



2

FITZROY RIVER PROJECT

4

COMMUNITY CLOSURES

5

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACT

## Balanggarra and Nyaliga Traditional Owners host 2016 Healthy Country Forum at Home Valley Station

Since the first Kimberley Ranger Forum in 2010, the event has continued to grow and cater for an increase in participants including land and sea managers, Kimberley Land Council staff, partners and special guests. This year, more than 150 people gathered at Home Valley Station to participate in workshops on fire operations, carbon projects, tourism, CyberTracker technology, ranger safety, native title rights, visitor management and permit systems, regional monitoring and evaluation, and conflict negotiation. Read more on page 10.



NHL Announcement 2011 \*\* This photo may contain images of people who have passed away

## Native Title Services Unit Update: Looking After the Fitzroy River Project

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**T**he KLC is undertaking a project to work with all the Traditional Owners of the Fitzroy River to strengthen Indigenous management of the Fitzroy River and make sure the national heritage values of the river are actively managed and protected.

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The project is called the Looking After the Fitzroy River Project (the Project). The Project team will seek to consult with all the native title groups along the river. The Project will seek to consult with all the native title groups along the Fitzroy River.

From 2009-2010 the KLC worked with 14 separate Traditional Owner groups from across the Kimberley to talk about if the West Kimberley should be nominated for the National Heritage List. In 2011, after much consultation and research, the Fitzroy River and other places in the West Kimberley became listed as One Place, Many Stories, West Kimberley National Heritage Listing.

The Fitzroy River, along with its water, sites and other special places was a major focus of what Traditional Owners wanted to include in the National Heritage Listing.

Since the Fitzroy River was national heritage listed in 2011, there has been growing interest in economic development projects in the Fitzroy River Catchment.

The Looking after the Fitzroy River Project is about talking with Traditional Owners along the river about development and management of the river's national heritage values. It's about how to look after the Fitzroy River and planning for development.

In the coming months the KLC will be making contact with PBCs and native title claim groups to talk about the Looking After the Fitzroy River Project.

As part of this, the KLC is preparing material about different development activities that may occur or are already happening along the Fitzroy River, and activities that may impact on the gazetted national heritage values of the Fitzroy River and how the values might be protected.

Some of these things include: mining, exploration drilling, fracking, water extraction, dams, native vegetation clearing and tourism.

The KLC also wants to talk about how the national heritage values of the Fitzroy River are being managed, for example, how rangers and communities close to the Fitzroy River are looking after cultural places and how they want this to happen in the future.

The KLC is looking forward to working with Traditional Owners on the Looking After Fitzroy River Project. Please contact the KLC project team in the Broome office for more information.

For more information you can call Anna Mardling on 0427 185 302 or Bill Kruse on 08 9194 0100.



# MESSAGE FROM THE Chairman



**W**e are fast approaching the end of the year and already so much has happened and is still to occur.

In recent news, it appears that proposed changes to the Land Administration Act, also known as Rangeland Reform, together with changes to the Aboriginal Heritage Act, will be put on hold until after the Western Australian State Election in March 2017.

The Kimberley Land Council made submissions to the government on both of these issues and we are hopeful that our feedback will play an important role in influencing any future decision making.

While we agree that changes can be made to improve the way land is managed. We want to make sure any reform strengthens, rather than weakens our heritage and our native title rights.

It's that time of year again when we come together for the combined AGMs of the KLC, the Kimberley Language Resource Centre, the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre and Aarnja. The event is being held at Warmun from September 20 – 22 and is going to be a jam packed meeting.

A key part of the KLC AGM will be a discussion about changes to the KLC Rule Book, also known as our constitution. Earlier this year a team was put together, including lawyers, KLC Directors and KLC management, to look at the Rule Book with the aim of bringing it up to date to better represent the values of our organisation. KLC members now have the opportunity to review these changes and decide

whether they are appropriate at the AGM.

On a personal note, I undertook governance training so that I could develop my skills to best meet the needs of KLC in my role as Chairman. These skills are not only important for individuals but also for the development of our communities and Prescribed Body Corporates in their abilities to self-govern and step into the worlds of business and cultural enterprise.

I have also been working hard to open up the understanding of the different roles and functions of the KLC, so that it can continue to achieve its goals as a representative body for Kimberley people.

I look forward to talking more about these experiences with you all at the upcoming AGM.

**ANTHONY WATSON**



# Community closures update: Community closures still on the agenda

**W**estern Australian Aboriginal communities remain under threat following the release of a new State Government plan for the delivery of essential services.

According to the State Government, the Resilient Families, Strong Communities document is a 'roadmap' which will set the direction for reform in regional and remote Aboriginal communities.

Kimberley Land Council Chairman Anthony Watson said the plan showed little change in the WA Government's thinking around the rights of Aboriginal peoples.

"The new roadmap makes clear that the government is set on removing services from many communities by focusing funding on what it says are larger and more sustainable communities," Mr Watson said.

"This approach will destroy Aboriginal people's connection to country and their right to live within, care for, and protect their cultural heritage.

"We were promised a new and improved plan, instead we have community closures rebranded."

The State Government recently announced the start of 'on the ground' consultation about the roadmap, including talks in Bidyadanga.

"The KLC welcomes consultation, however we have significant concerns about the engagement process to date," Mr Watson said. "The consultation appears to be about how government-imposed policy is implemented, when it should be about discovering appropriate policy for the delivery of services in conjunction with Traditional Owners.

"It also hasn't been made clear how and where the \$150 million that was initially committed by the State Government to the reform process is to be spent.

"The roadmap raises more questions than it answers and we are yet to understand how the government will fund the proposals stated in the roadmap when we all know the budget is in major trouble."

The Resilient Families, Strong Communities roadmap outlines a total of 10 priority actions that the State Government has committed to delivering over the next two years.



Community closures protest, Broome 2015



A photograph showing the backs of four people standing in a field of tall, dry grass. From left to right: a person in a green tank top, a small child in a striped shirt, a person in a grey tank top, and a person in a maroon shirt with a yellow 'A' on the back. They are looking out over a landscape with trees and a body of water in the distance.

## Land rights update: Indigenous-led conservation

Kimberley Land Council Chief Executive Officer Nolan Hunter has called for better State Government understanding of Indigenous-led conservation.

The call comes following comments made by Premier Colin Barnett about Kimberley conservation at the Pastoralists and Graziers Association Convention in Perth.

“What I don’t want to see, and what you don’t want to see, is increasing areas of the state, particularly say the Kimberley, being tied up in conservation...or by Aboriginal corporations where you get unproductive stations and a lack of control of feral species or whatever it might be,” Mr Barnett said.

“The conservation issue particularly in the Kimberley is important but the State has taken on that responsibility...conservation of the Kimberley has been done by the government and it is government that should do that.

“Most of the rest of the Kimberley I want to see as a thriving, responsible pastoral industry with people in jobs and employment and all of those things that go with it.”

Mr Hunter said the comments showed a lack of understanding of the diversity of opportunities available in the region, of which Indigenous-led conservation is a key part.

“These comments don’t recognise the unique opportunities for the future of the Kimberley region that flow from extensive native title rights, a significant Indigenous population or world-leading models of Indigenous-led conservation,” Mr Hunter said.

“Indigenous people have looked after the Kimberley for thousands of years and should continue doing this through Indigenous-led conservation models.

“Native title holders should be supported to continue conservation or to establish pathways towards sole Indigenous management, and not be forced into joint management of areas where they have fought so hard for native title recognition.”

The WA Government’s approach to new conservation areas is to provide native title holders with a seat at the table, in the form of a joint management body, but with ultimate decision making power resting with the State.

This applies even where native title holders are able to demonstrate successful management as sole managers of Indigenous Protected Areas.

The KLC has concerns about this proposal due to the risk that it will suppress the native title rights of Traditional Owners and impact the opportunities for Indigenous people to make decisions about how the land is used in the future.





## Cultural Enterprise Hub update: Shining a spotlight on the Hub

The Kimberley Land Council is looking to the future with the development of the Cultural Enterprise Hub (the Hub), an initiative aimed at building cultural enterprises on country.

Developed over the past three years, the Hub has taken big steps forward over recent months, generating both national and international interest.

Kimberley Land Council Chairman Anthony Watson said the Hub aims to support Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) to get control of their future through the development of business.

"We've been very effective at getting back country in the Kimberley, with around 80 per cent of the region having secured native title determinations," Mr Watson said.

"We also have a strong Kimberley Ranger Network, with 13 ranger groups and more than 100 Aboriginal men and women working on native title country looking after land and sea.

"The Hub aims to build small business opportunities on country that help with generating income to create more ranger jobs.

"This will allow the Kimberley Ranger Network to be less reliant on government funding.

"Our long-term vision is to create a culturally empowered and prosperous Kimberley Aboriginal community by tapping into the uniqueness of our amazing region."

The Hub will initially focus on working with PBCs to register new savanna carbon projects and establishing cultural and nature based ranger tours.

"Ranger business ideas will be developed in parallel with raising funds that will be invested into business start-up," Mr Watson said.

"We want to make sure we build the business capability of rangers and PBC Directors to develop a strong culture of entrepreneurship."



## The 5 year goals of the Hub are to:

1. Share best practice knowledge and expertise to grow sustainable enterprises that enhance and protect the cultural and natural values of the region;
2. Increase the number of Aboriginal people gaining income and employment on country;
3. Strengthen the Kimberley network and share knowledge through cultural exchanges;
4. Provide intergenerational investment into Kimberley cultural enterprises through the establishment of a Fund; and
5. Build a dynamic organisation that responds and adapts to new innovations.



## Native Title Update: Bindunbur trial continues



**T**he Federal Court will resume in Perth from 21 to 23 September and Broome from 27 to 30 September to hear more about native title rights on the Dampier Peninsula.

During the upcoming hearings, His Honour Justice Anthony North, will hear evidence about extinguishment through grants of land tenure, followed by the expert opinions of anthropologists.

The trial is expected to conclude with final oral submissions in Perth in March 2017, after which Justice North will consider his judgment.

The Bindunbur native title trial started on September 21, 2015, and was the first time in 10 years that KLC had been required to take native title through to litigation.

In early 2016, Justice North held a second hearing of evidence in and around Broome and heard evidence from witnesses for Goolarabooloo, Jabirr Jabirr, Ngumbarl, Nimanbur and Nyul Nyul people over three weeks.

Around fifty Aboriginal witnesses gave evidence in support of the various native title claims.



# Economic Development: Developing Northern Australia

**K**imberley Land Council Chief Executive Officer Nolan Hunter has called for economic and political empowerment for Aboriginal people in the Kimberley.

Speaking at the Developing Northern Australia conference in Darwin in July, Mr Hunter said Kimberley Aboriginal people want to work with the Federal Government and businesses to develop Australia's north, but only if there is proper consultation and engagement with native title holders.

"Empowering native title holders to use their land rights is fundamental to developing the north," Mr Hunter said.

"For investors wishing to start businesses on Indigenous land we must consider proper engagement with Traditional Owners through consultation and ILUAs (Indigenous Land Use Agreements).

"We must consider what investors can offer Aboriginal people in terms of training, employment and capacity development opportunities as well as consider cultural and heritage protection.

"Flow on effects of this kind of engagement will lead to Aboriginal jobs, Aboriginal businesses and business development opportunities."

Mr Hunter also spoke about the social challenges Kimberley Aboriginal people face that will impact on economic development and engagement with investors.

"Aboriginal people in the Kimberley experience significant social disadvantage with limited access to healthcare and low life expectancy, poor education and lack of formal training," he said.

"With little or no training, Aboriginal people are not able to actively engage in the workforce. These are all factors to be considered when planning to develop Northern Australia."

In response to the Federal Government's White Paper on Developing Northern Australia, the KLC focused on Indigenous economic development and outlined the benefits of improving land use and access, improving water access and management, promoting trade and investment and strengthening the business environment.

The Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) officially opens on July 1, but has already attracted more than \$30 billion worth of potential projects.



Nolan Hunter speaking at the Developing Northern Australia Conference in Darwin





*Government policy update:*

# Land management reforms on hold

**L**egislation affecting the Aboriginal Heritage Act, as well as changes to the Land Administration Act, known as Rangeland Reform, have been put on hold until after the Western Australian State Election in March 2017.

The Kimberley Land Council opposed the State Government's attempt to update the Aboriginal Heritage Act due to its disregard of Aboriginal people and their right to care for cultural heritage.

KLC Chief Executive Officer Nolan Hunter said the proposed changes denied Aboriginal people involvement in important decision making processes and gave supreme power to a single government bureaucrat.

"This was a flawed approach and would have detrimentally affected Aboriginal cultural heritage," Mr Hunter said.

"The KLC still believes that the Aboriginal Heritage Act can be improved and brought into line with other states across the country, as well as international norms.

"I encourage whoever forms government after the State Election in March to make this their main consideration when revisiting at this proposed legislation."

Mr Hunter said the KLC had also voiced its concerns regarding the State Government's plan to overhaul land tenure laws, with a new form of land ownership called Rangeland Leases.

"There was a lack of engagement with native title holders about these reforms, as well as a significant risk for these changes to result in the weakening or removal of the rights of Traditional Owners," he said.

"I urge politicians to hear our concerns and take these views into account if this new type of land tenure is pursued in the future.

"The KLC will continue to watch both of these issues closely to make sure the voices of Aboriginal people are not only heard, but listened to and acted upon."



## Annual Ranger Forum:

# Balanggarra and Nyaliga Traditional Owners host 2016 Healthy Country Forum

**M**ore than 150 land and sea managers, Kimberley Land Council staff, project partners and special guests attended the annual Healthy Country Forum discussion and networking event at Home Valley Station in July.

Balanggarra and Nyaliga Traditional Owners hosted the forum which focused on professional development and networking and included workshops on fire operations, carbon projects, tourism, CyberTracker technology, ranger safety, Native Title rights, visitor management and permit systems, regional monitoring and evaluation and conflict negotiation.

The forum also included an art workshop in which a blank canvas was provided for people to record their important moments in the development of Indigenous land and sea management in the Kimberley. The canvas will be used as a record of the meeting and as a communication document that illustrates how the Kimberley Ranger

Network has grown over the past decade and what lies ahead.

Member for the Kimberley Josie Farrer attended the event and said she was pleased to see the active involvement of the corporate sector and their interest in the Kimberley Ranger Network.

"It's good to see involvement from the business sector and to understand how they are trying to improve their business model by gaining knowledge from our rangers. It looks like they are enjoying their time here at the Forum which is exciting."

Mrs Farrer said she was also pleased to see more female rangers at this year's event.

"The number of female rangers has doubled and there are more (women) still to join. The network helps women to build self-esteem and fulfill their obligations to country."



Group shot at the Healthy Country Forum 2016



The event also included a ranger expo, a looking after country video night, an open mic evening and field trips to El Questro Station and Jacks Waterhole.

In between sessions and at the end of each day, ranger groups spent their time networking and sharing knowledge with one another, and casting a line into the Pentecost River, only a stone's throw away from the forum and campground.

Special guests at the forum included representatives from Qantas, Allens, EY, Woodside, Australian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet, the WA Department of Agriculture and Food, WWF, PEW Charitable Trusts, Australian Conservation Foundation, Bush Heritage Australia, WWF Australia, Australian Wildlife Conservancy, US Consulate, The Nature Conservancy, Department of Environment (Cth), Indigenous Land Corporation and the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

The event was supported by the Indigenous Land Corporation and staff at Home Valley Station.

Since the first Kimberley Ranger Forum at Home Valley Station in 2010, the event continues to grow to cater for an increase in participants and includes a wide range of knowledge sharing, skill development and targeted training.



Balanggarra Rangers at Home Valley Station



The Ranger Safety Committee



Women's Meeting at the Healthy Country Forum







Snubfin dolphin

## Balanggarra Rangers dive deep into dolphin research

**B**alanggarra Rangers and marine scientists have joined forces to conduct new research into snubfin and humpback dolphins that call the Kimberley coastline home.

As part of a two week expedition camped at Lacrosse Island, in the mouth of the Cambridge Gulf, the rangers worked with Murdoch University researchers to capture valuable information about the two species of dolphins.

Balanggarra Ranger Wesley Alberts said the group spent around eight hours on the boat each day visiting areas such as the Burkeley River, Lynn River and out to sea as far as the limit of state waters, spotting, photographing and taking biopsy samples from the dolphins.

“Once we spotted a dolphin we’d take a look at its fin and write down what we saw – if it was alright or if it had been bitten by a shark or hit by a boat,” Wesley said.

“Then we worked with the researchers to tag the dolphins to find out more information like if it was male or female.

“The first day we saw about 10 dolphins, baby ones too.”

Balanggarra Indigenous Protected Area Coordinator Tom Nagle said the trip was extremely

successful, providing benefits for the researchers as well as the Balanggarra Rangers.

“The trip was a great example of how rangers and scientists can come together to conduct this type of work,” Tom said.

“The rangers help the scientists by providing access and exposure to country, while the researchers give the rangers an opportunity to learn about new scientific technologies and methods.

“We hope that the training the rangers underwent will enable them to continue monitoring the snubfin and humpback dolphins in our region well into the future.”

Snubfin and humpback dolphins are found in a range of coastal locations across northern Australia, but little is known about the abundance and movements of the two species in the Kimberley region.

The study, which has also involved the Dambimangari Ranger Group, aims to increase the understanding of the dolphin populations to help with their ongoing management.

The Murdoch University research expedition was also supported by WWF and Western Australian Marine Science Institution.



Survey team: Wesley Alberts, Wayne Moore, Simon Allen, Alex Brown and Andy Yardley





On the lookout for snubfin and humpback dolphins



## Ranger program funding promise

The Federal Government has committed to funding the Indigenous Ranger Program up to 2020, providing security to Kimberley rangers for an additional two years.

Kimberley Land Council Chief Executive Officer Nolan Hunter welcomed the funding promise but said the Commonwealth needed to do more to secure the future of the successful program.

"The Indigenous Ranger Program is a proven way of providing real employment to Aboriginal men and women in many of the remotest parts of Australia, and at the same time delivering environmental, cultural and social outcomes," Mr Hunter said.

"While I welcome this commitment, I urge the Commonwealth Government to immediately start looking at how this program can be expanded and secured far beyond 2020.

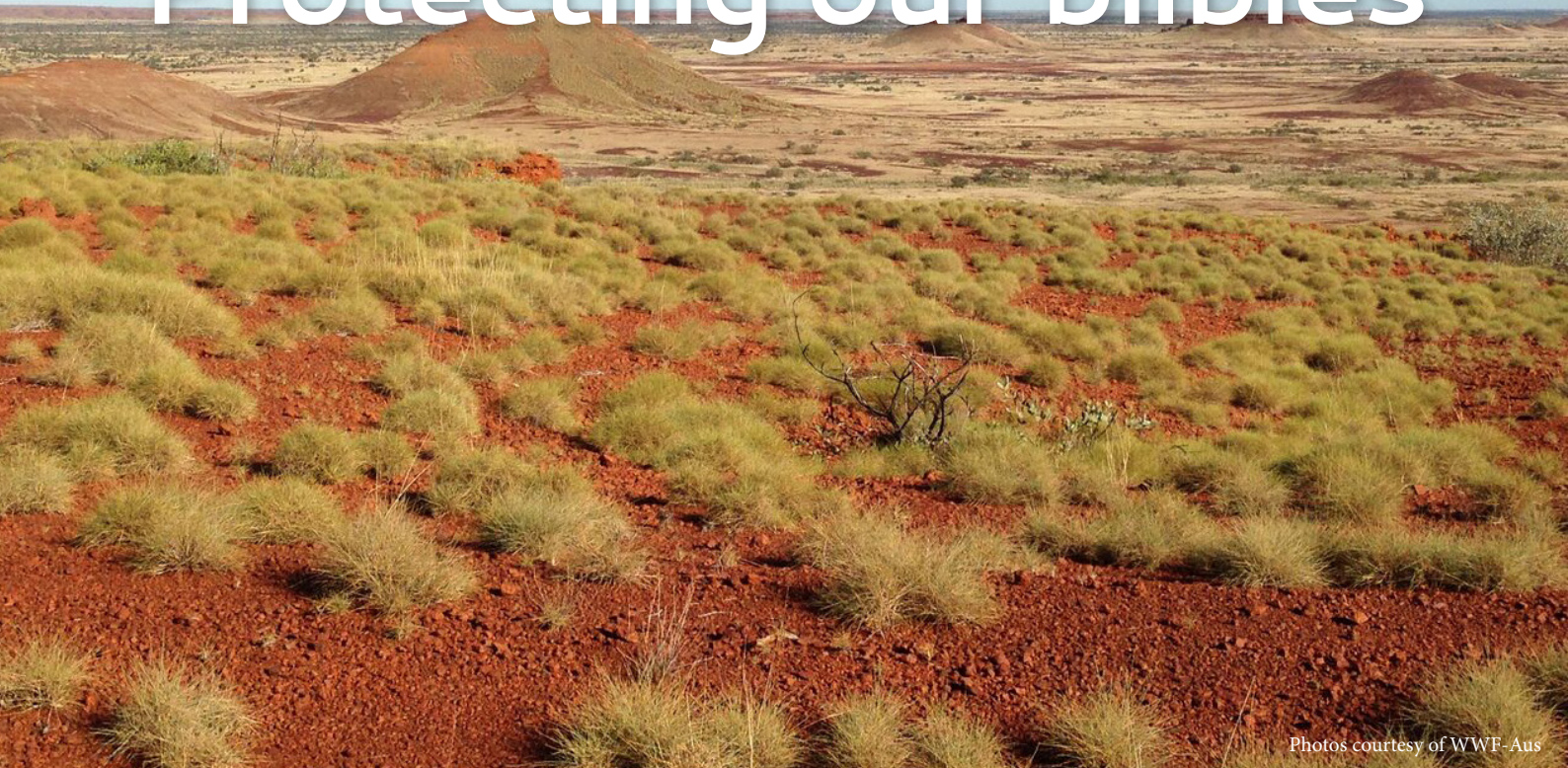
"Long term planning will allow this program to thrive."

Across Australia there are more than 100 ranger groups employing around 1,600 Indigenous rangers.



# Ninu Festival

## Protecting our bilbies



Photos courtesy of WWF-Aus

**T**he preservation of Bilby populations across Australia was the focus of the recent Ninu (Bilby) Festival held in Kiwirrkurra – one of the nation's most remote communities located in the Western Desert of Western Australia.

Paruku, Gooniyandi, Ngurrara, Yawuru, Nyangumarta, Karajarri and Nyul Nyul Rangers, along with representatives from WWF-Australia and Environs Kimberley made the long journey over two days to Kiwirrkurra.

WWF-Aus, Environs Kimberley and the Kimberley Land Council are working together with Paruku Rangers and seven other ranger groups on the Kimberley Bilby Project. The project aims to increase the knowledge of Kimberley bilbies and their conservation management.

Paruku Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Coordinator Erin Flynn travelled from Mulan

Aboriginal Community to attend the event along with cCommunity elders Evelyn Clancy and Shirley Yoomarie.

Erin said the Ninu Festival was an important opportunity to share knowledge, network and learn about bilby populations in different communities.

“It was wonderful to come together with all the different desert mobs to hear their bilby dreamtime stories and to learn about the bilby projects they are involved in” Erin said.

“For many communities bilby populations have been declining or are extinct. This is due to a range of factors, including feral animals such as cats, foxes and rabbits.

“We were able to be a part of information sessions and training, but also had the chance to participate in field activities at known bilby sites to



learn about the best ways to manage bilby habitat and predators through effective fire management practices, feral animal management strategies and awareness around conservation.

“While Paruku currently has a relatively strong bilby population, the festival highlighted the need to ramp up our efforts to ensure bilby populations are protected so that we don’t see a reduction in numbers.

“For our community members the festival was an extremely empowering experience, which gave them an important opportunity to meet, talk with and learn from other Traditional Owners.”

Bilbies were once found over much of Australia's mainland but the species has declined dramatically northward and wild populations are now restricted mainly to the Tanami Desert, the Gibson, Little Sandy and Great Sandy deserts, parts of the Pilbara and isolated areas in south western Queensland. The bilby is listed as vulnerable with an estimated population size of under 10,000 and declining.

The Kimberley Bilby Project utilises the traditional knowledge and on-country experience of the southern Kimberley Indigenous Rangers and communities (Yawuru, Nyangumarta, Nyul Nyul,

Bardi Jawi, Karajarri, Nyikina Mangala, Ngurrura, Gooniyandi and Paruku Rangers) in collaboration with regional ecological expertise of three Kimberley NGOs (Environs Kimberley, World Wide Fund – Australia and the Kimberley Land Council) over an area covering roughly 25 percent of the bilby’s current known distribution. Through proper engagement with multiple Kimberley Traditional Owners the project will help tell their local bilby stories.

This regional partnership will not only help fill the knowledge gap of bilby ecology in the Kimberley, but will also result in targeted management recommendations that will allow Indigenous rangers and other land managers to conduct informed fire and feral animal management that will benefit bilbies and other savannah species.

The Ninu Festival was made possible thanks to the support of the National Landcare Program, The Nature Conservancy, PEW Charitable Trusts/Country Needs People, Taronga Zoo, Bush Heritage Australia, Save the Bilby Fund, Department of Parks and Wildlife (WA), Rangelands NRM (WA), Territory NRM, Dreamworld, WWF Australia, Environs Kimberley, Desert Wildlife Services, CSIRO and Arid Lands Environment Centre.







*Land and Sea Management Unit:*

## Ngurrara 2-Way Learning Cultural Camp

A special event was held in May at Kurlku, a three-hour drive south of Fitzroy Crossing in the Great Sandy Desert. The Ngurrara 2-Way Learning Cultural Camp, organised by Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation, was a celebration of the work of the Ngurrara Rangers and the Shell 2-Way Learning Project, a water-monitoring project sponsored by Shell Australia.

Ngurrara men and women rangers assisted in hosting the three-day cultural camp, strengthening the bond between youth and elders and fostering the two-way learning of traditional knowledge.

Ngurrara Womens Ranger Coordinator Chantelle Murray said the camp gave young people the unique opportunity to work with and learn from Traditional Owners on country.

"The camp was really about allowing the kids to work within two worlds, and encourage an understanding of both western science and traditional knowledge. It was a highly successful camp, and we had great participation from our rangers, schools, Traditional Owners and various partners."

"Young people don't always get the opportunity to go out on country and have one-on-one with elders due to lack of transport and other issues. The camp played an important role in connecting young people to Traditional Owners on country."

Young people from local high schools including Fitzroy District High School, Yakanarra Community School, Djugerari Community School and Wulungurra Remote Community School had the opportunity to meet with elders to hear traditional stories and participate in activities including sandal-making, painting, boomerang and spear making, health, media and traditional hair-dying workshops.

Mr Peter Murray, CEO of Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation said he noticed a difference in the young people attending the camp. He said he was pleased that the students remained connected and motivated throughout the activities being provided on their traditional lands.

The camp was made possible because of Shell Australia and the support from partners including Ngurrara Rangers, Ngurrara Canvas committee, KRED, Kimberley Land Council, Mangkaja Arts, Yiriman Project, Garnduwa, Nindilingarri Cultural





Two way learning - youth one-on-one with their elders



Ngurrara Elders and Rangers



# Successful native title claims: Kurungal and Bunuba



More than 80% of the Kimberley is now native title determined



TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2015 MARKED A SIGNIFICANT DAY FOR KURUNGAL LAND OWNERS WHO CELEBRATED LEGAL RECOGNITION OF THEIR LAND AFTER ALMOST TWO DECADES.



ON 22 DECEMBER 2015 BUNUBA PEOPLE GAINED RECOGNITION OF THEIR NATIVE TITLE RIGHTS OVER A SIGNIFICANT AREA OF LAND STRETCHING FROM FITZROY CROSSING TO THE SOUTH EAST, THE LEOPOLD RANGE TO THE NORTH EAST, THE OSCAR RANGE TO THE SOUTH WEST AND THE NAPIER RANGE TO THE NORTH WEST.





Nolan Hunter (CEO), Ari Gorring (Strategic Business Development Officer) Anthony Watson (Chairman, Polly Grace (Legal and Policy Officer) and Bobetta Albert (Director) outside of the COP21 Pavilion



Anthony Watson and Bobetta Albert in Indigenous Peoples' Pavilion



Opening of Indigenous Peoples' Pavilion

## KLC at the United Nations

In November 2015, KLC Chairman Anthony Watson, Chief Executive Officer Nolan Hunter, and Director Bobetta Albert travelled to Paris for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 21st Meeting.

Their attendance aimed to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change on Indigenous people in the Kimberley and in Australia, call for the inclusion of rights of Indigenous people in the Paris climate change agreement, and promote Kimberley Fire Abatement Projects which offer strategies to combat climate change through improved fire management.

The KLC received widespread international support for its "world class" savanna burning program, with business leaders requesting further information on Kimberley savanna projects, and specifically acknowledging the leading position adopted by Kimberley Traditional Owners.

Then Federal Minister for Environment Greg Hunt launched a report on global potential of traditional fire management, and a number of strong partnerships were developed.



# Rangers take out top awards

The hard work and determination of our rangers was recognised at the recent Kimberley Group Training Excellence Awards held in Broome.

Winners on the night included Nykina Mangala Ranger Raymond Charles and Kija Ranger Imran Paddy, as well as nominations to Azton Howard, Cyril Watson, Raymond Charles, Virgil Cherel and Imran Paddy, Preston Cox, Wynston Shovellor-Sesar and Conan Lee.

Raymond is a respected and long-serving ranger and was extremely proud to take out the Trainee of the Year award.

"It was a good night with everybody there and a great welcome to country by Yawuru mob," Raymond said.

"A few years ago I never wrote anything except sometimes for my bank, but even that was hard.

"I can now say that I have the certificate for Conservation and Land Management and to operate machinery, soon I will also have my Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management."

Imran Paddy, a long-serving and respected Kija ranger, took out the Safety Recognition Award for his ongoing commitment to safe practices in the field.

Imran was nominated by the Kija Ranger Group as the "Safety Ranger", responsible for taking the lead on safety in the field, including checking all rangers are wearing correct PPE, first aid supplies up to date, fire extinguishers are in date, and communications gear is packed, charged and working.

The Kimberley Ranger Network, facilitated by the Kimberley Land Council, includes 13 ranger groups and employs about 100 full-time Indigenous rangers, six part-time administrative staff and almost 100 casual rangers and cultural advisers.

Indigenous land and sea managers undertake cultural and natural resource projects to improve and enhance the unique biodiversity and cultural values of the region.



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.

