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Nyikina Mangala people celebrate long-awaited Native Title Determination

After an 18-year land rights battle reminiscent of David and Goliath, the Nyikina Mangala people have been recognised as the Traditional Owners of their land in the central Kimberley. More than 300 people attended the determination where the Honourable Justice John Gilmour of the Federal Court recognised the native title rights and interests of the Nyikina Mangala people. The on-country hearing was held at Lanji Lanji along the Fitzroy River, 40km south-west of Derby on May 29.

Looking back on the KLC



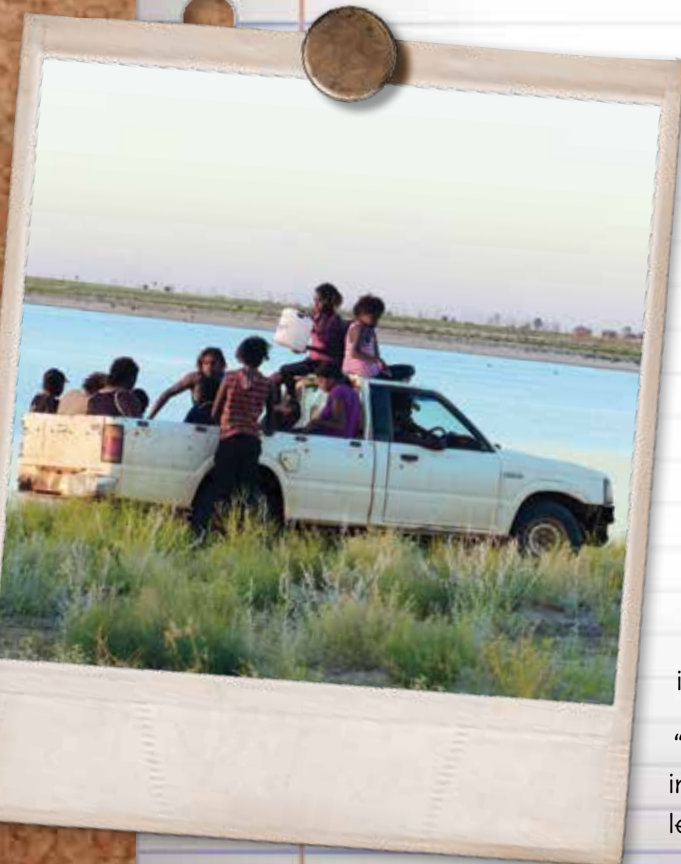
2004 - 10 YEARS AGO

Cane Toad Campaign

The KLC teamed up with Environs Kimberley and the Commonwealth Government to lead a community cane toad awareness campaign in a bid to stop the pest's imminent arrival.

In 2004, the cane toad was less than 200km from the Kimberley border and the community education campaign was designed to minimise the impact of the invasive species. The campaign targeted east Kimberley communities and used brochures, posters and stickers to inform people about how to identify a cane toad, the risks to humans and dogs, impacts on native animals and what to do when a cane toad was spotted.

Today, the cane toad has invaded the Wyndham township in the north and has travelled towards Warmun in the south east of the Kimberley. KLC-facilitated Kimberley Rangers continue to support the Kimberley Toadbusters to control the spread of the noxious pest and slow-down its advance across the region.



2009 - 5 YEARS AGO

Australian National University study

New research ranks Kimberley Aboriginal people among the most disadvantaged communities in Australia.

The KLC commissioned the Australian National University to conduct the research which found that 26 out of 28 Indigenous communities in the Kimberley fell into the lowest quarter of income, employment and education.

The KLC used the findings to call for urgent Federal action to Close the Gap in the Kimberley. KLC CEO Wayne Bergmann also used the research to highlight the benefits of resource development in improving socioeconomic outcomes in remote communities through creating long-term economic independence.

"This ANU study highlights the urgent need for substantial investment in our communities to help overcome the severe levels of disadvantage that our people suffer," he said.

Message from the Chairman



We are half way through the year and already so much has happened, starting with a big native title win for the Nyikina Mangala people.

After more than 18 years the Federal Court recognised the native title rights of the Nyikina Mangala people on May 29 along the Fitzroy River. This was a fantastic victory and a great day with more than 300 people turning out to celebrate.

We all know that native title can be a lengthy and drawn out process and this was very much the case for the Nyikina Mangala people who had to battle third parties and endure stalling tactics from the State Government. I acknowledge their determination to see this through and get a great outcome.

In other areas of native title business, the State Government has released proposed changes to the WA Aboriginal Heritage Act. The KLC has met with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and has tendered a submission to make sure any changes to the law better protect Indigenous heritage and cultural values. The Aboriginal Heritage Act is outdated and definitely needs to change and we want the State Government to work with us so that we can make sure these reforms work to strengthen our heritage.

As always our rangers have been hard at work, making the most of the dry season weather to get out and look after country. They have been conducting biodiversity surveys, crocodile management programs, implementing visitor permit systems and conducting fire management activities.

The KLC was recognised for the role it plays in facilitating the Kimberley Ranger Network as winner of the Kimberley Group Training Excellence Award for Host Employer of the Year. It's fantastic that we have been able to enter into this partnership and offer our men and women in the Kimberley training and employment opportunities in conservation and land management. This program is underpinned by our cultural values and goes to the heart of our vision at the KLC to look after our country.

It's also that time year again for the combined AGMs of the KLC, the Kimberley Language Resource Centre and the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre. The event is going to be held at Jarlmadangah from September 23-25. It's shaping up to be a jam-packed meeting as it is both a festival year for KALACC and the 30th Anniversary of the KLRC. It is also an election year for the KLC and KLRC, so I call on all Kimberley native title groups to start thinking about who you want to elect as your board member. Our AGM gives all of our members the chance to have input into deciding the priorities of the KLC for the next year and I encourage everyone to come along and get involved.

I look forward to seeing you there.

FRANK DAVEY

KLC holds State Government to account on proposed Aboriginal heritage changes



The Kimberley Land Council will hold the State Government to account to make sure proposed changes to the Aboriginal Heritage Act actually benefit Indigenous people.

KLC Deputy CEO Frank Parriman said he was pleased the State Government was taking action to make changes to the Aboriginal Heritage Act but wanted assurances it would better protect Indigenous heritage and cultural values.

The State Government released propped legislative changes to the Aboriginal Heritage Act in June 12, two years after a discussion paper on the issue.

"At the moment, the Aboriginal Heritage Act is weak and outdated. It definitely needs to change and the State Government's reforms are a good starting point," he said.

Mr Parriman said an eight-week public consultation period to debate the proposed changes was inadequate.

"Two years ago the State Government released a vague discussion paper about changing the Aboriginal Heritage Act. In that two years, we have heard hardly anything until the changes were released this week," he said.

"Providing an eight-week submission and consultation period is insufficient. The State Government cannot be expected to listen to, and incorporate Indigenous feedback into any proposed changes within that timeframe.

"I call on the State Government to extend the consultation deadline to make sure that there is genuine engagement with Aboriginal people."

"We want the State Government to work closely with Aboriginal people to make sure that these proposed changes, once implemented will actually work to strengthen Aboriginal heritage protection." — Frank Parriman, KLC Deputy CEO

"The State Government has a limited view of Aboriginal heritage that is confined to places and objects. This needs to be widened to reflect the complexity and diversity of Indigenous cultural heritage values that include Dreaming stories, songs, law practices and family connections.

"We want the State Government to work closely with Aboriginal people to make sure that these proposed changes, once implemented will actually work to strengthen Aboriginal heritage protection.

"This is only the first step in the process and without the finer details of the changes being available; the State Government is asking Traditional Owners to take a big leap of faith. We need to make sure that we are actively involved in all steps into the future."

Mr Parriman said the KLC was hopeful that increased penalties and prosecution procedures would encourage industry to proactively work with Aboriginal people to ensure there was no damage from the very start.

"We hope that these new laws will work in practice as they are intended on paper; that means if companies and the government genuinely engage with Aboriginal people from the start they will be rewarded with a speedier process, but if they don't they will be penalised."

Bumper 2014 fire burning season

North Kimberley Traditional Owner groups completed more than 350 hours of aerial burns as part of a bumper fire management season.

The fire season for this year has just finished with the North Kimberley groups including Dambimangari, Wilinggin, Wunambal Gaambera and Balangarra completing a network of strategic early season burns through using mosaic burning and firebreaks.

The KLC facilitates the North Kimberley Fire Abatement Project, which uses traditional fire burning methods and modern science to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere from unmanaged and potentially dangerous wildfires. The emissions saved can then be on-sold to industry in the form of carbon credits.

The North Kimberley Fire Abatement Project area covers 35,000 square kilometres. More than 60 Traditional Owners were employed during the burning period and collectively they worked about 1,400 hours on fire management. They travelled more than 50,000 kms in a chopper and spent more than 40 nights camping in the remote north Kimberley while the Wunambal Gaambera and Wilinggin Traditional Owners completed two overnight fire walks. The KLC also hosted four fire management planning meetings.

North Kimberley Traditional Owners have registered carbon projects across their native title lands and in the past three years they have generated carbon credits through undertaking fire management, which they can now sell to industry.





Carbon abatement is providing a new and sustainable way for Traditional Owners to generate an income stream in remote communities. Creation of carbon businesses also deliver social and environmental outcomes through improved biodiversity and landscape health, reinvigorating social and cultural traditions, strengthening climate change adaptability, reversing socio-economic disadvantage and increasing employment opportunities.



Emission Reduction Fund Update

The Federal Government is making a lot of changes to the laws about carbon projects. These changes will affect people who are already doing carbon projects and also people who are thinking about doing a carbon project.

The Government has said that it will get rid of the carbon tax. This would mean that big companies will no longer have to pay the carbon price for their pollution. It also means that companies will no longer need to purchase carbon credits from people doing carbon projects on the land. Some companies may still want to buy carbon credits voluntarily to 'offset' their emissions.

To replace the carbon tax, the Government plans to introduce the 'Emission Reduction Fund'. This lets people – including companies, industry and land holders – do projects to reduce carbon emissions and get carbon credits. This is similar to what projects can currently do under the Carbon Farming Initiative. People with carbon credits can then approach Government to sell these credits. The Government has stated that they will look to buy credits at the lowest price. All these changes could mean that the price for carbon credits will go down.

9The Parliament is currently considering all of these changes. Until these things become law, there is a lot of uncertainty about how carbon projects will work in the future. The KLC is talking to Government to try to make sure these changes have the best possible outcome for Kimberley people. We will provide further updates once these changes come through.

After 18 years, Nyikina Mangala Traditional Owners get native title

After an 18-year land rights battle reminiscent of David and Goliath, the Nyikina Mangala people have been recognised as the Traditional Owners of their land in the central Kimberley.

More than 300 people attended the determination where the Honourable Justice John Gilmour of the Federal Court recognised the native title rights and interests of the Nyikina Mangala people. The on-country hearing was held at Lanji Lanji along the Fitzroy River, 40km south-west of Derby on May 29.

The Nyikina Mangala native title claim area covers more than 26,000 square kilometres and extends from the mouth of the King Sound below Derby, along the Fitzroy Valley to Noonkanbah and south into the Great Sandy Desert.

Exclusive possession native title rights were recognised across more than 40 per cent of the claim area, including three Aboriginal pastoral stations, a large tract of Unallocated Crown Land in the Great Sandy Desert and smaller pockets within the claim.

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter said securing recognition of native title for the Nyikina Mangala people had been a long struggle. He said they had endured stalling tactics and delays from the State Government and third parties and as a result of failed negotiations were preparing to litigate the claim through the Federal Court.

"Resolving native title through litigation is a long and arduous process that is extremely costly, so to have this claim determined with the consent of all parties has been a big win for the Nyikina Mangala people. We welcome today's decision," Mr Hunter said at the determination.

"After more than 20 years since the introduction of the Native Title Act, it is disappointing to see that we still have to fight big battles for our rights and interests to be recognised, especially in this case where the evidence clearly showed that the Nyikina Mangala people have a strong and unbroken connection to their country."



Nyikina Mangala Named Applicants



Justice Gilmour with Annie Milgin

"I would like to acknowledge the steely determination, persistence and never give up attitude of the Nyikina Mangala people. This determination is credit to your hard work and character as a strong and resilient people."

Nyikina Mangala Traditional Owner Anthony Watson said today's native title determination was long overdue but it was time for his people to look to the future.

"This determination has taken a long time and I would like to recognise our old people who set us in good stead by teaching us about our culture so we could keep it strong, but also instilled in us solid values of community, traditional knowledge and respect," he said.

Mr Watson said native title gave the Nyikina Mangala people the right to have a say about what happens on their country.

"Our country is resource-rich and as a result is almost completely covered with exploration and mining tenements," he said.

"Now that we have our native title determined, let's hope it provides us with some protections but more importantly gives us the respect and recognition of being landowners with rights and interests.

"We are not spectators; we are real players and want to be at the forefront of any decisions made about what happens on our country. We want to ensure that native title benefits our people, our country and our culture."



John Watson's native title journey

John Watson took a stand that day at the Noonkanbah protest because he wanted to achieve land rights for Aboriginal people. Finally on May 29, his day came when the Federal Court recognised the native title rights and interests of the Nyikina Mangala people.

"Today is very important for me; for my liyan. My sadness is over, I have the native title I wanted and waited a long time for. My liyan is good. I will be able to sleep straight," he said at the determination.

"I was fighting then because we couldn't let the mining company just walk into places and drill holes. In this present moment we need to use our PBC and our native title to try and stop all these sorts of things from happening."

Today Mr Watson still has a battle on his hands – as the Nyikina Mangala country he comes from is resource rich with uranium, gold, oil, gas and coal. As a result, his country is almost covered with mining and exploration tenements.

"We started the land council all those years ago to fight for our land rights and make sure mining companies just didn't do what they wanted. The KLC has helped us do that," he said.

"We belong to this land; we love this land. I love this land. I hunt. I walk; I take kids at risk through the country that I know and I would like people to support us; mining companies, the government and other people of our towns.

"I hope native title is going to help us. I hope our PBC will help us. I don't want to leave a bad land for my young people. The door is not open for mining but open to sit down and talk and get a good feeling. We want to get a good outcome."



Kimberley MP Josie Farrer fights for Aboriginal people to be recognised in WA Constitution

The KLC strongly supports Kimberley MP Josie Farrer in her bid to have Aboriginal people recognised in the WA Constitution.

WA Labor moved to constitutionally recognise the state's Aboriginal people as the First Peoples of our country in Parliament on June 11.

Kimberley MP Josie Farrer in introducing the Constitution (Recognition of Aboriginal People) Bill said it was about moving forward towards an equal future.

"This year will mark 125 years since the Constitution Act was passed, and so it is long overdue that recognition is given to Australia's first people, Aboriginal people," she said.

"This is the opportunity for us to stride into the future, not shuffle forward with eyes closed from truths of the past. This is the chance to come together as a Parliament and as a community in a sincere, mature, heartfelt spirit of reconciliation.

"The fact of the matter is; Black people were here first. Let's recognise this in a meaningful and united way."

Kimberley Land Council Deputy CEO Frank Parriman applauded Ms Farrer for her determination to get Aboriginal people recognised.

"Aboriginal culture forms a strong part of our identity as West Australians," he said.

"Recognising Aboriginal people in the Constitution has been a long time coming and it's fantastic to see that we are moving forward as a State and community that embraces Aboriginal people.

"WA is the only mainland State that has not recognised Aboriginal people in the Constitution and I encourage Mr Barnett to take leadership on this matter by showing his support for WA's original custodians.

"There is absolutely no argument why this Government cannot amend the WA Constitution to recognise Aboriginal people accept for submitting to the last bastion of racism."

Kimberley MP Josie Farrer is calling on all West Australians to show your support for constitutional recognition of the State's Aboriginal people by signing a petition.



To show your support and sign the petition please visit WA Labor Leader Mark McGowan's website at <http://www.markmcgowan.com.au/recognition>

KLC wins excellence award



Karajarri Rangers Owen Bangu and Jess Bangu with Ranger Mentor Zack Wundke

The Kimberley Land Council has won Host Employer of the Year at Kimberley Group Training's Excellence Awards.

The award recognised the role of the KLC in providing the best employment and training opportunities via our Conservation and Land Management Traineeships. It also recognised our role as facilitator of the Kimberley Ranger Network which employs more than 70 full-time rangers and more than 100 casual rangers and cultural advisors across 14 groups each year.

Also nominated, but unfortunately pipped at the post for 'Trainee of the Year' was Owen (OJ) Bangu of the Karajarri Rangers. As one of six final nominees recognised out of 220 trainees employed by KGT, Owen's achievement is a tribute to his hard work and commitment.

The KLC has been working in partnership with Kimberley Group Training for more than six years to deliver training and employment services to Kimberley Aboriginal people.

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter said it was a big achievement for the KLC and recognition of the hard work of our land and sea employees and rangers to make the Kimberley Ranger Network a great success.

"It's really great that our organisation has been acknowledged for providing employment and training services," he said.

"The Kimberley Ranger Network continues to be a really strong and successful project that has employed hundreds of Indigenous men and women in the areas of conservation and land management. But it is the social benefits of the program in creating leaders and building strong communities that makes it outstanding.

"I would like to thank Kimberley Group Training for partnering with us on this project and for that collaboration to continue well into the future."

Crocodile management top priority for Kimberley rangers

Increases in crocodile numbers and reports of aggressive behaviour have led Kimberley Land Council rangers to make crocodile management their top priority, to ensure public safety and awareness.

In June there were 10 sightings of large crocodiles near Beagle Bay in 14 days including reports of a crocodile stalking local people fishing and the discovery of about five baby hatchlings.

To ensure public awareness and safety, the Nyul Nyul and Bardi

Jawi Rangers from the Dampier Peninsula and the Nyikina Mangala Rangers from the Fitzroy Valley are working with the Department of Parks and Wildlife to create local area crocodile management plans.

As part of their research the ranger groups met up with the Dhimmuru Rangers, who travelled from the Gove Peninsula to Beagle Bay, to share their knowledge and experience on managing crocodile populations in the Northern Territory.

Nyul Nyul Ranger Yoshi Akune, whose group hosted the exchange, said it was great to share knowledge about the similarities and differences in crocodile management between the groups.



"We shared ideas and talked about which strategies work better. It was also great to hear about how the Dhimmuru Rangers had gone about educating the public."

Making sure locals and especially tourists are aware of sightings and follow warning signs will be a really important part of our management plan," he said.

Mr Akune said the Kimberley ranger groups were focusing on collecting data about crocodile sightings and were calling on community members to notify them of all sightings.

"We have been relying on the community to keep us informed; and so far they have been really great in giving us information on the date, time, size, location and behaviour so we can track all the data," he said.

"We've also been doing patrols and in the last year we have trapped two crocodiles and relocated them to the Malcolm Douglas Wilderness Park. Trapping and relocating crocs doesn't guarantee an area is going to be free from crocs but it is something we are looking at doing more of."

Kimberley Ranger groups have been working closely with the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife to trap and relocate crocodiles in the area, but also to start to develop a West Kimberley Croc Management Plan to guide future strategies to ensure crocodile safety.

Nyikina Mangala rangers hunt rogue croc

The Nyikina Mangala Rangers are on the hunt for a rogue crocodile that has been causing problems at a popular camping area on the Fitzroy River.

The Kimberley Land Council facilitated rangers and the Department of Parks and Wildlife have set up a trap along the river with the aim of trapping the crocodile so it can be relocated to Malcolm Douglas Wilderness Park.

Nyikina Mangala Ranger Kimberley Watson said a crocodile in the area had recently snatched a pet dog and shown aggression to the public.

"This is a really popular area for fishing and camping, so our number one priority is to ensure people's safety," he said.

"We set up the trap on the banks of the river and baited it with a barramundi in the hope of luring the croc into the trap, so we can then relocate it.

"Over the past few years we have been receiving increased reports of aggressive and territorial saltwater crocodiles in the Fitzroy River. People need to remember that this is their natural habitat and we should respect these powerful predators at all times."



Learning new skills with healthy country planning



Balanggarra Ranger James Birch said it was really great to undertake training and continually learn new methods and ways to look after country.

“It is really important for me, as a ranger, to learn about all parts of Healthy Country planning and to understand what is involved in all aspects of management. It was great to meet so many knowledgeable people. I really enjoyed it,” he said.

The workshop was one of many training events Kimberley Traditional Owners have

participated in across Australia to deepen their skills in Healthy Country planning. The training program is supported by The Nature Conservancy Australia.

Kimberley Traditional Owners gathered in Derby in April to enhance their skills in monitoring and evaluating Indigenous Protected Area Healthy Country Plans.

Representatives from the seven KLC-facilitated Indigenous Protected Areas attended the Healthy Country Planning Implementation Workshop along with a team from Wardeken Land Management.

A dedicated team of experts from the Conservation Coaches Network guided Traditional Owners, rangers and their coordinators through a variety of exercises and training sessions to improve their adaptive land management skills by analysing and sharing their knowledge and successes about Indigenous Protected Areas.



Karajarri people declare IPA to protect country and culture

Karajarri Traditional Owners have declared an Indigenous Protected Area across their country to manage biodiversity hotspots and protect some of the Kimberley's most vulnerable and threatened species.

Karajarri country extends from the sandy beaches, tidal creeks and reef systems of 80 Mile Beach and Gourdon Bay, inland towards the vast arid country, wetlands and dunes of the Great Sandy Desert. It is home to many rare animal species such as the nationally endangered bilby, marsupial mole and northern quoll as well as turtles, migratory birds and reptiles.

The Karajarri IPA, which was declared on May 7, 2014 along the coast at Mangkuna (Corkbark) about 35km south of Bidyadanga, covers 24,797 square kilometres and includes parts of the Fraser Downs Pastoral Lease and inland areas towards the Great Sandy Desert.

Senior Karajarri Ranger Jessica Bangu said the declaration of the Indigenous Protected Area promoted Aboriginal leadership and would ensure Traditional Owners were at the forefront of managing their country.

"Indigenous Protected Areas let us look after and protect our country, the way our old people want us too. It provides the right cultural match as having an IPA is not just about looking after the environment but making sure our people, our culture and our heritage is strong as well," she said.

Indigenous Protected Areas are an initiative of the Australian Government and Karajarri Traditional Owners worked with the Kimberley Land Council, The Nature Conservancy and Pew Charitable Trusts to develop the Healthy Country Management Plan which sets out the long-term conservation targets and strategies for the management of the IPA. The Karajarri Rangers will be responsible for implementing the plan under the guidance of a cultural advisory committee.

Ms Bangu said the Healthy Country Plan set out the targets and objectives Karajarri Traditional Owners wanted to see happen on-country.

"Protecting and enhancing cultural knowledge is our number one priority. Our culture can be passed on through many different ceremonies but it is also present in our everyday life. The best way to keep our culture strong is by being out on country and telling stories, hunting and speaking language. Our IPA will enable us to do more of this," she said.

Karajarri Traditional Owners have taken a staged approach to the IPA and will look to declare a sea country IPA into the future with the support and assistance from other agencies and interested parties.

The Karajarri IPA will become one of eight IPAs in the Kimberley, covering more than 90,000 sq km across the region.



KLC shares Kimberley story with Indigenous people from across the world at UN event

Improving Indigenous land rights and promoting economic development was the central message the Kimberley Land Council delivered to the United Nations in New York.

The KLC recently returned from a two-week networking trip where it connected with Indigenous people from across the globe as well as government delegates, environmental organisations and philanthropists.

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter said attending the United Nations forum on Indigenous issues was a beneficial experience.

"I was sponsored to do an International training program at the United Nations. It was really insightful and inspiring and taught me how to raise issues and present submissions within the forum," he said.

Mr Hunter said hosting a side event at the United Nations on economic and cultural business enterprises was a highlight of the trip.

"At our side event we got to share our Kimberley story and promote the work we are doing to pursue enterprise development through using our Indigenous culture and knowledge to develop sustainable businesses," he said.

"More than 50 people from Canada, Guatemala, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden, America and the Arctic attended our event, which was great because we got to meet such a broad cross-section of people and cultures.

"Through sharing stories with each other, we got to learn about the challenges people face, the solutions they are implementing and the failures and successes they are having. We've brought back a lot of new ideas with us."





Mr Hunter said the KLC, while in New York, played a pivotal role in developing the future structure and vision for the World Indigenous Network.

"The KLC worked alongside the Australian Government in setting up the World Indigenous Network, which was launched at a conference in Darwin in 2013. The Network connects land and sea managers from across the globe, so it was great to be involved in the second phase of its development.

"Globally, Indigenous-led conservation initiatives are collectively having a major impact in mitigating environmental challenges, so having a vehicle like the World Indigenous Network to bring people together is really important."



Nolan Hunter on New York

New York really is the city that never sleeps. Travelling from the Kimberley to the hustle and bustle of city lights, millions of people, traffic jams and high rise buildings was definitely a culture shock. Even the United Nations where the Permanent forum on Indigenous Issues was held was like a world unto itself, with its own rules and regulations, language and governance structure.

Although the New York trip was jam packed with meetings, events and forum sessions, there was a little bit of time to squeeze in some networking and socialising. A highlight was dinner with the Pacific delegation including representatives from Australia, Hawaii and New Zealand. And just like at home, Indigenous people the world over love belting out a few tunes at Karaoke, so of course we all ended up in a little Chinese karaoke bar singing New York, New York!

Through participating in the Tribal Link International training program at the United Nations, I was able to meet a range of people from various countries.

Our final wrap-up dinner and drinks was great. The group I did my training with were really friendly and we became quite close during the three-week training program so our final dinner together actually became a cultural celebration.

We had a welcome to country chant from the American Indians, African singing, a tribal song from the Philippines and cultural dancing from North America. A traditional farewell ceremony concluded the event.

Then of course there were the sights you just have to make time to see while in New York; Central Park, the Rockafella Centre, the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn and Harlem. Not to mention the food you just have to eat; bagels with cream cheese, steak, hot dogs and pizza.

New York is a vibrant city and a melting pot of all different cultures. There are just so many people from so many different places and that works to make it a really interesting place. But after three weeks of busy city life, it was nice to come back to the Kimberley and Broome time.

Bardi Jawi Rangers launch specialised commercial vessel

The delivery of a new commercial vessel will enable the Bardi Jawi Rangers to access, manage and protect the remote islands and coastline of the Dampier Peninsula.

The specialised ranger boat Almban, meaning westerly wind in Bardi language, was launched on May 2, 2014 at One Arm Point, after more than four years in the making.

The Global Marine Design Air-Rider tri-hull vessel built by Stagg Boats, is powered by twin 225hp engines, is eight metres long and can carry a crew of eight to undertake a

range of marine activities. It is equipped with state of the art marine communications and search technology to be able to assist in patrols and marine rescues. It has been funded by the Lotterywest, The Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Captain of the vessel and Bardi Jawi head ranger Phillip McCarthy said his team had worked hard to secure the boat and complete the training required to operate it.



"We have undertaken significant marine training and are aiming for all of our rangers to have coxswain qualifications, so they can skipper the vessel. We have also completed marine rescue training so we will be able to use the vessel to assist in emergency situations," he said.

"We set ourselves the goal of becoming a specialised marine unit and through developing our skills in marine technology and emergency response, combined with our traditional knowledge of country; we are on our way to achieving this.

"Having this vessel opens up a range of new opportunities for our ranger team. We will be able to provide environmental services that are of benefit to our community while creating commercial business opportunities. It will enable us to generate an income stream and take the next step forward in our journey to become a self-sustainable business enterprise owned by our community."

Mr McCarthy said despite the vessels array of capabilities, it's most significant use would also be the simplest - to enable the Bardi Jawi Rangers access to the islands and coastline of their traditional country.

"In the early days our people used to travel across our sea country and through the islands using the galwa or double log raft. Today, we will be using our new state-of-the art vessel but the purpose remains the same; to look after our country and strengthen our culture," he said.

"With this vessel we will be able to do what we do best; monitor and manage our islands, conduct biodiversity surveys and complete conservation activities. Importantly, we will also be able to take our elders with us so they can visit country they haven't been to in a long time and share with us their knowledge of, and stories about those significant places."

The rangers are responsible for managing the 200km of coastline within the Bardi Jawi native title area and implementing targeted conservation management strategies within the Bardi Jawi Indigenous Protected Area; an area recognised for its high environmental and cultural values.



New Paruku IPA online permit system

Visitors touring the Paruku Indigenous Protected Area can now purchase permits through a new online booking system. The booking system is fully automated and enables visitors to fill in and print permits immediately and download a visitor information guide.

The Indigenous Protected Area is home to Paruku Lake, an oasis nestled between the Tanami and Great Sandy Deserts. Paruku is a unique environment and its permanent wetlands support more than 70 species of waterbirds and 175 aquatic species. It also provides a stop-over for more than 100,000 migratory birds.

The Paruku Rangers manage the 430,000 hectare Indigenous Protected Area which includes four designated camping areas at Stretch Lagoon, Yampu, Handover and Sturt Creek.

Head Ranger Jamie Brown said having an online permit system would ensure his group could monitor tourism while protecting the dynamic and important wetland lake system and Indigenous Protected Area. "Through having a permit system we will be able to put the money back into looking after our Indigenous Protected Area so we can make sure it is protected for future generations. "Paruku is a big feature of the desert landscape and we welcome visitors to come to our country and experience it firsthand."

Permits to access and camp within the Paruku Indigenous Protected Area cost \$30 per car for the first night and \$10 per car for every night after that. A day pass is also available for \$10. The online permit booking system and information about the Paruku IPA can be found at www.parukuipa.org.au. The website also features an information hotline to ensure all your questions and queries are answered.

School animal education

Lizards, snakes, frogs and fish were all on show as part of environmental training at the Billiluna and Mulan schools.

The education sessions were organised by the KLC Paruku IPA Coordinator and Paruku Rangers with presentations by the University of Western Australia and the Department of Parks and Wildlife in June as a way to raise the awareness of school children about the natural environment that surrounds them.

Cane toad identification was a feature of the session along with studying the various water life of the area under the microscope. Senior elder Veronica Lulu held an informative talk and used her painting to show the importance of the clay pans in the migratory pattern of their ancestors when they moved around the lake following seasonal foods.

The environmental training had a positive impact on the school children who have enthusiastically been collecting local wildlife so they can identify the species and use the Walmajarri Plants and Animals Dictionary to learn the language name.





United in the stand against domestic violence

The Bardi Jawi Oorany Rangers teamed up with Dampier Peninsula police to say 'no' to domestic violence and raise awareness of the issue.

The women rangers planted a Marool tree outside the police station in the Djaridjin community as a symbol of the united efforts between the community and police to stop domestic violence.

Senior Bardi Jawi Oorany Ranger Bernadette Angus said planting a Marool tree was about creating a lasting reminder for the community to stand strong against domestic violence.

"A Marool tree is a strong tree and we got to be strong in the future and say 'no'. We need to look after this tree because it's important to us," she said.

"We don't like domestic violence and we need to find a way to stop domestic violence in our community.

"We need to come together and support each other."

Senior Sergeant Heather Osborne said working with the Bardi women rangers provided a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness of an issue that was close to her heart.

"This is about helping women in our community be strong and not tolerate domestic violence," she said.

"This tree represents the future direction of men, women and children against domestic violence."

A Dampier Peninsula safe house for women who need a haven to escape domestic violence and abuse is almost built and will be open in early September. SAFE House coordinator and Save the Children Team Leader Dawn Thompson also attended the tree planting.

The native Marool tree was donated by the Society of Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals which is working closely with the Bardi Jawi Oorany Rangers on a number of projects.



The KLC was well represented at the National Native Title Conference this year with a contingent of about 30 staff, board members and Traditional Owners attending.

The 2014 conference was held in Coffs Harbour and focused on: Living with Native Title, from the Bush to the Sea.

The first day of the conference was a closed session for NTRBs and PBCs and focused on agreement making. The other days were open to the public and included a key note address from Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion. Workshops at the event focused on conservation estates, women and leadership, governance, compensation and carbon farming.

As always, the highlight of the event was the closing conference dinner and dance performances.



KLC building update - June 2014

The Kimberley Land Council's new building on Gregory St in Broome is moving along, although more slowly than expected.

The upper floor is in place, and the steelwork for the roof and walls is being fitted. After that, the roof will go on, as well as all the doors and windows, and the electrical, mechanical, and plumbing work will get into full swing.

The KLC has also met with the architects to preview and finalise interior colours and finishings.

2014 combined AGM

This year the combined AGMs for the Kimberley's three peak Aboriginal organisations will be held at Jarlmadangah in the Fitzroy Valley from September 23 to 25.

This year is shaping up to be an extra special event as it is a festival year for the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC) and the 30th Anniversary of the Kimberley Language Resource Centre.

The annual program promises to be jam packed with a number of cultural activities, dancing and performances by various Kimberley Traditional Owner groups.

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter said it was also an election year for the Kimberley Land Council and Kimberley Language Resource Centre.

"It is important that all native title groups start thinking about who they want to represent them on the KLC Board," he said.

"Being a board member is a serious job as our directors set the vision for the future of our organisation while making important decisions about how we operate."

Travel assistance including limited fuel orders and bus services from the east and west Kimberley to Jarlmadangah will be provided. No food will be supplied on travel days, so members will need to pack their own lunch and drinks. Meals will be supplied during the AGMs.

People need to bring their own camping equipment to the AGM including tent, swag and blankets. It is very important people remember to bring any medication they may need.

This is an alcohol and drug free event.

For more information or to organise travel arrangements please contact the Broome office on 9194 0100. It is essential travel is organised as soon as possible.



The builder has run into some delays, and we are working with them to make sure we get the building finished as soon as we can. At this stage, it looks like we'll probably be moving in around April next year.

We have got strong support from our funding partners, the Commonwealth Government through the Regional Development Australia Fund, the State Government from Royalties for Regions, Lotterywest and the Indigenous Land Corporation.

Construction costs are within budget and on track. We are looking forward to moving into our own brand new offices and warehouse facility in the new year.



SAVE *THE* DATE

23-25 SEPTEMBER



KALACCC FESTIVAL

AND KLC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JARLMADANGAH, FITZROY VALLEY

KLRC 30TH ANNIVERSARY • ELECTION YEAR FOR KLC AND KLRC

TRAVEL DAYS: MONDAY 22 AND FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER
LIMITED TRAVEL ASSISTANCE AND BUS SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED
IT IS ESSENTIAL TRAVEL IS ORGANISED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
PLEASE PHONE KLC OFFICE ON 9194 0100

ALCOHOL
AND DRUG
FREE EVENT