



KARRKADKANJDJI TRUST

Dear Supporters,

Your generosity has enabled us to support the launch and ongoing operation of projects that we believe will, together, build ongoing self-determination for the people of West Arnhem Land.

Many of these projects focus on land management, sustainability and cultural heritage. Others address services we sometimes take for granted in our cities, such as education.

Through regular newsletters, we plan to keep you informed of the progress and developments around this work. If you would rather not receive these newsletters, please click the unsubscribe link at the end of this email.

I hope you enjoy this first update.

Bjorn Everts

CEO

Karrkad Kanjdji Trust

**Nawarddeken Academy is a success
story for Kabulwaranmyo**



Starting out as a one teacher school in an almost empty tent with eight students, the Nawarddeken Academy has grown into a unique, inspiring learning environment that now teaches 19 students, with the capacity to teach 30.

With happy, healthy and engaged students, an average weekly attendance rate of 88%, a vibrant and dynamic Indigenous Language and Culture program and improvements in literacy of up to four reading levels in one term, the school has exceeded even our expectations.

Its benefit has also been felt through the wider community. To date, 19 Indigenous Warddeken Ranger jobs have been retained or created through the existence of the Nawarddeken Academy.

We would like to express our most sincere gratitude to the supporters of the Nawarddeken Academy. Without you none of this would be possible.

You can download our latest Nawarddeken Academy progress report [here](#).



**Equity and opportunity for
women in the Warddeken IPA**



During 2014-2016, Warddeken staff undertook widespread Plan of Management consultations with hundreds of Warddeken company members. A regular response to these consultations was that they wanted to see more roles and opportunities for women within Warddeken.

Consequently, working together, Warddeken Land Management and the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust developed a women's engagement project, the Warddeken Women's Ranger Program, with the goal of boosting the opportunities for women in the Warddeken workforce. This project was launched at the beginning of July 2016 and employs a dedicated female coordinator. The project has found immediate success with 62 women ranging in age from 16 to 82 having worked with Warddeken in various capacities since. More significantly, the total hours worked by women have increased dramatically. Historically, the hours worked by women within Warddeken were significantly fewer than those worked by men. Total hours worked by women have now increased from 18% to 38%.

Through the delivery of this program, Women Rangers have been receiving a variety of targeted training courses to equip them with the competencies required. This has included 4x4, firearms, accredited tractor operation and maintenance, and weed management training.

This program has led to a considerable increase in confidence and enthusiasm within the female workforce and has laid a fantastic foundation for the valuable contribution these women will make in managing the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area.





Corporate generosity enables vital service to remote outstations

Simplot Australia is a leading food manufacturer focused on "Bringing Earth's Resources to Life" in a sustainable way. Simplot proudly supports the Indigenous Rangers of Warddeken Land Management by funding a fortnightly air charter service to deliver food and supplies into the remote communities of Kabulwarnamyo and Manmoyi. This vital service enables Warddeken Rangers to be permanently based in both communities to conserve and protect the area, which is of global significance for its natural and cultural values.



Exceptional start for the Warddeken Ecological Monitoring Project



Until now, Warddeken land managers have had to rely upon only basic ecological information to inform and monitor their work. At the close of a fruitful, 5-year research partnership with the Northern Territory Government, Warddeken has taken land management monitoring into their own hands.

They have designed and begun to implement a world class monitoring program that, in time, will deploy the latest in rugged motion sensing cameras across 120 sites in the IPA. These cameras will monitor the outcomes of their management actions. To date, the first deployment has been completed at 30 sites by helicopter in trying monsoonal conditions. The Warddeken Rangers, both male and female, worked with skill and determination to ensure that this project was completed on time, in budget and without incident.

This is another success for Warddeken Land Management Limited, who have been at the forefront of Indigenous land management for 10 years. They are guided by the Warddeken Plan of Management, which sets out the Land Owners' vision for their country and the strategies they employ to achieve this vision.

Warddeken fire management

creates record CO2 abatement



Much of the land management work done by Warddeken is funded through the sale of Carbon Credits produced by their award-winning fire management practices. This is where Warddeken's careful management of fire – based on a blend of Indigenous knowledge and Western science – reduces the extent and severity of fire across the region when compared with the historic business-as-usual fire regime.

The results of last year's burning and fire suppression were calculated this quarter and show that 2016 was Warddeken's best year since beginning the project in 2006. It marks a coming of age for the project with 281,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions being abated last year. The funds from this work will be reinvested into the land management and cultural heritage work conducted across the Warddeken IPA.





Watch this video to learn more about Warddeken's award winning fire management and carbon abatement program.



Report highlights environmental benefits from IPAs and Indigenous rangers

The inspiring and poignant campaign, [Country Needs People](#), is fighting for the growth and security of opportunities for land and sea country management by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

A recent report brings together case studies of Indigenous Protected Areas and Indigenous rangers, finding that these programs protect nature for the benefit of all

Australians. Among the case studies are examples of how the Warddeken Rangers are successfully managing fire (pp.16-19) and feral animals (pp.46-49) on a landscape scale.

The report finds that increased government investment is needed to secure the gains made by Indigenous land and sea managers across Australia.

Read the report [here](#).

Wet season weed management in the Warddeken IPA



The best time to treat the major weed infestations in the Warddeken IPA is during the wet season. However, the season brings its own unique challenges...

During the last quarter, all Warddeken's known infestations were visited and treated. This required the Warddeken Rangers to leave their vehicles and equipment at various locations around the plateau prior to the annual floodwaters cutting off access. Warddeken staff then helicoptered in the gear, unpacked it and headed off to tackle a range of species with a primary focus on grassy weeds.

Grassy weeds, such as mission grass and gamba grass, have a particularly

devastating impact as they increase fuel loads, resulting in large, hot fires. Even so, weed management is important in general, with weeds competing with native plants, reducing habitat for native animals and making it difficult for animals and people to move through country. They also restrict access to traditional fishing and hunting grounds.

Vital new infrastructure in the community of Manmoyi



The last quarter saw the completion of the first proper ranger shed in the community of Manmoyi. Historically, this base has operated from out of two shipping containers covered by a large tarpaulin. The new shedding was fully paid for from the proceeds of Warddeken's Carbon Credit sales and included a significant amount of local Indigenous labour in the construction.

Works have also commenced on an office at Manmoyi based upon the successful local house design at Kabulwarnamyo. This project exclusively uses Indigenous labour under the skilful supervision of Warddeken's experienced builder.

Good governance is the key to Warddeken's success



Warddeken's reputation and success can be attributed to strong governance and planning, in line with the company's constitution, combined with their two-toolbox approach. The approach values both Bininj knowledge and Western science and combines both in their management programs.

In 2016, Warddeken held its triennial board election with 12 directors elected via mobile polling from within the company's membership. Warddeken's electoral officer covered thousands of kilometres and visited 24 communities to record the votes of its members. In total 148 members voted across all wards and a new board was elected with nine returning directors and three new directors.

Dean Yibarbuk was elected as Chairman of Warddeken with Terrah Guymala as deputy Chair.

At Warddeken's most recent AGM, the membership voted unanimously to strengthen the company's objectives in relation to the operation of the Nawarddeken Academy school in Kabulwarnamyo.

Warddeken staff milestone



IPA OPERATIONS MANAGER

Jake Weigl



**ADMINISTRATION, RESEARCH &
TRAINING MANAGER**

Georgia Vallance

This year, Warddeken achieved the significant milestone of having senior staff reach and take long service leave. In this industry, the turnover of non-Indigenous staff is very high with most coordinators being replaced within two years. In an industry where continuity and relationships are paramount, it makes Warddeken very proud that they have managed to retain the services of Jake Weigl and Georgia Vallance for 10 and 7 years respectively.

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