develop sustainable communities through a healthy environment.

Mr Parry Agius, who has been a Board member since 2008, including eight years as its Presiding Member, has been appointed as Presiding Member for the new AW Landscape Board and is referred to as the Chair.

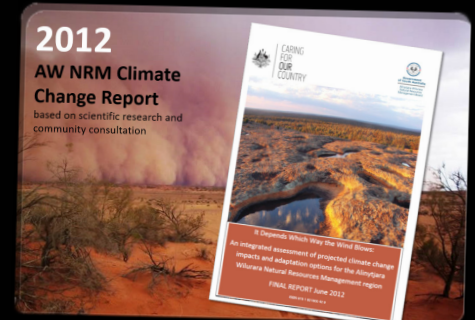
The AW Landscape Board and its partners remain committed to the continued delivery of practical, on-ground programs that support management of the region's land, water, pest animals and plants, and biodiversity. As in the past they also aim to value-add in the areas of Aboriginal leadership, governance, employment opportunities and economic development.

"Thank you to all the past AW NRM Board members. Through their efforts we became a strong, high-achieving and respected Board with proven capacity to make a difference in our region". Parry Agius



Film strips: feature some of the many AW NRM Board's highlights and achievements over the years

Looking back at the AW NRM Board's many achievements and forward to continued success as the AW Landscape Board.



The AW NRM Board was established in 2005 and, as it remains to this day, was the only all-Aboriginal Board managing an NRM region in Australia.

"From inception to the current day the Board remains committed to community consultation to guide project priorities and inform planning. Supporting the health of communities and their country is and will remain at the heart of all future endeavours," said Mr Agius.

The members of the Landscape Board carry a proud legacy of Aboriginal leadership, governance, employment opportunities and economic development.

In addition to administrative changes there are some minor boundary changes around the Far West Coast area that better reflect existing park borders.

"Regardless of the challenges that change may present, the AW Landscape Board will continue to work together with the people of the AW region, our partners and stakeholders to define and deliver strong and effective mechanisms to support healthy people and healthy country in the Alinytjara Wilurara region," said Mr Agius.



(L-R) Parry Agius, Peter Miller, Julie O'Toole, Kristy Richards, Debbie Hansen, Sally Scales, Anton Baker, Mima Smart, and Mick Haynes



Friends of the Great Victoria Desert

Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) regional staff have had the pleasure of working with the Friends of the Great Victoria Desert (FoGVD) for over a decade.

Ceduna-based AW staff support the FoGVD to plan their activities. Field trips are only undertaken after approval is given by the traditional owners of the area to be visited.

The FoGVD come from all walks of life, backgrounds and professions but share a common passion for the bush and a keen interest in natural and cultural history.

They provide voluntary assistance to DEW and AW staff in caring for the parks and reserves in the South Australian section of the Great Victoria Desert and promote and provide educational material on the region to the general public.

The Friends have collected plant specimens for the State Herbarium of South Australia on an opportunistic basis and more formally by surveying one-hectare vegetation plots identified by the Herbarium. They also photograph vegetation at set points every three years. These records are supplied to the Herbarium.

The group has supported research projects recording marble gum distribution and camel damage to the desert vegetation.



The Great Victoria Desert (GVD) was named after a British queen by the explorer Ernest Giles in 1875.

It is the largest dune desert in Australia, covering 350,000 square kilometres (35 million hectares). It straddles the South Australia / Western Australia border, stretching more than 700 kilometres from west to east. It experiences low rainfall which averages around 200 mm to 250 mm per year, but rains vary greatly from year to year.

Maximum daily temperatures are from 30 to 45 degrees Celsius in the summer (15 to 25 in the winter). At night, the winter temperature can drop below zero.

Dry as it is, the GVD includes some remarkably diverse areas. Mamungari Conservation Park has both high biodiversity and protection from exploitation. The trees are particularly spectacular and for animals, it provides a vast corridor connecting the mallee areas of eastern and western Australia.

Aboriginal people have used the Great Victoria Desert area for at least 24,000 years. Extended usage of the GVD proper was generally restricted to post-rainfall periods and the groups moved frequently to take advantage of what the land had to offer. Highly specialised water finding, collecting and storage systems were developed.

With improved access and increased availability of vehicles and supplies several permanent Aboriginal communities have been established in the Great Victoria Desert.

Visit the FoGVD website to see more about the Field trips, and their findings at <https://www.communitywebs.org/fgvd/>



Field trip 2011



Field trip 2014



Field trip 2015



Field trip 2016



Field trip 2017



Field trip 2018

Source: <https://www.communitywebs.org/fgvd/>

COVID-19 travel restrictions gave false sense of security to Malleefowl on Googs Track

Malleefowl took the opportunity during this quiet period to begin building their mound in the soft sand on the vehicle track.

Unfortunately several vehicles had driven over the mound and so it will likely be abandoned.

"Unfortunately there's no way to divert the track safely as travellers from the north can't see the mound as they drive up over the dune crest.

"Still, it is good to see that the Malleefowl are actively preparing their nests for incubation over the months leading up to September.

"The country is really dry but signs of light rain are evident. Hopefully winter will kick in soon and conditions will be wet enough for *egg incubation in September," said Karrena.

This project was supported by the AW NRM Board with funds from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

*Moisture is required for decomposition of the leaf litter creating warmth for the incubating eggs.

Evidence of light rain marks the sand around this Ooldea Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia crispula*) bush



Malleefowl on the wrong track

In late May, Alinytjara Wilurara's Ecologist Brett Backhouse and Sustainable Community Coordinator Karrena Veltman travelled (in separate vehicles to be COVID-19 safe) to Yellabinna Regional Reserve to set up remote sensor cameras and monitor activity around Malleefowl mounds.

"It was a pleasure to be able to get back out in the field for a few days after months of being based in the Ceduna office due to the COVID-19 restrictions" said Karrena.

The pair visited several mounds that AW have monitored since

AW's Ecologist Brett Backhouse examines the contents of the mound



last year's breeding season and were happy to see evidence of Malleefowl activity at most of the locations.

Unfortunately fox and cat prints were also plentiful on dune crests and around Malleefowl mounds.

Images previously captured by the motion sensor cameras confirm the interest of feral animals in both the eggs and malleefowl chicks.

With COVID19 restrictions significantly reducing visits to the Park, Googs track had not been driven on since January 2020.

The mix of leaf and other fine litter collected to form the huge mounds takes a dedicated effort by prospective malleefowl parents



10 Deserts Regional Indigenous Tourism

As a proud partner of the 10 Deserts Project (10DP) the Alinytjara Wilurara Board keenly supports the development of their Regional Indigenous Tourism Strategy.

The 10 Deserts Project aims to build the capacity of Indigenous groups to look after country for a range of economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes through Indigenous land management collaboration across Australia's desert country.

The Project commissioned the Indigenous Consulting Group to develop the strategy and conducted a series of consultations across the desert areas to identify key issues and actions Indigenous groups wanted to develop and manage tourism on their lands.

Using this feedback, the regional strategy was developed based on the following aims:

- maximise opportunities to increase revenue for Indigenous people and Indigenous land management organisations from tourism
- provide a roadmap and recommendations for activities to strengthen capacity and support development of additional products aligned with organisations' interests and capacity
- identify potential funding sources to assist with implementation of the recommendations

- provide recommendations for the integration of permit systems and/or areas for new permit systems and possible desert tourism loops that will join up different products for high volume tourism.

The development of the Regional Indigenous Tourism Strategy was funded mainly by the Commonwealth Government under the Building Better Regions Fund with the addition of funds from the 10DP.

Funding priorities include:

- regional tourism project officers that can provide direct practical support to Indigenous groups to develop tourism initiatives
- supporting exchanges and learning from successful Indigenous tourism businesses
- infrastructure such as signage, campsites and water points
- regional on-country meetings to enable groups to get together and discuss tourism and develop projects that manage or develop tourism
- support for groups to develop regional projects such as loops, trails or permit systems
- support for groups to attend conferences, tourism industry workshops and get the training they need.

The strategy was finalised in November 2019 and the documents are available at: <https://10deserts.org/project/tourism/Portal/website>

Portal/website

10DP is also commencing design for a regional desert tourism website called Desert Journeys. The tourism website will provide a centralised access point for people wanting to visit the desert and provide a 'one-stop-shop' for visitors to gain access to Indigenous groups' permit systems. The website will have lots of photos, films and stories by traditional owners in order to communicate to visitors the rich Indigenous cultures and history of the deserts and promote visitor respect for Indigenous cultural values in the deserts.

The deserts are vast, so the 10DP will initially develop a prototype in the north-west of WA. This site will enable the 10DP to design the website properly based around traditional owner (TO) priorities and to test and refine the functionality before seeking to engage other groups in other areas in the website.

World Indigenous Tourism Summit

10DP is hoping to secure funding to support groups to attend the World Indigenous Tourism Summit in Perth however, due to COVID-19 the date is yet to be finalised. This will be a fantastic opportunity for desert groups to build tourism in the deserts and to learn from other groups all over the world.

Learn more about the conference at: wits2020.com.au

Alinytjara Wilurara's Regional Weather and Climate Guide

Pastoralists across the country are modifying their operations in response to changes in the local weather conditions.

Throughout 2019, climate data experts from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) together with CSIRO scientists specialising in the inter-relationships between climate and agriculture visited all 56 of Australia's NRM regions to explore how historical weather observations could provide insights into changes experienced in the region.

The result of these consultations combined with further data analysis by BoM, CSIRO and Farmlink are localised climate guides for each NRM region.

These are available on the Bureau's website as well as via the National Farmer's Federation FarmHub tool and the Climate Kelpie website.

The climate guides present historical weather and climate information from the last 30 years of observations, and in doing so, describe the current climate in the context of short-term and long-term regional variability.

The aim is to agriculturally relevant climate information so land managers can make the best decisions based on information not just about the past but also about the possible future.

Knowing about what can be expected, such as likely rainfall and duration, temperature trends, frost risk, when to expect the wet season, and the nature of local droughts, floods and heat waves helps land managers take

advantage of new opportunities and prepare for the future droughts.

At each NRM region consultation workshop, communities were presented with different graphics showing trends in their local weather.

AW are pleased to have participated and contributed to

the Regional Weather and Climate Guide for the Alinytjara Wilurara region.

The guides were funded through the Commonwealth Government's Drought Assistance Package.

Reference: Regional climate guides put data in the hands of farmers by Kate Langford 27 November 2019 CSIRO website



Tackling athel pine in the APY Lands

Photography courtesy of APY

Tackling the scourge of athel pine (*Tamarix aphylla*), regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia, is challenging in remote regions such as the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, (APY) in far northwest South Australia.

In late March to May 2020, APY Pastoral Land Care Officer (and Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator) Walter Tjami and other members of the Pastoral Management Team, including Glenn Ward and Cleon Kenny, and Land Management worker Bruce Hammond, worked to contain the spread of athel pine around the Kenmore Park area, 460km south of Alice Springs.

In South Australia, the main naturalised infestations of athel pine are in the APY Lands on creek lines,

Below: Athel pine regrowth



lakes and bore drains in the pastoral zone toward the Northern Territory border.

The plant, which can produce thousands of seeds a year from a single tree is native to northern Africa and Asia. It was first introduced into Whyalla in South Australia in the 1930's from California. Since then it has been extensively planted as shade and wind breaks and for erosion control around rural South Australia.

Athel pine was declared a Weed of National Significance because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts, but it was not formally recognised as a weed in Australia until the late 1980s. Infestations also reduce the cultural and aesthetic value of affected land.

The work of APY's Pastoral Management Team is vital given athel pine could potentially infest watercourses throughout most of inland South Australia if left unchecked. This would use up valuable natural resources, hinder mustering, and alter vegetation and river structure. Athel pine consumes water more quickly than native plants, reducing the number and quality of watering holes. The plant concentrates salt, which is excreted by its leaves. This makes the ground beneath athel pine saltier and excludes native pasture grasses and other salt-sensitive plants.

An important part of the APY Pastoral Management Team's work is consultation with traditional owners to discuss weed management and

Below: Glen Ward and Walter Tjami rigged out in appropriate safety gear ready for chemical spraying





Above: Walter and Glen using the GPS hand-held unit for mapping affected areas

gain approval to complete this work on their land.

Site assessment over the southern and northern regions of Kenmore Park was undertaken with the guidance and assistance of Mr Tjami and Mr Ward. Mr Kenny also provided assistance in the northern region.

A comprehensive plan was discussed and developed to ensure further successful removal of existing athel pine demonstrating juvenile growth. Given the remoteness and larger infestation of the northern area, the APY team developed a plan to address the southern areas first with a further cut-stump and



poisoning program. Triclopyr 600 was sprayed using backpacks and trailer spray units, with chainsaw cut-stump techniques used to ensure penetration of the poison.

Although it was evident that there was a high degree of effective removal since last year's poison and cut-stump program some stumps displayed juvenile growth of up to two metres.

The northern region of Kenmore Park was also sprayed with Triclopyr 600 using backpacks, but without stump cutting.

As this area is larger than the southern region, it was decided to use it as a trial site for future evaluation. With most plants being less than one metre high the spraying without cut stump technique was used.

Mr Tjami and Mr Ward are keen to further evaluate this site over the current growing season to gain greater understanding of the best techniques for effective removal of athel pine.

"Given previous high success rates we expect to achieve total removal of athel pine over the next two growth seasons," Mr Tjami said.

Locations were plotted using GPS to guide further opportunities to ensure complete removal of athel pine from both the southern and northern regions of Kenmore Park.

Areas plotted over Kenmore Park totalled more than 100 hectares and

included arid river systems. Further infestations have been located in surrounding areas.

There has been effective removal of athel pine over the last two growth seasons, but also some regrowth. Triclopyr 600 with dye was used to allow future assessment of poison application techniques.

As part of the program, APY team members underwent training on all aspects of modern conservation land management, including drone use, GPS recording, chemical handling and use and safe work practices.

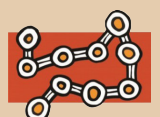
APY Pastoral Land Care has also been learning about and using drone technology. Drones are a possible tool, once Traditional Owner consent is given, to help with mapping, for fire boundaries, monitoring feral animal numbers and locating infestation of destructive weeds such as athel pine in remote areas.

APY General Manager Richard King said the athel pine removal program was an important part of the Pastoral Land Care strategy and an example of one of the many initiatives that enabled Anangu to engage with their community, and develop leadership skills.

"The Pastoral Land Care programs provide Anangu a chance to be involved and consult on meaningful work with other Anangu to build skills and capacity for the future, and importantly, become part of the solution to manage issues on the APY Lands," Mr King said.

"I commend the Pastoral Management Team on its very good work."

This Pastoral Project was supported by the AW NRM Board with funds from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.





APY Lands

Healthy warru population continues to grow

With the population of endangered black-footed rock-wallabies (warru) continuing to increase within the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands' 100-hectare enclosure (*pintji*) many are now ready for translocation.

An inspection of the *pintji* in March this year indicated that warru (*Petrogale lateralis*) food resources were under extreme pressure after two years of low rainfall and an increase in warru numbers.

The APY Lands generally receives most of its rain in summer so good rain is now not expected for up to six months. To prevent a decline in the condition of warru and relieve pressure on the scant food resources the Warru Recovery Team (WRT) decided urgent action should be taken to reduce the number of warru in the *pintji*.

Due to coronavirus restrictions, the usual full-scale annual warru trapping survey had to be cancelled as many of the Warru Recovery Team (WRT) members were unable

to travel to the APY Lands to provide vital support.

Impressively however APY Land Management rangers and staff managed to perform a limited trapping survey from 11-22 May at the warru *pintji*, and translocate 34 warru to Wamitjara in the Musgrave Ranges.

In May 2017, the WRT undertook the first warru translocation from the *pintji* to Wamitjara, a site where they had been locally extinct since 2006.

The *pintji* was constructed in 2009 to protect warru from predation by feral foxes and cats. It is located approximately 25km northeast of Pukatja in the APY Lands.

Considered one of South Australia's most endangered species, warru were reintroduced to the APY Lands through the Monarto Zoo captive breeding program. Since then the population has steadily increased.

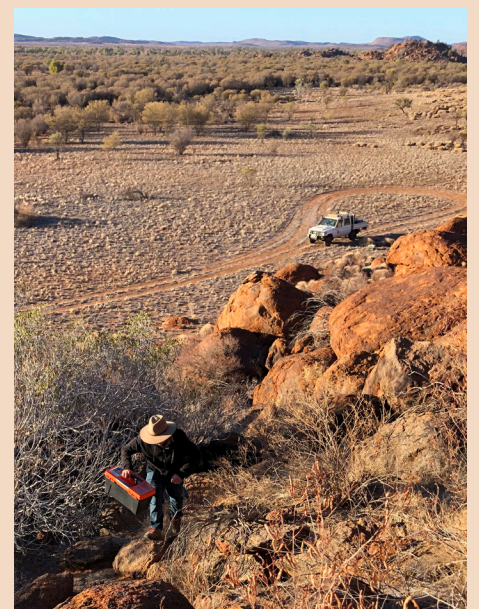
The *pintji* now provides a local source population from which warru can be translocated to various sites in

the APY Lands where populations existed in the past.

Since 2017 the *pintji* warru population has bounced back strongly, with 51 wallabies being trapped in March 2019. This survey indicated that the total population within the *pintji* was up to 80, possibly higher.

During the May 2020 program the available members of the

Above: Approaching Wamitjara release site
Below: Climbing up to the traps inside the *pintji*



WRT used 12 traps a night over five nights (60 trap nights) to trap 46 individual warru and translocate 34 of them to Wamitjara. Under normal circumstances, annual surveys would use 31 traps over four nights (124 trap nights).

The results from this year's trapping session are not directly comparable to previous years, as under normal conditions the trapped warru are released back into the *pintji*, often to be re-trapped on subsequent nights.

However, the results do indicate that the *pintji* warru population continues to increase strongly in the absence of predators and that future translocations will be necessary to maintain the health of the population and of the food plants they rely on.

In addition to the removal of warru from the *pintji*, the team used the trapping session to remove warru from the 'Medicine Pen', a smaller separately fenced hill within the *pintji*, in preparation for the arrival of new animals with different genetic lineage.

In 2019 the Monarto Zoo captive breeding program acquired two female warru joeys from wildlife rescue volunteers in the Northern Territory. The WRT plan to introduce the offspring of these warru to the *pintji* in order to increase the genetic diversity of the *pintji's* population.

APY General Manager Richard King said the warru program was a very special and long-running

Below: Brendan Lewis releasing warru into rock cave at Wamitjara

Right: Rangers walking up Wamitjara carrying warru



initiative successfully managed by APY through its Land Management program and supported by the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

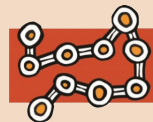
"The reintroduction of this previously endemic species of black-footed rock-wallaby to the APY Lands enables the delicate balance of the desert ecosystem to continue, as it has for thousands of years," Mr King said.

"The removal of even a minor endemic species can have major impacts to the environment and on the cultural practices of what is considered to be the oldest continuing living culture in the world."

Mr King said APY was extremely proud of the progress being made by Land Management rangers and staff who were working towards opening another colony in the south of the APY Lands.

"The successful reintroduction of warru into the APY Lands ensures that we have an important and integral piece of the desert's natural order of physical and spiritual life back where it belongs," he said.

"Further to this, the warru's reintroduction also ensures that the oldest living culture has an important moiety that gives relevance to the stories and ceremonies in honour of the small black-footed rock-wallaby running and hopping through its natural habitat."



Photography courtesy of APY Lands



Fruit fly



A call to arms

Recent fruit fly outbreaks in Adelaide's Northern suburbs met with a swift multi-agency response by PIRSA with Alinytjara Wilurara's Data & Information Management Coordinator Adam Wood called in to assist the PIRSA Spatial (mapping) team.

Mapping support is crucial to the success of fruit fly eradication. The coordinated response requires mapping land parcels grouped in blocks within outbreak areas to support multiple teams on the ground and ensure each property is accounted for.

A fruit fly outbreak is declared by PIRSA when fruit fly are detected through maggot infested fruit or through the presence of flies in their surveillance traps.

"It was a great experience working with a different spatial (mapping) team. I picked up some new tips and tricks that will definitely be of benefit in my work with the AW Landscape team," said Adam.

Outbreak and suspension areas

Once a fruit fly outbreak is declared, PIRSA establishes a 1.5 km outbreak area and a 7.5 km suspension area around the detection site before beginning the eradication program. PIRSA then works systematically with residents and workplaces to locate and remove fruit fly from the area.

To view Outbreak map visit:

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/360360/Fruit_Fly_Outbreaks_Metropolitan_Adelaide_Market_Access_2020-06-04_v2.pdf

The making of Maralinga Tjarutja

Between 1953 and 1957, the British exploded nine atomic bombs in the Great Victorian Desert in South Australia – two at Emu and seven at Maralinga. The largest was the 26.6 kiloton Taranaki test at Maralinga on 9 October 1957. Up to 600 additional ‘minor’ tests involved the explosive scattering of highly toxic ‘dirty’ materials like plutonium, uranium and beryllium.

Many local Aboriginal families were severely affected by the tests and the true extent of the health problems associated with contamination over a much wider area is difficult to quantify.

In May 2020 the inspiring documentary Maralinga Tjarutja (MT) premiered on ABC television that shone a light on the people who have lived on these lands for over 60,000 years. While it’s a story of deep tragedy, it also celebrates their incredible resilience.

“Many Australians don’t know that the Maralinga Tjarutja lands were where the British Nuclear Test Program was carried out” said Maralinga Tjarutja Trusts’ Chairman Jeremy LeBois.

The community was initially approached in regards to the production of the ABC mini-series ‘Operation Buffalo’. After the MT Council read through the script they felt it was important to have the real story told. They negotiated for production of the Maralinga Tjarutja documentary and for it to be screened the week before the mini-series started.

“This documentary is important to the Maralinga people because it gives us a voice to tell the real story of what happened to the people who walked, lived and hunted on this land for thousands of years,” said Mr LeBois.

In 2009 the people of the region fought to have the contamination cleaned up and to receive compensation. They also fought for handback of the Maralinga Village and test sites.

They have since rebuilt communities that are vibrant, creative and culturally strong that will ensure Maralinga Tjarutja custodianship of their lands into the future.

As part of the production Jeremy LeBois and Mima Smart, a respected Elder from Yalata Community (and an AW Landscape Board member) travelled to Adelaide to investigate

how and why the tests were allowed to go ahead.

Writer and director of the documentary Larissa Behrendt said “This is an extraordinary story and it is a privilege to bring it to the screen. The red earthed country that stretches under blue skies provides a cinematic backdrop to the story of a community that has rebuilt itself to be strong and proud of its culture. It is a story that deserves to be told through the voices and art of the people who lived it.”

Maralinga Tjarutja celebrates the people, their tenacious spirit and cultural strength through which they fight to retain their country.

Produced in association with Screen Australia and financed with support from South Australian Film Corporation the documentary can now be viewed on ABC’s iView.



Establishment of the Oak Valley Ranger team exemplifies the community’s determination to have strong healthy country. The AW Landscape Board is proud to support their ongoing work through the 10 Deserts Project’s partnership.

AW Team news



Volunteer Jess, you're a Star!

Jessica Mullins has been an incredibly helpful and resourceful volunteer with AW since September 2018 while also studying for a Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Environmental Policy and Management at the University of Adelaide.

We asked Jess to share a few thoughts about her experience...

"It was by chance that AW was happy to take on a volunteer when I was looking to gain some experience, and natural resource management was something that appealed to me. I volunteered for a short time with another NRM region, but I really wanted to continue with AW as I found the work more interesting and rewarding, also, the team was brilliant and very welcoming.

"Working with AW allowed me to see the theories I learned at uni applied to real life. For example, being able to apply the GIS skills learned at Uni to help produce maps for AW added a whole new dimension to my understanding. I've also been able to see how a government department works (although it still confuses me). Perhaps most importantly, I've been able to gain experience in a professional environment, and I believe this experience has been key to gaining other opportunities.

"For paid work, I have been working casually at the Adelaide

Aquatic Centre as a customer service officer. My government experience really helped in the application process. I have also volunteered occasionally with Conservation Volunteers Australia on different revegetation projects.

"At uni, I am on the committee for the Geography and Development Society. In Winter of 2019 I interned with the legal team at South Australian Native Title Services and worked on two native title claims, which was an incredible learning experience.

"Now I am working as an intern with PIRSA for Biosecurity SA. At the moment, along with 2 other students, I am researching key issues that will feed directly into South Australia's new Biosecurity Act and really enjoying it.

"Volunteering has opened so many doors for me and given me confidence in my professional capabilities. Someone told me when I started at AW that volunteering is the most valuable thing I can do with my time – while what I learn at university is important, it will be the practical experience I've gained that will continue to open doors. I cannot thank the AW team enough for supporting me over the past few years," said Jess.

The AW team also want to thank Jess for her cheerful, positive, can-do attitude. It was a pleasure to have you onboard. All the best for the future Jess!

Congratulations - It's baby girls all round

Two lovely ladies from the AW team recently brought two more lovely little 'ladies' into the world.

Congratulations to Leah Kyriacou and her partner Simon Wicks (Fire Management Officer with DEW) on the arrival of Violet Kate Wicks in January 2020.

Leah is now on maternity leave from her position as AW's Conservation and Planning Systems Officer.

A beautiful sister for four-year-old brother Oliver.

Strangely, the cheeky little face below is not unlike the one we used to see in our office.

Violet Kate



Meanwhile, over on the west coast, AW's Operations Manager (now on maternity leave) Yasmin Wolf and her partner 'Snowy' welcomed the arrival of their beautiful daughter Trinity Bree in late May 2020.

Three-year-old 'big' brother Keon is also very proud of his new sister.



Trinity Bree



Swapping hats to full time motherhood can be a very demanding, so please take good care of yourselves... (we want you back).

The AW team are delighted to see the team 'family' extended, congratulations and all the best!

Parry Agius
Chair



Alinytjara Wilurara
Landscape Board

Mima Smart
Yalata Community



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

Debbie Hansen
Board Member, Tjuntjuntjara



Kristy Richards
Board Member, ALT



Julie O'Toole
Board Member, AMYAC



Peter Miller
Board Member, Far West Coast



Sally Scales
Board Member, APY Lands



Mick Haynes
Board Member, Far West Coast



Anton Baker
Board Member, APY Lands



Adelaide Office

Level 9, 81-95 Waymouth St
ADELAIDE, SA 5000

GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE 5001
Tel: 8463 4860

Ceduna Office

50B McKenzie Street
CEDUNA, SA 5690

PO Box 569, CEDUNA 5690
Tel: 8625 3144

landscape.sa.gov.au/aw/