

• GETTING BACK COUNTRY • CARING FOR COUNTRY • SECURING THE FUTURE

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#### KLC supports price on carbon

The Kimberley Land Council supports a price on carbon as a way to support Indigenous environmental initiatives and minimise climate change impacts.

Climate change is real and the big polluters need to pay to offset negative impacts to the environment through funding conservation and land management activities.

Indigenous people are playing a leading role in minimising climate change impacts through using traditional knowledge and western science to look after and enhance biodiversity hot spots.

In the Kimberley, Aboriginal people are providing a valuable environmental service by conducting caring for country initiatives such as improving fire regimes as a way to abate carbon.

Looking back on the KLC

#### 2003

In December 2003,

agreement was reached in the Miriuwung Gajerrong claim, bringing an end to nearly 10 years of litigation.

The Full federal Court approved the two consent determinations made between the Miriuwung Gajerrong people and the West Australian and Northern Territory governments. As a result native title was recognised across a significant part of the claim area including the Kununurra

township, Lake Argyle, Keep River National Park and the Ord River irrigation area. The claim had been in the courts for almost 10 years after an initial Federal Court decision which found native title existed across the claim was appealed.



#### 2008

The KLC's Bardi Jawi Rangers won the top prize in the Indigenous category of the Banksia Awards for their outstanding work in turtle and dugong management.

The Banksia Award is a national prize recognising outstanding achievement in environmental sustainability.

Senior Bardi Jawi Ranger Kevin George represented the Rangers at the ceremony in Melbourne. "We are very pleased to be part of the Dugong and Marine Turtle management project," Mr George said at the time.

"Our ranger program is a great opportunity for our Bardi Jawi people to access employment and training, and at the same time work to protect and preserve our country and our environment."

Message from the Chairman

Wet season is on its way, Christmas is nearly here and another busy year is almost finished. The KLC has achieved many successes in 2013 and I hope 2014 will bring even more as we progress and determine several key native title claims, continue to expand our Kimberley Ranger Network, promote our activities internationally and work to teach and nurture our young people and future leaders.

Having spoken to many people this year at meetings and events, the thing everyone keeps talking about is the importance of our young people. And it's a point I want to highlight. Our young people are strong and capable. All you need to do is look at our rangers to see the abundance of talent, strength and willingness to learn, that they possess. As us elders start to tire and get older, it is more important now than ever that we continue to pass on our knowledge of law, land, language and culture to our young people. These values have been the glue binding Kimberley Aboriginal people together for centuries. As our young people learn to walk in both worlds, we are finding that we achieve greater success when we undertake projects and programs that are underpinned by our culture and link together the traditional elements of land, law and language.

Our three peak Aboriginal organisations in the Kimberley, the KLC, KALACC and KLRC were set up by our old people to look after our land, law and language. We are linked together by our cultural values. And in 2014, I look forward to seeing more young people step up and attend and participate in meetings, start to learn about the issues facing Kimberley Aboriginal people and to think about how we can improve our lives for the benefit of future generations. From young, now to old; one of the highlights of the year was listening to our elders, cultural leaders and members share stories about the KLC as part of our 35th anniversary celebrations at Wuggubun. Everyone told their stories about the Noonkanbah march - from the perspectives of adults who got locked up in jail for participating in the protest, to mothers who were scared for their children and from young people who tagged along with family not wanting to be left behind. It was a history making moment as our leaders spoke about growing up in the KLC family, being taken to meetings as little children and learning how to become leaders themselves. Looking back and remembering where we have come from, also gives us the motivation to continue to move forward and achieve the dreams of those before us.

It has been another great year and I would like to thank all our directors and members for their hard work and dedication often travelling across the Kimberley to attend meetings, provide advice and make important decisions. I would also like to acknowledge our staff and rangers who are working to improve the lives of our people, whether that is through their efforts in native title, land and sea management, corporate services or finance. Thanks for doing a great job.

And finally I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and I look forward to catching up with everyone in the new year.

FRANK DAVEY



#### KLC supports a price on carbon

Kimberley Land Council CEO Nolan Hunter says there needs to be a price on carbon to support Indigenous environmental management initiatives that mitigate climate change impacts.

"Climate change is real and stands to adversely impact vulnerable and remote Indigenous communities," he said.

"Our people are on the frontline and are noticing changes to seasonal indicators such as the flowering of plants. Indigenous people are also playing a critical role in reducing climate change impacts through conservation and land management activities.

"It is essential the Federal Government puts a price on carbon so that the big polluters have to pay for causing negative environmental impacts and the money can be used to further caring for country activities that tackle climate change."

"Aboriginal people are providing a service through conducting this important work that is also creating real jobs for people living in remote communities.

"And it's not just Indigenous people in the Kimberley or Australia doing this work, but Indigenous people across the globe. The critical role we are playing is having a major impact in protecting the world's environmental assets."

Meanwhile, the KLC has also started a new Carbon Outreach Project to work with Kimberley Aboriginal people to create carbon businesses and tackle climate change.

A meeting of the north Kimberley groups, Dambimangari, Wilinggin, Uunguu and Balanggarra was recently held to discuss possible carbon opportunities. Creating a carbon business is not just about right-way fire, but can include other projects that care for country, like replanting native vegetation.

"Without a price on carbon, Aboriginal people stand to be further marginalised as the impacts of climate change cause significant changes to the landscape and affect the ability of people who live on country to hunt and gather bush foods – activities that are central to survival."

Mr Hunter said Indigenous people were playing a critical role in conservation and land management and the Federal Government should utilise the extensive traditional knowledge of Aboriginal people to tackle climate change.

"In the Kimberley we have a strong fire management program that combines western science and traditional knowledge to conduct cool burns, as a way to look after and enhance the biodiversity hot spots of the north Kimberley," he said.

"Through improving fire regimes there is the potential to abate 200,000 tonnes of carbon per annum. This alone would make a significant environmental contribution. A carbon business can have many benefits, including employment, looking after country, the passing on of traditional knowledge and sustainable business opportunities for communities.

The Carbon Outreach Project will engage with native title groups throughout the whole of the Kimberley to discuss the carbon story and opportunities for carbon businesses, so that other groups can access these benefits too.

The Carbon Outreach Project is supported by funding from the Australian Government.



#### KLC travels to Canberra

KLC and Kimberley leaders recently met with the new Abbott Ministry in Canberra to advocate for strong Indigenous outcomes and highlight the importance of land, law, language and culture.

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter said the aim of the Canberra visit was to get a clear understanding of what changes there might be with the recent election of a new government and to make sure there was continued support for Kimberley Aboriginal people.

He said the group, which included KLC Deputy CEO Frank Parriman, Land and Sea manager Ari Gorring, KALACC Chair Mervyn Street and KLRC Director June Davis met with new Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion and Environment Minister Greg Hunt.

"One of the biggest changes from this new government is that the Indigenous Affairs Portfolio now comes under the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, so Tony Abbott is heavily involved in the decision-making and operation of this department," Mr Hunter said.

"So it was interesting to go to Canberra and meet with the newly-appointed ministers and advisers and it is important that we start to build a positive relationship with this government."

Mr Hunter said he discussed the important role of the Kimberley Ranger Network in environmental management. "People often underestimate the value of the Kimberley Ranger Network at first glance, so I spoke to the Environment Minister about the sophistication of this program, in that not only is it delivering success in conservation and land management but in creating real jobs for Aboriginal people living in remote areas," he said. "And that's not to mention the diverse range of educational, social and economic benefits of the Network including improved physical and mental wellbeing. For a region that has one of the highest suicide rates in Australia – programs like the Kimberley Ranger Network are crucial."

Mr Hunter said he also relayed the message to Government that the key to delivering successful outcomes in the Kimberley was through underpinning projects and cultural governance with the values of law, land and language.

"I really wanted to nail home the importance of linking land, law and language with culture – which is why all three of our organisations – the KLC, KALACC and the KLRC – went to Canberra so we could show that in the Kimberley we all stand strong together," he said.

Before the election, Mr Hunter said, we had been close to signing a Kimberley Regional Partnership Agreement with the Federal Government that would enable a collaborative approach to service delivery.

He said the KLC was also hopeful of working with the WA State Government on this as well. "We will have to continue to meet with all parties, particularly the new Federal Government to explain how the Agreement will benefit the Kimberley through providing a coordinated approach to managing projects and minimising any gaps or overlapping areas," he said.



#### WILD 10 Conference

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The WILD10 Conference saw Indigenous groups, conservationists and philanthropists from across the world meet in Spain to have a global conversation about environmental management.

The KLC sent a group of rangers and Traditional Owners to the conference who presented on and shared stories about land management activities in the Kimberley. Peter said he presented on the important role Aboriginal people are playing in monitoring and minimising climate change, using the Ngurrara seasonal weather calendar and climate change database as an example.

He did the presentation with Ngurrara head ranger Frankie McCarthy and Bardi Jawi ranger Trevor Sampi.

Ngurrara Country Project Manager Peter Murray said attending the conference had opened his eyes about what was happening elsewhere in the world.

"Going to the conference was another ball game – there were different Indigenous groups from all around the world trying to address the issues of land, conservation, rights "Aboriginal people play a major role in global conservation that should not be underestimated. Indigenous people lo one third of the total landmass in the world. When you pe the little projects different Indigenous groups are doing, a very important and vital contribution towards protecting

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to country and joint management programs," he said.

"It was really interesting listening to people share stories about their battles, successes and seeking assistance. It has been a real eye opener for us going over there. Some of us that went had never been outside Australia or the Kimberley." "We talked about the importance of traditional knowledge and having that traditional understanding of land and balancing it with mainstream conservation and land management. It's giving us a better view on how to manage our land properly through having that two-way learning," Peter said.





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"In comparing what we are doing with climate change in the Kimberley, compared to other groups, we are really setting the standard for using traditional knowledge, technology and science to monitor weather patterns and climate change."

Attending the WILD 10 Conference is in line with the KLC's vision to foster strong international partnerships

through creating a global network of land and sea managers.

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter said one of the themes at the conference was about creating wilderness areas or wild places. He said many of the Indigenous groups attending the conference had a problem with the term wilderness because Indigenous people often lived in those areas and managed them.



## Spain

Vino, prosciutto, paella, tapas, language, churches and architecture are some of the words our KLC group used to describe their recent visit to Spain for the WILD10 Conference.

Travelling to Spain was the first trip outside of not only the Kimberley but Australia for many of the group.

Although, none of the group ran with the bulls, they got to check out the sites, meet heaps of people and experience a different culture.

Bardi Jawi ranger Trevor Sampi said it had been the experience of a lifetime.

"It was my first overseas trip, it was pretty full-on but really great," he said.

"We got to go on a tour and see lots of churches and things. All the streets are cobblestoned. The work they did many, many years ago was pretty impressive."

Ngurrara Country Project Manager Peter Murray said the highlights of the trip for him were the people, the scenery and trying to learn a few words in Spanish.

"Everyone speaks language over there, so we managed to pick up a few Spanish words, so that we could ask for things," he said.

"There were a lot of friendly people and lots of interesting buildings, especially churches. There were six different churches in the town itself; there was lots of heritage in the area.

"The trip was really interesting especially getting to meet so many other Indigenous groups from throughout the world, sharing knowledge and getting to network internationally."

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#### STATE GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO PASTORAL LEASES

Kimberley Aboriginal leaders, at a State Government inquiry into pastoral leases, said any changes must not further impact or extinguish native title rights and interests.

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter, KLC Deputy Chairman Tom Birch and KLC Director and KALACC Chairman Mervyn Street gave evidence in Fitzroy Crossing about changes to pastoral lease renewal conditions.

All WA pastoral leases are set to expire in 2015 and Mr Hunter said he was concerned that the changes to pastoral lease renewal conditions had not been finalised and wanted to make sure that Kimberley Aboriginal people's existing native title rights were not undermined by any new legislation.

"If there is going to be any change; if there is going to be any legislative development, we want to make sure that does not tread on the rights and interests of native title holders," he said. Mr Hunter said any changes needed to be beneficial to both parties. He said Kimberley Aboriginal people were looking at pastoral stations as a way to create economic development and job opportunities.

"We believe that the pastoral industry is a place where we – Aboriginal people and pastoralists – can all exist together and possibly look at pursuing opportunities or joint venture partnerships. We know there are lots of Indigenous pastoral leases; we have that in mind as well," Mr Hunter said.

Mr Hunter also raised concerns about the potential for further impacts on native title rights and interests where diversification permits are proposed over pastoral leases.

Mervyn Street said he wanted to see Aboriginal people and pastoralists continue to work together and enjoy shared rights to pastoral properties.

> "I grew up working for pastoral stations. We like to work closely with the pastoralists. Let them work within native title but we want to work together. We have to give them a chance and they have to give us a chance," he said.

"We can share the land together. We are not going to take their right away. They can have their rights in the stations but we have a right to our land too. That is why we have to work together."

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#### KLC's new building gets Green Star Rating

The Kimberley Land Council has been awarded the first Green Star award in the Kimberley for the environmental features of its new Broome office building.

The Green Building Council of Australia gave the KLC the 4 Star Green Star – Office Design v3 certified rating because the building has been designed to 'best practice' environmental standards.

It is the first Green Star certified building in WA outside of Perth, and shows that Green Star design can be done in regional, tropical locations.

One of the main environmental features is a 50kW solar panel system that is designed to provide 83,000kWh of electricity each year. This will be able to reduce the peak electrical demand to the building by over 30%.

Together with other features of the building, this will help to significantly reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions with the building using about 60% less energy, and putting out 60% less carbon dioxide gas than a typical modern office of the same size.

Other environmentally friendly aspects of the design include:

- Diverting 60% of construction waste away from landfill
- Using small lighting zones with good controls, such as daylight and motion sensors, to limit lighting energy consumption when spaces are not being used
- Encouraging sustainable transport by limiting car parking spaces, and providing excellent cyclist facilities (bike racks, showers, lockers and changing facilities)

• Using water efficient designs in toilets, showers, and taps; water meters to monitor usage; and air cooled air conditioners

The design also focuses on providing a healthy and productive workplace, by using good acoustic features to reduce noise, and by using non-toxic materials to ensure healthy indoor environments for staff. This includes suitable woods, paints, carpets, adhesives and sealants.

Sustainable steel and timber have been specified in the building's design, and refrigerants and insulation have been selected that have no ozone-depleting impact. Waste reduction is encouraged through the provision of a dedicated space for waste and recycling collection.

The new building will be able to operate from batteries charged by the solar panels, even when the power supply goes out. This could provide a valuable asset for the Broome community in the event of a natural disaster.

Strong support for this project has been provided by the Commonwealth Government through its Regional Development Australia Fund, and the Indigenous Land Corporation, from the WA State Government's Royalties for Regions program, and from Lotterywest. They have made a great contribution to helping us construct a practical and environmentally friendly new facility.

Having an environmentally recognised building is important for the KLC as it meets the '*looking after country*' part of our vision.

Construction of the building is well underway, with completion scheduled for October 2014.



#### KLC 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

It was a history-making moment when our Kimberley leaders, elders and members shared stories and memories about the KLC at its 35th Anniversary celebration at Wuggubun.

Everyone told their stories about the Noonkanbah march - from the perspectives of adults who got locked up in jail for participating in the protest, to mothers who were scared for their children and from young people who tagged along with family not wanting to be left behind.

Dozens of our members, directors, former chairs and CEOs spoke about growing up in the KLC family, being taken to meetings as little children and learning how to become leaders themselves.

Looking back from the early days at Noonkanbah to now, the Kimberley Land Council has grown to become what the old people envisioned when they first set it up in 1978 - an Aboriginal organisation working to get back country, look after country and get control of our futures.

"I want to tell you my story, a different story, of my journey as a young mother, Noonkanbah with young kids and how we went there and we saw my old friend there, who we lost, carrying the flag.

It was scary seeing these big trucks and policeman; we have bad memories of policeman taking our people away. As a young mother, I was scared. So I said to my husband 'I'm staying in the car' but we were there to support all the old people there. They hardly spoke English, they were language people, and it was really, really hard for them but they got people together to talk up and say 'We've had enough. We want our country back'"



Nolan Hunter

"The Kimberley La all around the place I met a lot of peop Today, I look back what we have ach

The Kimberley Lar organisations, act everyone said the but they stood up and I would like to

"I sign up in Crocodile when I been thinking a our people, that's why And that was my intere didn't know I was goin land council, going to e

If you look at land cou this land council and y doing, it's been doing h look what land counci what the land council



Irene Davey

Josie Farrer





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"That seat in Parliament, I'm in that seat now and it's a different journey now but my ties with the land council, the language centre and the cultural mob that hasn't ended; that's still there because I'm an Aboriginal person and that's my priority. I can't cut that but I've taken another little detour in that road, because you have requested from me to bring out all these things that have not been addressed by the governments from that time till now."

"We have a lot of staff, a lot of operations and lots without the mob behind us, without all our member the Traditional Owner groups behind us, directing amount to anything. Everything we do has to be g mob. I want to acknowledge the hard work our sta the people that came before us all these 35 years our elders that have passed away and our senior now of course our young people."

nd Council took me on a long journey ce, taught me a lot about country and le right throughout the Kimberley. and look how far we have gone and ieved all these years.

nd Council, one of our oldest Aboriginal ually started with the old people and se people could hardly read or write, for their rights. We've taken over now o see the younger people step forward."



Frank Davey

"What an amazing history. You know, to be nurtured by all of our old mob and to grow up into this beautiful, powerful organisation. I want to really acknowledge some of my old people too, that took me on a journey from my cultural side, who will sit down from sundown through the night and sing for us, and teach us some of the most important things for our culture. Now is the time for our young people to be brought in, to start taking up and carrying that challenge too."

Hole, we been up at that big meeting, that's bout this really good thing for our country, for I joined the land council maybe the end of 80. est – going to work with people for the land. I g to come that far, you know working with the every meeting – that was my day on the road.

ncil, all them cultural people make this thing, ou can see what the land council has been nard work, some people don't say that, but you I doing today, they got all that native title, that's been doing."



Wayne Bergmann



Anthony Watson

"I enjoyed my time in the land council and growing up and knowing all the old people, there were strong old people and land council had a big fight in those days. I can remember Dad telling Mum and us that he's going to Noonkanbah and that they was protesting and I said 'oh Dad I'm going with you' and he said 'no they chucking people in jail. So you might get chucked in jail and I might get chucked in jail' so he told me to go back to school.

I'm really proud of the organisation. Along the journey we have had a lot of criticism but we've stood the test of time, we've been here for over 35 years and we achieved a lot of results."

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John Watson

"In 1978, when I carried that flag when we demonstrated against that mining company there was lot of strong people at that meeting, as you see in that old photo of those people walking, and lot of them passed away and lot of them young people you see running around as part of that photo, have their own children.

At that time, people supported one another right across the Kimberley, even from outside the Kimberley lots of people supported us, even kartya people supported us as well."

#### Uunguu Rangers scientifically manage cultural heritage

The Uunguu Rangers are embarking on a journey to learn how to scientifically record, manage and protect ancient rock art and cultural sites in the remote far north Kimberley.

Under pressure from researchers wanting to access their country to collect and record data about Wanjina and Gwion rock art, as well as visitors wanting to view the paintings, the Uunguu Rangers decided to learn more about cultural heritage management by undertaking training to understand the science behind it.

"Rock art is like our library in the bush," Uunguu Ranger Jason Adams said.

"When we find painted fingerprints and footprints, it tells us who the people were for that country. A painting of animals tells you what food you can find there. Paintings can warn us of danger too."

As part of the two-day cultural heritage management course, the rangers travelled to several cultural heritage sites across their country at Garmbemerri near the Truscott Airbase, north of Kalumburu.

At the sites, the rangers identified possible threats such as overgrown scrub, water run-off and cattle and were introduced to scientific ways to record and evaluate cultural sites. The cultural heritage management course uses twoway learning techniques to combine western science with traditional knowledge. Funded by the Department of Environment, the pilot program has been developed by the Australian National University in Canberra and is designed to meet the needs of Indigenous ranger groups working on country while filling a gap in current training programs.

Uunguu head ranger Neil Waina said his group wanted to develop the skills needed to record cultural sites using white fella technology and science and to produce targeted management plans to address any natural or human threats including cattle, fire, vegetation and tourism.

"Our elders are teaching us the stories about these places but we need to make sure we manage and protect them so we can pass those stories on to our young people," Neil said.

"Rock art and cultural sites are a big part of our culture. When you visit rock paintings, you can see the old people living there and how they used to roam this country, without white man ways.

"We need to learn some of the science ways to look after our rock art sites. We want to target the sites









"Our elders are teaching us the stories about these places but we need to make sure we manage and protect them so we can pass those stories on to our young people." - Neil Waina

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where people go, like Bigge Island, where tourists really have an impact and this is where cultural heritage management training comes in."

Strengthening culture and protecting and managing rock art sites has been listed as priority targets in the Uunguu Indigenous Protected Area Healthy Country Plan, which is managed by the Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation and implemented by the rangers.

"Our country is pretty much the way it was before the old people disappeared from country because most of it hasn't been touched by white people," Neil said. "We don't want anything to become extinct and it is our job to make sure that doesn't happen. We are part of our country and we hurt for it."

The Uunguu Rangers is one of 14 Indigenous groups facilitated by the KLC and working to look after country through conducting conservation and land management activities, research and monitoring initiatives. The Wunggurr Rangers and the Nyikina Mangala Rangers have also completed the training course and are currently working on tailored rock art projects in their areas.





# Kimberley women gather to celebrate strong leadership

Ngurrara Women's Week saw more than 80 women from across the Kimberley meet to further develop women ranger groups and encourage youth participation and knowledge sharing.

The Ngurrara Women's Week was held at Parukupan in the Great Sandy Desert and brought together women from communities and schools as far away as Broome, Bidyadanga and Turkey Creek.

Ngurrara Ranger Chantelle Murray said the event had focused on strong youth participation and involvement.

"The Ngurrara Women's Week was an idea to gather everyone from the Kimberley's to develop and encourage women rangers and our youth in building capacity to move forward as strong Indigenous women in the future," she said.

"Passing on knowledge to our youth is really important and was a focus of this event which is why we had activities that encouraged young people to get involved in the painting of their country, while elders shared stories and ideas and everyone got involved in the preparation of food."

The development of women's ranger groups has been building momentum in the Kimberley. Many of the 14 ranger groups in the KLC network have female team members, with women rangers making up 13 per cent of full-time positions and 39 per cent of casual ranger employment in 2012/2013.

Chantelle said the event was a success and many of the women and women's organisations that attended were keen to make it an annual celebration.

"It was so good to see all the ladies, Traditional Owners and young girls feel proud about themselves because they had all these different women coming and visiting their country."





### Gooniyandi Rangers capture rare footage

The Gooniyandi Rangers have captured footage of a juvenile sea eagle flying off with a camera trap, that was later recovered more than 100km away.

Gooniyandi Ranger Roneil Skeen, said the group had set up the camera trap - a small, motion sensitive recording device - near the edge of the Fitzroy River at Macdonald Gorge, in the hope of capturing vision of a crocodile.



"We left meat next to the camera trap because we really wanted

to get a photo of a crocodile. But instead of a crocodile, a little eagle has come in, picked it up and flown off with it," he said.

"The footage is pretty cool, we're stoked with it. You can see the bird picking the camera trap up, then of him dropping it and triggering the sensor again while he pecks at it.

"And if that wasn't enough, the camera trap was found by a DEC Ranger up at Mary River, so the eagle has flown about 110km with it.

"The camera got handed in to the Kija Rangers. It's pretty amazing that the bird flew with it all the way from Gooniyandi land to Kija land and that someone found it. What are the chances of that happening?"

Roneil said the camera trap had been labelled with a KLC identification number and so when it was found by another ranger, working for the Department of Environment and Conservation, the person knew who to hand it in to.

#### Gooniyandi Rangers go viral

The release of the KLC Gooniyandi ranger video caused a media flurry across the world.

It was shown in the USA, England, Ireland, Poland, Norway, Italy, the Philippines, Italy and India. It also featured on some of the most influential television, radio stations and news websites in the world including The New York Times, Time Magazine, The Huffington Post, BBC, CNN, The Washington Post, Sky News and the International Business Times.

That's not to mention the impact it has had across social media channels where it went viral with more than 4.9 million YouTube views on December 11.

DECEMBER 2013

# Wishing you And And Arery Happy New Year



The Kimberley Land Council welcomes donations to support our activities – donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. The Kimberley Land Council acknowledges the financial support provided by the Commonwealth of Australia and the Government of Western Australia.





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