



Annual Report 2023

For country,
culture and community

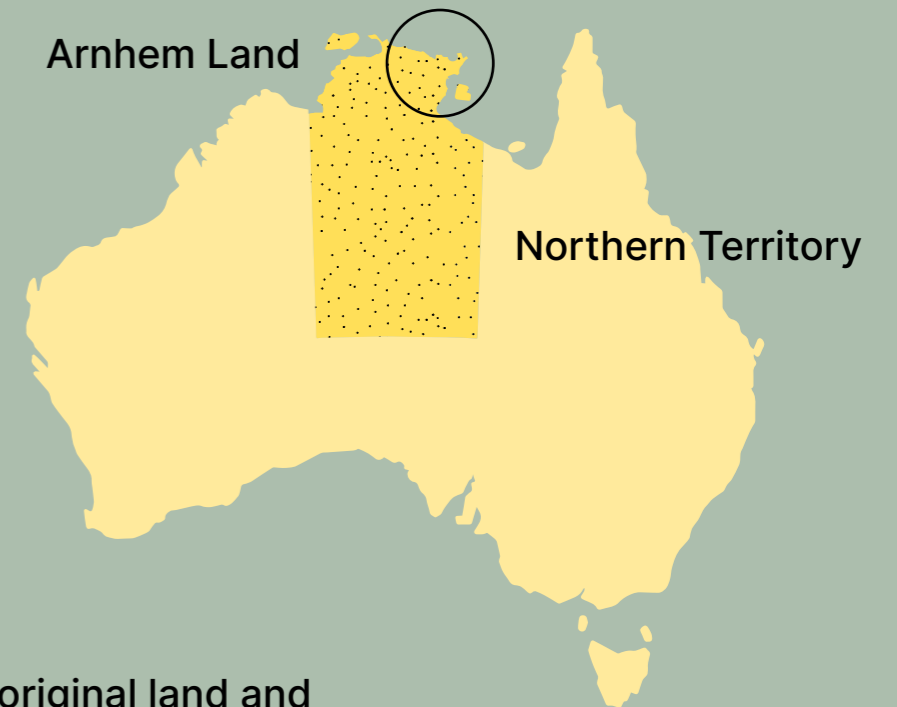
We live and work on Aboriginal land.

The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust (KKT) was established by Traditional Owners of Warddeken and Djelk Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) in 2010. They named us Karrkad Kanjdji (pronounced “gada-gut guny-jee”) after Arnhem Land’s Stone Country highlands or karrkad (gada-gut), and savanna lowlands or kanjdji (guny-jee) that we work together to protect.

Today, we support Indigenous rangers to live on their ancestral homelands and manage Country across roughly 65,000 square kilometres of ancient landscapes.

We live and work on Aboriginal land and we pay our respects to the past and present Elders of the many countries of Australia.

Cover image: Daluk rangers on lunch break near Manmoyi in Warddeken.
Photo: Amelia Ellerton



Welcome



Florence Biridjala, ASRAC ranger,
holding a mud crab.
Photo: Stacey Irving

Welcome

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Community owned from concept to implementation

For country, culture and community

The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust brings together First Nations landowners and likeminded supporters to address the most pressing issues for Arnhem Land, our nation and the world at large. These include regenerating our natural environment, taking action on climate change, creating meaningful and equal employment opportunities, and supporting the continuation of the world's oldest living culture.

We work with Indigenous rangers in one of the most culturally rich and biodiverse regions of Australia. Every project is 100 per cent community owned, from concept to implementation.



Early burning in Djelk IPA.
Photo: Stacey Irving

An area of global significance

Beginning 300 kilometres east of Darwin and adjacent to Kakadu National Park, Arnhem Land is home to more than 160 plant species which are found nowhere else in Australia or the world. It is also home to an unusually high number of threatened animal species (at least 32), and at least 370 plant species that are found exclusively in the Northern Territory. Australia has one of the highest rates of biodiversity loss in the world, and species in this unique biodiversity hotspot are under threat from wildfires, the incursion of feral animals and exotic weeds, and the loss of traditional land management knowledge.

The defining feature of West and Central Arnhem Land is the vast rocky escarpment of the Arnhem Plateau. The area is characterised by elevated Stone Country, floodplains, remnant rainforest patches, savanna woodlands and spectacular sea country. This region is also one of the most linguistically diverse per capita in the world and is home to what is thought to be the largest kunwarddebim (rock art) collection in the world. Arnhem Land has a strong history of Indigenous ownership continuing to this day.

Critical work on Country

Indigenous ranger programs are one of Australia's biggest conservation success stories, developed through an Australian Government program to create meaningful employment, training and career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Rangers receive a small amount of government funding to manage their land and sea areas while maintaining their cultures and sharing their skills and knowledge with others. Today, it is the fastest growing sector for First Nations employment nationally.

Ranger programs create a healthier environment with reduced carbon emissions and a resurgence of native plants and animals. Evidence has shown that communities with strong ranger programs also enjoy better economic, health and educational outcomes, lower rates of interaction with the criminal justice system, more role models, higher skill levels, strengthened language and culture, and increased pride, self-esteem and wellbeing. Where these programs are fully supported and resourced, the benefits are felt throughout communities.

From the KKT Co-Chair

Dean Yibarbuk



“Ngarrimarnbom Karrkad Kanjdji Trust (KKT) kubid kukudji (yiman 10 years ago) bu Warddeken dja Djelk Indigenous Protected Areas Ngarrikerrngemeng ngarrimarnbom kore Western Arnhem Land. Ngarridjare KKT ngandibidyikarme bu rangers kunred ngarribolknahnan.”

Bolkkime, kadberre company kahkimukmen ngalengarre job bu kunbolcken ngarridurrkmirri ngarrinahnan kondah kore Western dja Central Arnhem Land. Ngad Bininj ngarrirohrowkme balanda kunmayali, ngad ngarridjarrknahnan six areas: mayh, kunmayali, Bininj kore Kured, kunak dja climate, dja daluk.

“We established the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust (KKT) over a decade ago when the Warddeken and Djelk Indigenous Protected Areas were declared in West Arnhem Land. The aim was for KKT to support rangers to care for Country.”

Today, our growing organisation is supporting work across all of West and Central Arnhem Land. We have an Indigenous approach, where supporting conservation includes focusing on six key areas, protecting native biodiversity, safeguarding Indigenous culture, supporting people on Country, managing fire and climate, investing in women and educating future custodians.

Arnhem Land kubolkkimuk. Kare djarre yungkih kakbi, karrikad, koyek dja walem, Kakadu National Parkbeh kore Gulf Carpentaria. Ngarrbenkarrme Bininj ‘karrkad’ – kuwarddewardde kure mak Bininj kani ‘kanjdjikanjdji’ – kanjdji kore labbarlno. Ngaye ngadjordminj Djinkarr. Djinkarr minj djarre Manawukan kabolkti. Bu ngaye ngayawurrinjming nganang balanda nuye law kore kanmey rowk kankurrmehkurrme kore kukudji (yiman Manawukan) yimanek bu kamak rowk karriniwirrinj bu karrinahnanj balanda mak kandibukkubukkainj kadberre jobken yiman kayime school. Bolkkime wanjh KKT kandibidyihkarrme kadberre kunkuyeng ngalengarre self-determination.

Yiman ngaye ngakarme Kunbolk mak ngadurrkmirri kunkuyeng ngabinbidyihkarmen nawu birrirerregen bininj dja daluk ngalengarre schoolken. Yiman ngawokyo ngamarnbun ‘Bush University’. Mani mandjewk bolkkime wanjh ngarridjarrkdurrkmirri nawu kunwardde kabirrikarme mak ngad Bininj ngarrimarnbun ngalengarre manbolh University. Ba bu daluk bininj kabirribolbme ngalengarre boken kunmayali balanda mak bininj. Bolkki wanjh kahkimukmen kunwok ngalengarre ngaye mak KKT bu manih manbolh.

KKT kandiwong kunmayali bu karrimarnbun kunrayekrayek kunwok, bolkki yiman ngarrirayekwon mankarre bu kadjaldi kunkuyeng. Yiman kandibidyihkarme donors ngarrinahnan manbolh mak ngarrirohrowkme mankarre bu bininj ngarribennahnan kondah communities kore Australia.

Thank you.

Dean Yibarbuk
Co-Chair
September 2023

Arnhem Land is a very remote part of Australia. It stretches from North, South, East to West, from Kakadu National Park to the Gulf of Carpentaria. We have the Karrkad, which is the high country, or stone country, of the Arnhem plateau. We also have the kanjdji, which is the lowlands, the floodplains and savanna woodlands that surround the stone country. I was born and grew up in Arnhem Land, my Country is Djinkarr which is not far from Maningrida. I have seen the ebb and flow of government policy and support, and what that does to remote communities like ours. I am proud that we have KKT here for the long term, to support our self-determination.

As a Landowner and leader, I have long dreamt of supporting our next generation of Bininj to access adult education on their country, on the landscape. I call it the ‘Bush University’. This year we worked with some of Australia’s most visionary philanthropic foundations to make it real. Over 2023-2027 we will establish and grow our Bush University, to deliver cultural, practical and remedial education to our people, our way. This is a big moment for KKT, and a big moment for me.

KKT has given us the strength and platform to make significant strides, and we are determined to continue making a positive impact in our own backyard and beyond. With the support of our donors, we are on the path to change and growth, redefining what it means to support First Nations communities in Australia.

Thank you.

Dean Yibarbuk
Co-Chair
September 2023

From the KKT Co-Chair

Justin Punch



By the time this report goes to print, Australia will have resolved its position on the proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Ahead of the vote, KKT developed its position on the Voice through extensive consultation with our Bininj (Indigenous) board members. Listening to Indigenous people is what KKT does, and it did it well in this outstanding piece of work.

KKT's position captured the size and importance of the land management task carried out by remote and very remote First Nations communities in Australia, the scale of relative disadvantage they face and the reality of their historical disillusion with Australia's political process. Our friend and board colleague Conrad Maralngurra summarised this perfectly: "If we vote No, it's 0 per cent chance of change. If we vote yes... maybe it's 50/50."

Irrespective of what Australians choose on referendum day, KKT will continue to fulfill its role of listening carefully to the needs of local people, then striving to deliver the resources to fulfill those needs. In this way, we give people a voice, and with our results we show what can be achieved through the process of listening.

Through listening, we have understood that Indigenous land management is a complex, multifaceted task, and that there are many elements – species preservation, fire and carbon management, preservation of cultural heritage, education of the next generation of custodians, women's empowerment and employment, and more – that must work in concert to underpin people that are strong, and ensure that Country is cared for.

In 2023, despite the aftermath of COVID-19 and coming off several years of little in-person donor engagement, KKT generated income of \$5.44 million, an increase of 4.4 per cent on the previous year. More importantly, KKT secured future pledges of over \$9 million, setting the standard for growth in the coming years, as well as the support KKT can provide to our partner groups across Arnhem Land. In 2023, we delivered grants to our partners of \$3.7 million, up 15 per cent on 2022. We also added to our endowment fund, which now sits at \$1.2 million, and at year's end we had \$4.3 million set aside and committed for deployment to specific projects in FY2024.

When we first partnered with Mimal Land Management in 2019, it felt like a big step for KKT. It was the start of our development to support the region as a whole, and bring Warddeken's neighbours on this same journey of independent growth. Today, Mimal has a thriving women's ranger program, Learning on Country (LoC) opportunities for future custodians, innovative approaches to reducing the threats to healthy Country and a successful fire management program. I am proud of KKT's role in supporting this. This year, we took another step by partnering with Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation (ASRAC). For ASRAC, this initially involves supporting the decentralisation of their ranger operations back onto homelands so that custodians can live at, and work from, their outstations. It is exciting for us to grow these relationships, and respond to the unique needs and goals of communities across now 65,000 square kilometres.

This year, we have increasingly seen the power of our interconnected pillars in action. In 2023, KKT helped Traditional Owners realise 23 different programs, including long term biodiversity monitoring, food security, adult remedial education and protecting cultural heritage, among many others, all with full community ownership and implementation. As a point of comparison, six years ago we had just one key project.

This year, our biggest area of development has been in the realm of safeguarding cultural heritage, in response to continuing fears about the loss of knowledge as Elders themselves are lost. There is an intricate relationship between culture, Country and community; our work recognises this, and supports these interlocking foundations of Indigenous land management.

The steady growth of KKT's small and committed team has been essential in delivering these outcomes. We now have a highly capable team, strong relationships with our partners, a blueprint for engagement and the track record to fully engage with the philanthropic sector. We increasingly have the scale to truly and materially support groundbreaking outcomes in this region, and we are excited about what can be achieved together in these coming years.

Finally, as always, may I offer my most profound thanks to the people and organisations who have continued to support our work: to the Traditional Owners, rangers and coordinators with whom we work, along with their CEOs and representatives, across the Warddeken, Mimal, Bawinanga, ASRAC, Adjumarllarl, Mardbalk and Garngi ranger projects, Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NT) Limited (ALFA) and the Nawarddeken Academy; to our supporters both longstanding and new, who continue to recognise the immense impact of Indigenous land management at this critical point in time; and to the KKT team, both management and board, who day-in and day-out deliver such powerful contributions to the work we help enable.

Justin Punch
Co-Chair
September 2023



From the KKT CEO

Stacey Irving

I am once again tremendously humbled to have been a part of another astounding year of fundraising by the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust (KKT). For the eighth year in a row, KKT has recorded year-on-year growth. This steady progression has supported our First Nations partners to both sustain and gradually deepen their critical conservation programs. This year, this translated to \$3.7 million granted to our partners, which when compared with our efforts in the previous financial year, is a gratifying increase of 15 per cent—and a significant amount of additional funding is still to be deployed over the coming year to all of our partner organisations. All of this has only been possible on account of the increasing strength of our philanthropic supporter base, enabling us to progress the depth and breadth of our work. Our continued growth represents the magnitude of the challenge being addressed by Indigenous land management, and the expansive ambition and vision of Traditional Owners.

One of the many recent achievements of our partners has been the preservation of threatened cultural knowledge. Over the past year, Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation has created a cultural heritage database, offering a valuable tool for learning, teaching and practising culture. To enrich this resource, Mimal has created educational videos on various topics, with the standout being the 'Wulken' video, featuring the reemergence of one of the region's beloved songlines. This initiative involved Elders imparting traditional knowledge and cultural practices during a three-day event, resulting in a video that shares vital information for future generations. This project ensures the enduring legacy of cultural and ecological knowledge for conservation and cultural continuity.

Another major milestone was the Northwest Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NALFA) project's registration as an eligible carbon offset area. For the next 25 years, the routine savanna burning conducted by the Garngi, Mardbalk and Adjumarllarl rangers will be eligible to earn Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs). This will generate meaningful and sustainable income for the ranger groups and their communities. Since the successful registration of the project, NALFA has already generated 34,438 ACCUs. This project also offers Traditional Owners and Elders access to previously inaccessible areas, enabling active land management and caretaking. KKT's support in facilitating the project's registration and initial operations has been instrumental to this endeavour.

One of KKT's greatest sources of pride is the continued support we have been able to offer the First Nations women's ranger movement. This year, alongside our regular support for women's ranger programs, we were also able to provide funding for the fourth year of the Strong Women for Healthy Country Network (SWHCN). The SWHCN is a powerful initiative that unites First Nations women in land management,

offering them a platform to collaborate, advocate and support one another. Since its formation, the SWHCN has developed a clear vision, fostering dedicated spaces for First Nations women, mentorship programs, best practice guidelines, training and an annual forum. Their goal of becoming an independent organisation owned and led by First Nations women signifies their commitment to sustainable, year-round activities and support services. The creation of the associated 'Message Stick' group ensures ongoing communication, learning and community building. With the support of generous donors, KKT facilitates the annual forum's operational costs, contributing to the broader women's ranger movement and empowering First Nations women to holistically care for their traditional lands and communities.

Since joining KKT as a volunteer in 2015, coming on as an employee in 2017, and taking on the role of CEO in 2019, I have been surrounded by some of the kindest, smartest and most dedicated individuals I have had the pleasure of knowing. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all involved in this work. To the tireless rangers and communities preserving Country and culture, your daily efforts inspire us profoundly. To our cherished partner organisations forming the core of KKT, your commitment is invaluable. To our generous donors who fuel this work and walk with us on this journey, your support is the cornerstone of our mission's success. And to our dedicated Board and staff, your unwavering dedication and belief in our cause continues to drive our achievements. Together we are amplifying the immeasurable importance of Indigenous land management and leadership in the global fight against biodiversity loss and climate change.

Stacey Irving
CEO
September 2023

CEO's update on KKT Five Year Strategy: 2023–2027

Goal 1 Enhancing

To strengthen the impact of Indigenous land management in Arnhem Land. Building capacity and protecting more species over a wider landscape.

This year, key achievements have included:

- 15% increase in funding for on-ground programs
- Multiple projects underway for connected pathways into conservation for youth
- Awarded largest philanthropic grant to date for the practice and transfer of Indigenous ecological and cultural knowledge through ceremony and songlines

Goal 2 Growing

To accelerate the Indigenous ranger movement in Arnhem Land. Growing our relationships and investing more on the ground.

This year, key achievements have included:

- Established a new partnership with the ASRAC
- Increased the number of projects that we support, including growing support for region-wide initiatives
- Increased in the average size of gifts towards KKT projects

Goal 3 Sustaining

To safeguard the future of Indigenous-led conservation by improving the stability and longevity of KKT.

This year, key achievements have included:

- Making the first substantial addition to KKT's endowment since inception
- Beginning work to improve the efficiency of our systems and processes
- Creating two new roles at KKT

Goal 4 Sharing

To amplify Indigenous voices and their place in the environmental movement. Connecting people, sharing outcomes and influencing systemic change.

This year, key achievements have included:

- Developing and launching a new KKT website
- Preparing to support our partners share at Garma 2023
- Preparing to support the Yes23 campaign

The board

Chairs



Dean is a Traditional Owner of Djinkarr, near Maningrida. He speaks many Indigenous languages, his first being Gurr-goni. He is Co-Chair of the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network and a Director of Warddeken Land Management Limited, the Nawarddeken Academy and Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NT) Limited (ALFA). Dean is a qualified researcher, an Aboriginal ecologist with a wealth of experience in complex and multifaceted community-based projects and has been involved with the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust since its inception.



Justin is an experienced environmental investor focused on climate change and the energy transition. He is the Chair of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, a Director of Tasman Environmental Markets and a co-founder of Assembly Climate Capital. He holds Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Law degrees from UNSW and a Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School.

Directors



Cindy is a Traditional Owner of Jibena and belongs to the Marrgiach and Angaywunbamar clan groups, in the Djelk Indigenous Protected Area. Cindy holds a Bachelor in Teaching and Learning and is the Learning on Country Coordinator and Pre-school Teacher at Maningrida Community College. She has served on numerous boards and committees and has been involved in various Strong Women groups. Cindy is dedicated to sharing her knowledge of culture and traditions with the next generation.

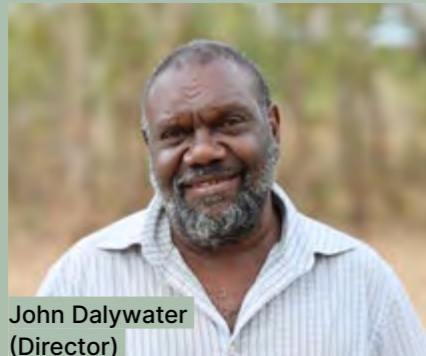
The board

Directors continued



Frederick Hunter
(Director)

Fred Hunter is a long-term park ranger at Kakadu National Park and a Traditional Owner of the upper regions of the East Alligator River on the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area. He has served as the Chairman and is now Director of Warddeken Land Management Limited, and was appointed Chief Ranger of Kakadu National Park in 2020, the first Aboriginal Ranger in the 40 year history of the park. Fred has an extensive knowledge of the flora and fauna of this region and often cooks and presents Bininj bush tucker, such as barramundi, magpie goose and turtles, at various Kakadu festivals.



John Dalywater
(Director)

John is from the Wariba clan and a Traditional Owner of Namarr Kaworrok. He studied Environmental Health at Charles Darwin University and worked in the field for many years. He's a Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) mentor and works as a liaison for local community members and government departments. He's the Chair of the Mimal Land Management Board and for the past decade has served on numerous boards, including Sunrise Health Service, Bulman Outback Store and Gulin Gulin Buffalo Company.



**Emeritus Professor
Jon Altman AM** (Director)

Jon is a global leader among scholars exploring alternative futures for Indigenous peoples, linking conservation economies with poverty alleviation; his research has been grounded in Arnhem Land collaborations since 1979. He was Director (1990–2010) of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University, where he is an Emeritus Professor at the School of Regulation and Global Governance. Jon is a director of a number of not-for-profits, including Original Power and the Institute for Postcolonial Studies.



Margie Moroney
(Director)

Margie has worked as a finance industry professional for almost 30 years, with leading global banking organisations and a range of government and semi-government investment vehicles. She has been on the boards of statutory marketing organisations and Chair of a CSIRO Advisory Committee. She was the inaugural donor and fundraiser for the Nawarddeken Academy, of which she is now also a Director.



Otto Campion
(Director)

Otto is a Banggarra man and Traditional Owner of Malnyangarnak. He is a well respected Elder, clan and ceremony leader, educator and Senior Ranger. He is the Chair of the Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation (ASRAC), Director of Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NT) and the Founder and Director of Aboriginal Research Practitioners' Network (ARPNNet). Otto received an honorary Doctor of Letters from Charles Darwin University in 2021.



Teya Dusseldorp
(Director)

Teya is the Executive Director of Dusseldorp Forum, an independent foundation with a 30 year history of increasing the life opportunities of children and young people. Prior to this, she has worked as a human rights lawyer and documentary filmmaker. Teya has degrees in Arts and Law from Sydney University and a Master of Arts in Social Inquiry from UTS. She is a member of the Lendlease Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Board and an Honorary Associate of the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney.

The board

Alternate Directors



Annette Miller
(Alternate for Mimal)

Annette is a Traditional Owner of Bigedi and belongs to the Maranangu clan in the Mimal region. Annette has served on the Mimal board since 2017. She is a highly respected Elder who has worked tirelessly to conserve language and culture. Annette spent her working life as an educator and was the Deputy Principal of Gulin Gulin (Bulman) School until her retirement.



Conrad Maralngurra
(Alternate for Warddeken)

Conrad is a Traditional Owner of Kunjekbin Country of the Nyirridja clan within the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area. He is a senior caretaker for the amardawerre Outstation and an integral part of Warddeken Land Management Limited. Conrad has been an active member of the Nawarddeken Academy, Warddeken and Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NT) boards and represented Warddeken at the 2018 Banksia Indigenous Awards in Melbourne. Conrad holds a depth of Indigenous knowledge and plays a key role in passing traditional practices and language to younger generations of Bininj.



Terrah Guymala
(Alternate for Warddeken)

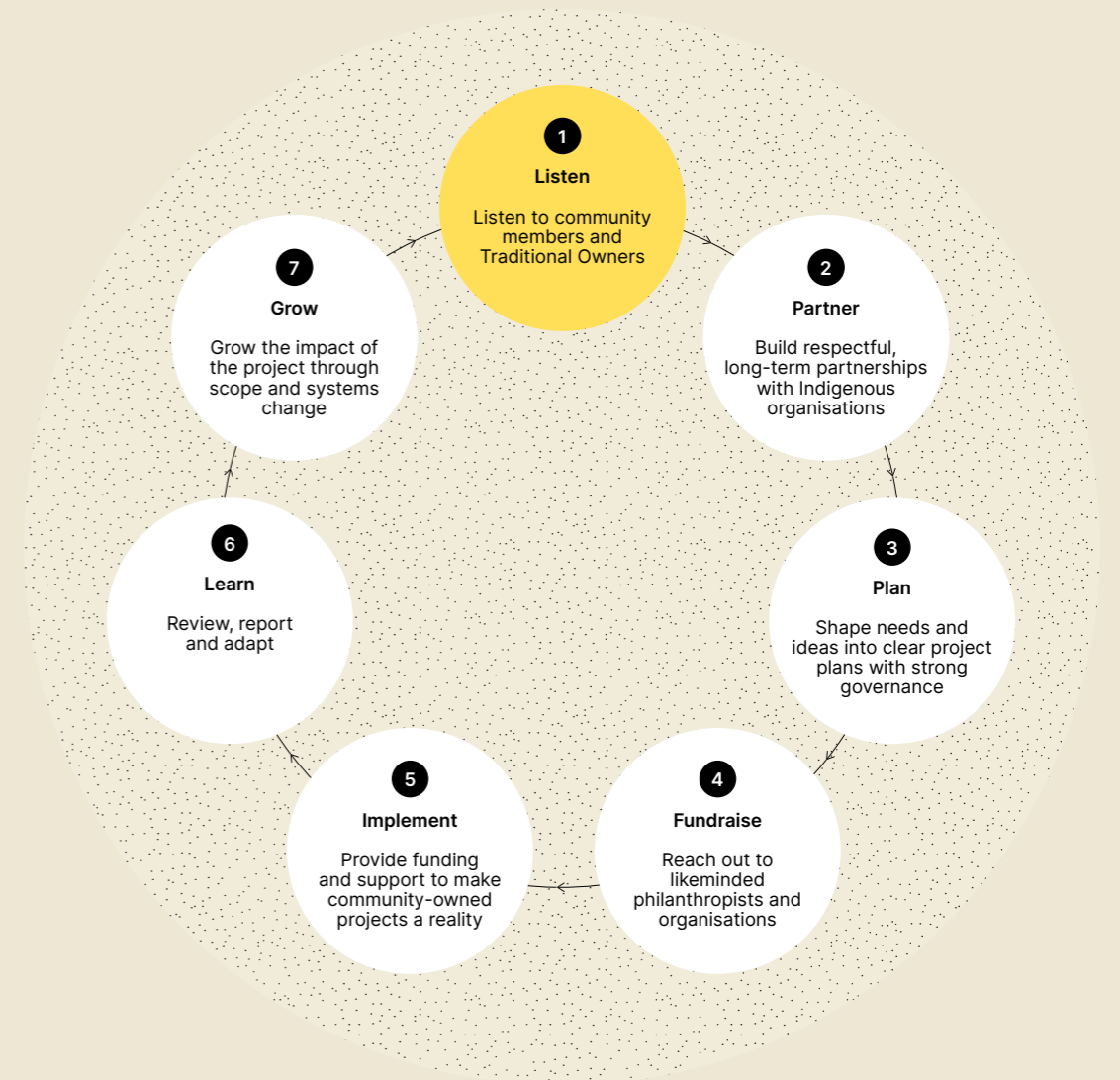
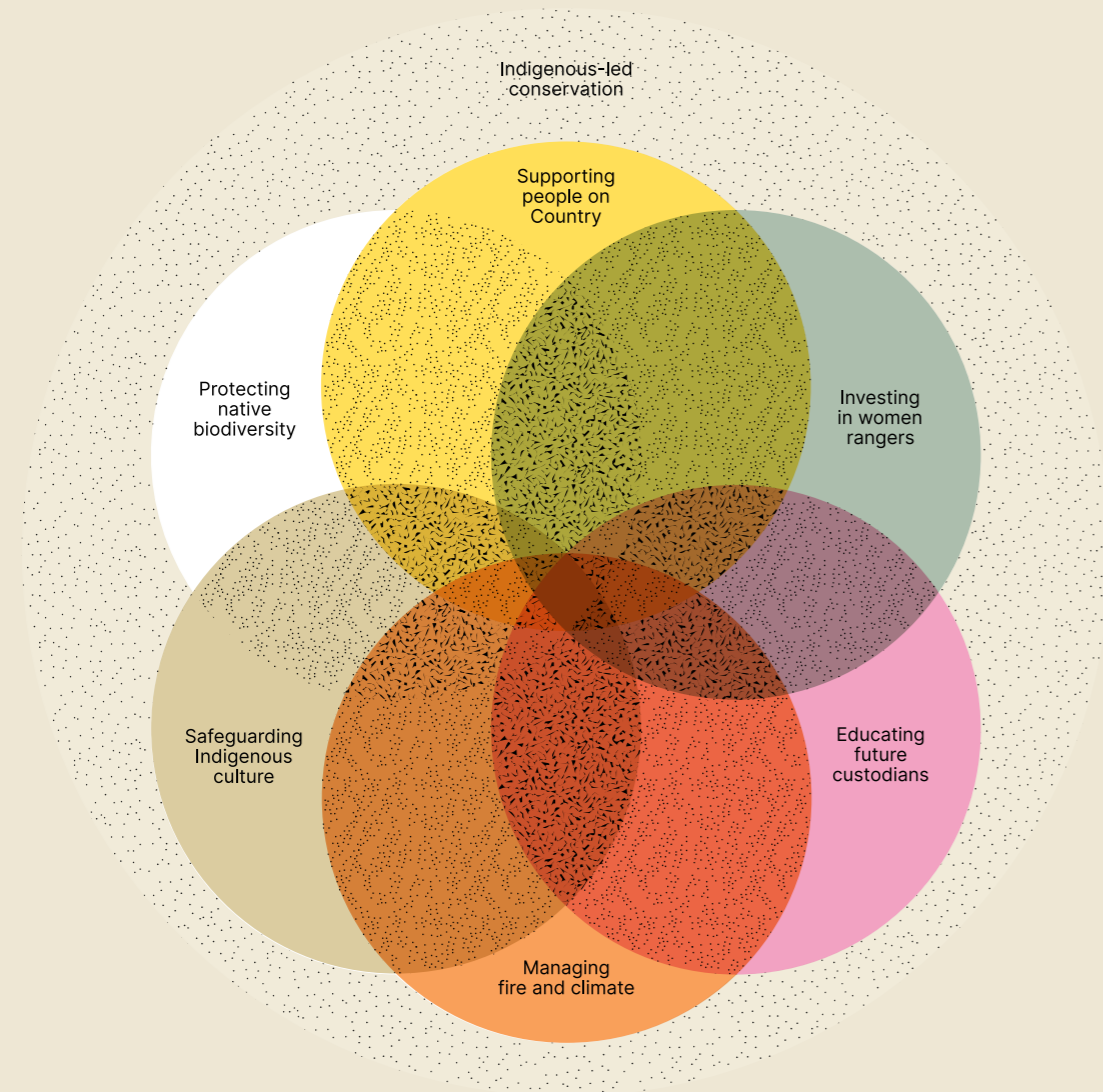
Terrah is a Bordoh clan member and Traditional Owner of the Ngorlkwarre estate within the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area. Terrah has been a Warddeken Ranger since 2007 and is a Senior Ranger at the Manmoyi ranger base. He is deeply passionate about building Warddeken into a strong company that can assist Bininj to continue living and learning on their homelands. Terrah has been a Director of Warddeken since its inception and is a member of the Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NT) board of Directors. When not working as a ranger, Terrah is a talented musician with an impressive career spent performing both solo and with the band, Nabarlek.

Arnhem Coastline, Dhipirri, ASRAC.
Photo: Stacey Irving



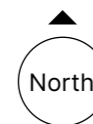
Our pillars

How we work together

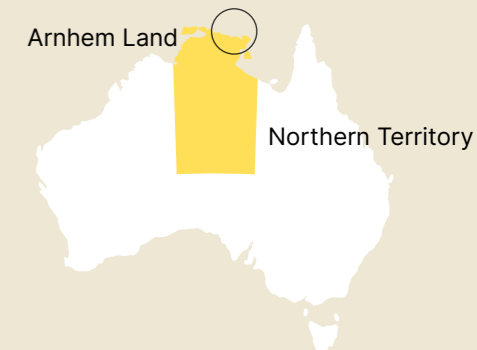


There are many parts to our conservation work, woven together to create lasting impact.

Central and West Arnhem Land

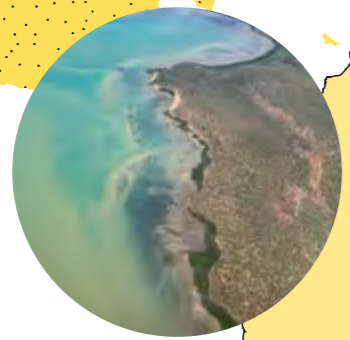
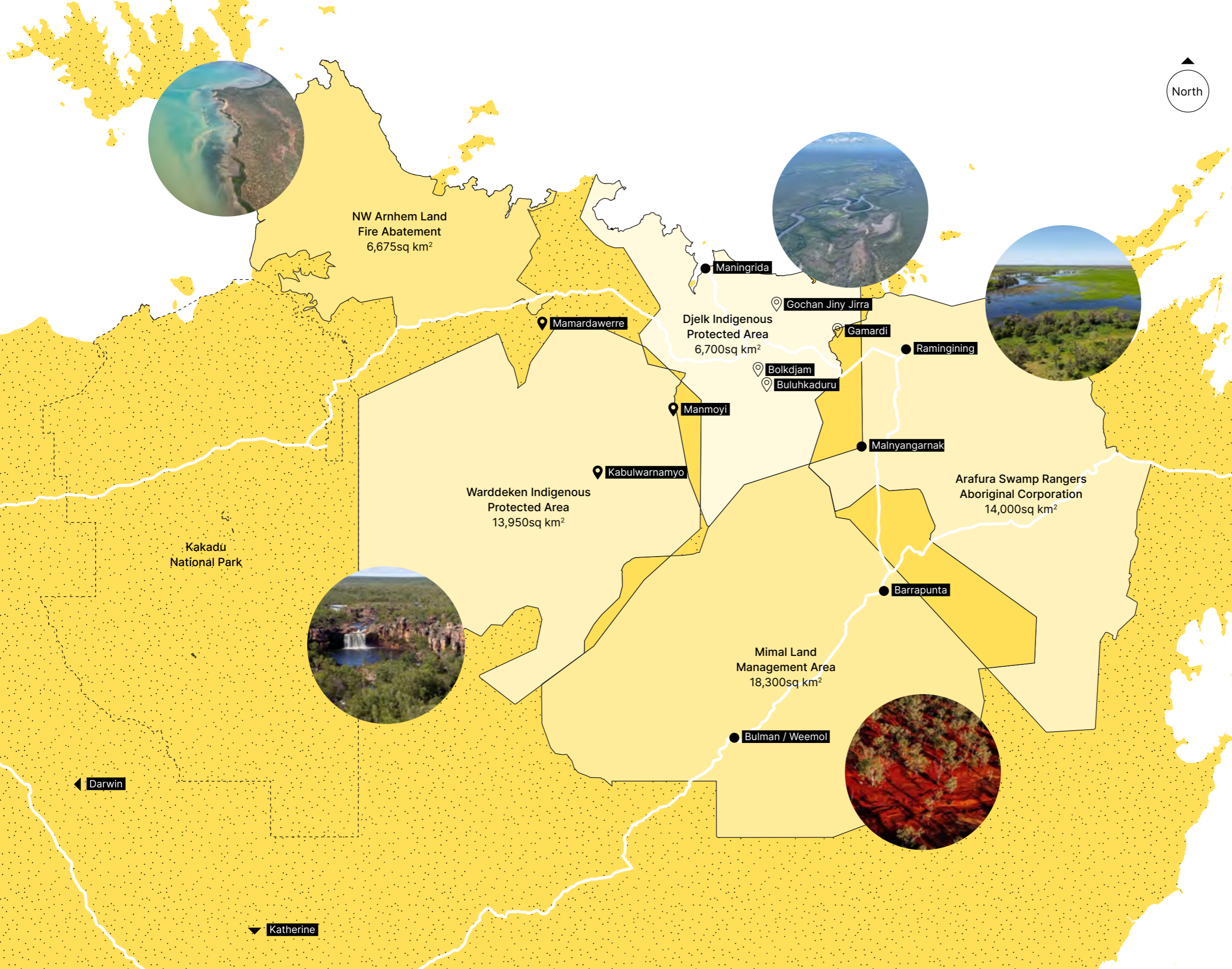


Extent indicator



Key

- Major town
- 📍 Nawarddeken Academy Limited
- 📍 Homeland School Company
- ◀ Nearby locations
- Main road



Pillars overview

We take a holistic approach to conservation. Each project that we support strengthens the ability of Indigenous peoples to manage their natural and cultural assets. Projects that are practical, vital and impactful.



Scan the QR code to be taken directly to our work online.



Protecting native biodiversity

Indigenous rangers protecting native plants and animals across vast landscapes

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Allocation of grants made

20%

Projects supported

5



Managing fire and climate

Indigenous rangers mitigating climate change through carbon abatement

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Allocation of grants made

16%

Projects supported

4



Investing in women rangers

Indigenous women playing a key role in the conservation movement

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Allocation of grants made

20%

Projects supported

3



Safeguarding Indigenous culture

Preserving and utilising traditional knowledge for future generations

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Allocation of grants made

23%

Projects supported

4



Supporting people on Country

Thriving remote communities, equipped to support large-scale conservation

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Allocation of grants made

3%

Projects supported

3



Educating future custodians

Bi-cultural education that equips the next generation of Traditional Custodians to care for their Country

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Allocation of grants made

18%

Projects supported

4

Protecting native biodiversity



Before European colonisation, the savannas of northern Australia teemed with native, endemic and culturally-important species. Since then, Australia has lost one in 10 mammal species – the global record for extinction. In the Top End alone, nine animal species are facing the same fate within the next two decades. The situation for native flora is equally dire. In just 12 years leading up to 2017, the size of threatened plant populations shrank by 72 per cent.

This is a global trend: we are rapidly losing irreplaceable habitats and ecosystems. There is growing recognition that this further jeopardises human wellbeing, climate goals and sustainable development.

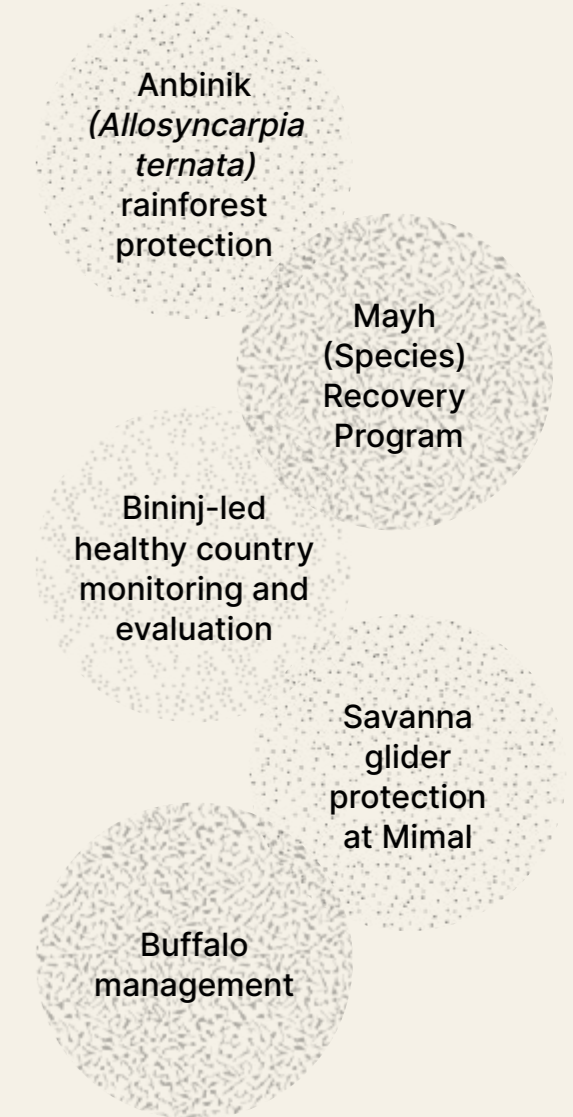
In most continents around the world, the main cause of biodiversity loss is urban development. But, in Australia, significant declines in biodiversity have occurred in remote areas, far from large towns and cities. Here, the most common causes of biodiversity loss are the incursion of invasive plants and feral animals, and lapses in land management.

The latter is referred to as 'empty' or 'orphaned' Country: land without its people. This happens when people are encouraged to move away from their homelands; when fine-scale fire management is disrupted; when feral animals and invasive plants are left to outcompete native species; when land management knowledge is not passed down from one generation to the next; and when cultural connections are lost.

Arnhem Land is one of Australia's most biodiverse regions. With the support of ranger programs, First Nations people here are able to continue living and working on Country, blending Indigenous ecological knowledge with Western science to control threats and support native species to thrive. These rangers are at the frontline of our global fight to halt nature loss.

Kuwarddewardde (Stone Country) in Warddeken.
Photo: Cody Thomas

The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust offers critical support to rangers located in West and Central Arnhem Land, who work tirelessly to protect native species and regenerate biodiversity. This year, the projects we have supported in this pillar include:



Recovering native animal species

Partner: Warddeken

Since 2016, Warddeken's Mayh (Species) Recovery Program has been operating to curb the decline in animal biodiversity within the Kuwarddewardde (Stone Country) of West Arnhem Land. This unique, Bininj-led program blends Indigenous ecological knowledge with Western science to return native animal populations to their full health and manage the impacts of introduced predators. Due to the special understanding and knowledge of mayh that many of the older daluk (women) hold, the program enjoys a majority involvement from daluk rangers.

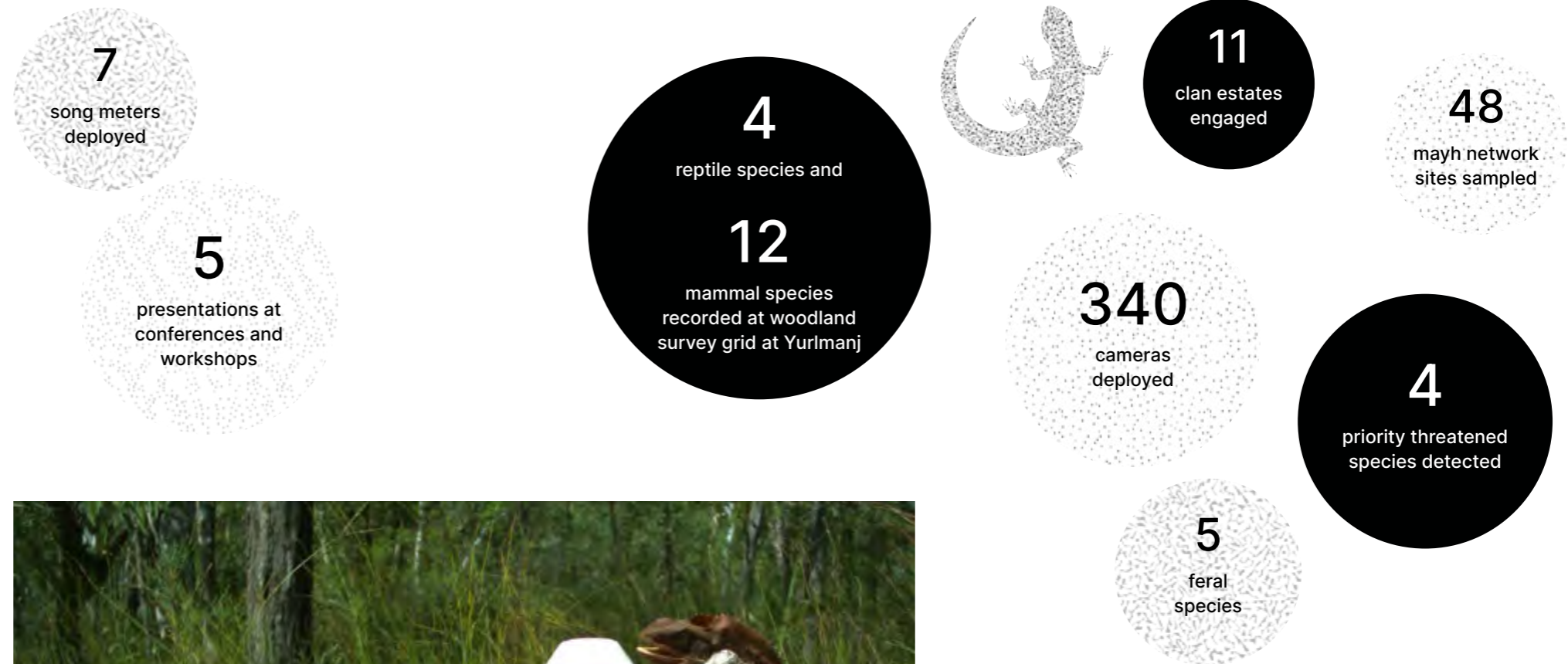
Across their vast 14,000 square kilometre protected area, 240 motion sensor cameras and seven song meters were deployed this year. With this, the program reached a major milestone: the third resampling of 118 of their 120 monitoring sites. These provide valuable data on native species across the IPA, and, in particular, the Kuwarddewardde's most vulnerable species such as the djabbo (northern quoll), djebuyh (northern brushtail possum) and yirlinkirrkirr (white-throated grasswren). Overall, this work enhances Warddeken's depth of knowledge about long term animal population health and behaviour.

The program has also been testing the use of technology for predator management by leasing Felixer traps for Bininj to trial new budjiked (feral cat) control methods. These traps were initially only used for monitoring, where the machines learn to accurately identify cats as distinct from native species. After extensive community consultation, Bininj have decided to begin using them as traps to actively reduce feral cat populations and their impact on native mammals by projecting toxic gel onto the fur of cats when they walk in front of the traps. The cats then ingest this instinctively through grooming. The daluk rangers created several videos in Bininj Kunwok language to support the ongoing operation and maintenance of these traps.

Another major milestone was the Mayh Recovery Program's second multi-day camp. Held at Yurlmanj clan estate, rangers and families worked to establish a grid of 100 cameras to assess the density of both feral and threatened species.

In addition, this year, rangers and Traditional Owners presented on behalf of the Mayh Recovery Program at five different conferences and workshops, including the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) held in Montreal.

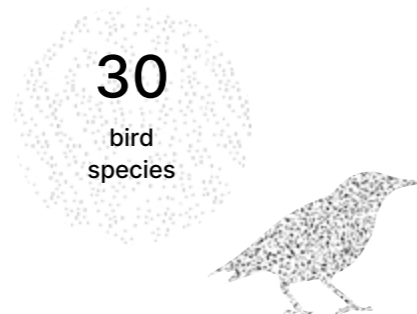
With generous contributions from donors, KKT provides funding for the Mayh (Species) Recovery Program to support ranger work that halts Australia's national decline in native mammals, and protects species that are intrinsically connected to Bininj systems of knowledge and lore.



Left: Kurndamen (frilled lizard) captured by camera trap. Photo: Courtesy of WLML



Right: Dalkken (dingo) pups Photo: Stacey Irving



“It’s a good feeling to know what we have on Country. If only one animal’s life is changed, it’s all of us saving the big stories of that mayh.”

Terrah Guymala, Traditional Owner of Ngolkwarre and Warddeken Ranger

Protecting endemic rainforest patches

Partner: Warddeken

Anbinik (*Allosyncarpia ternata*) has been described by Nawarddeken Elders as ‘the tree from the very beginning.’ Anbinik is a proto-eucalypt, meaning it is the original ancestor to the eucalypt species found across the world today. Anbinik is the only species in its genus and is endemic to the Kuwarddewardde, where almost two-thirds of all remaining anbinik rainforests exist.

Anbinik grows in dense monsoon rainforest communities, forming pleasant cool areas in an increasingly hot climate. They are also slow-growing, fire-sensitive trees that have adapted to the customary care of the Nawarddeken people, meaning they take decades to recover from the damage of wildfires. They are a deeply important cultural asset to Nawarddeken, so their protection is an extremely high priority during bangkerreng and yekke (dry season periods).

Consistently across 12 years, a total of 26 isolated anbinik patches have been protected by the Warddeken Rangers through prescribed, early dry season burning. This year, both bininj and daluk rangers conducted on-ground and aerial burning, and installed mineral earth firebreaks to protect anbinik patches. They conducted this across all 26 patches of anbinik, and even detected new anbinik saplings growing at certain sites. The rangers hope to relocate some of the mineral earth firebreaks next year, so that even more saplings can begin to grow.

With the generous support of donors, KKT funds the protection of anbinik by supporting the significant logistical expenses associated with their management in this remote and rugged region. This ensures they can be cared for and visited by Nawarddeken, year after year.



26
anbinik patches
protected

30
rangers
engaged

4.15km²
of rainforest protected

1540
hours worked

100
helicopter
hours

11
Traditional Owners
consulted

Anbinik, Warddeken IPA.
Photo: Amelia Ellerton

Managing feral livestock

Partner: Mimal

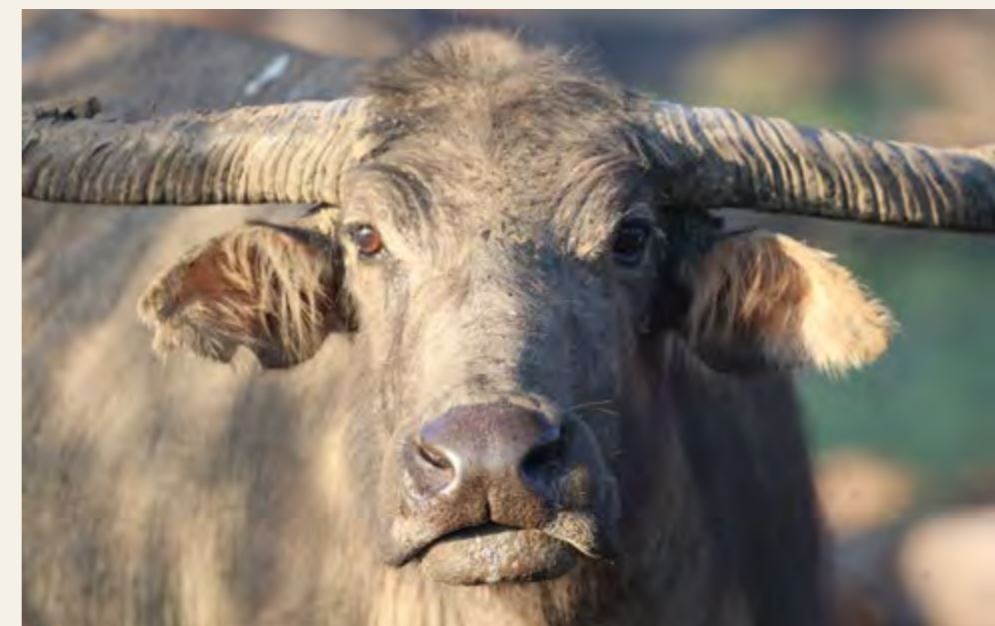
One of the key environmental challenges facing Indigenous land managers in Northern Australia is the degradation of the landscape by feral livestock. Introduced species such as buffalo, horses, pigs and donkey have become widespread and negatively impact the social, cultural and environmental values of Indigenous estates.

In particular, an estimated 150,000 feral water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) inhabit Arnhem Land’s precious landscape. First introduced to the Northern Territory in the nineteenth century as working animals and a food source, they have since become a major environmental disaster. Buffaloes cause significant disturbance to freshwater habitats and wetland vegetation, create extensive erosion that impacts water and soil health, spread weeds across the landscape, outcompete native plants and animals, and are held responsible for declining populations of waterbirds, barramundi and freshwater turtles amongst other native species.

Mimal is dedicated to reducing buffalo impacts and managing herd numbers. One way to protect specific habitats and sites is by establishing fenced exclusion plots that create a refuge for native plants and animals to thrive. This year, Mimal rangers constructed three exclusion plots in sites chosen by Traditional Owners for their cultural and environmental value. Here, they conducted a range of biodiversity surveys to assess soil and vegetation health and monitor populations of birds, mammals and reptiles. This will provide a baseline to understand changes in ecosystem health between the exclusion and control sites. The community was especially excited to identify photos of two species listed as priorities for conservation at a national level: the Gouldian finch and the northern brushtail possum.

Thanks to the generous support of one donor, KKT was able to fund the supplies and equipment required to establish and maintain buffalo exclusion plots in Mimal.

Nganabbarru (water buffalo).
Photo: Stacey Irving



630km²
of fencing installed

2500
buffalo
mustered

6
exclusion and control
sites established

3
priority threatened
species detected on
camera traps at
exclusion sites

Managing fire and climate



After European colonisation, traditional fire management practices declined. This led to an outbreak in late season wildfires—something we are continuing to witness today, especially with global temperatures rising each year. Fire continues to produce 50 per cent of the Northern Territory’s overall emissions, the majority of which are caused by these uncontrolled late season wildfires.

Managed, early season fires reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 52 per cent and contribute to the protection of vulnerable flora and fauna. This is because fires burn at a cooler temperature when there is a higher water content in the fuel load. So, by shifting when the burning takes place, the intensity of the fires is reduced, which in turn reduces the amount of greenhouse gases released.

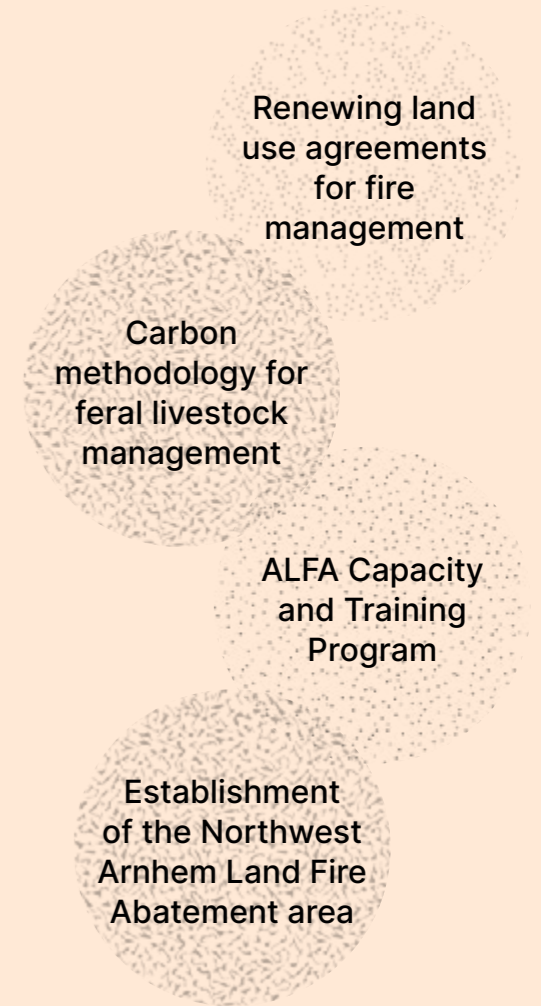
Across northern Australia, more than 23 million hectares of savanna woodlands are burned in a managed way every year. For over a decade, starting in Warddeken, groups of Traditional Owners have been recording the consequent reduction in emissions through the Climate Solutions Fund. This is facilitated by Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA), which was established to support the engagement of rangers and Traditional Owners in the carbon industry.

The financial return from selling carbon credits provides an independent source of income for ranger groups, helping them to sustain fire management practices. The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust is proud to provide additional support for individual ranger groups and ALFA, particularly towards the high upfront costs associated with project establishment, registration and renewal, training and capacity-building.

Early burning in Central Arnhem Land, Mimal Rangers.
Photo: Courtesy of Mimal Land Management

Since time immemorial, the First Peoples of Australia have utilised fire as a traditional land management tool to protect culturally and ecologically significant sites. Their burning methods often create ‘paddocks’ that strategically prevent wildfires from spreading into adjacent areas.

This year, the projects we have supported in this pillar include:



“We are looking at the global changes of when and where and how we can best record the changes of the weather, and look globally at what that’s doing to our fire management.”

Annette Miller, Traditional Owner of Bigedi and Director of Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation

Developing capacity for savanna burning

Partner: ALFA

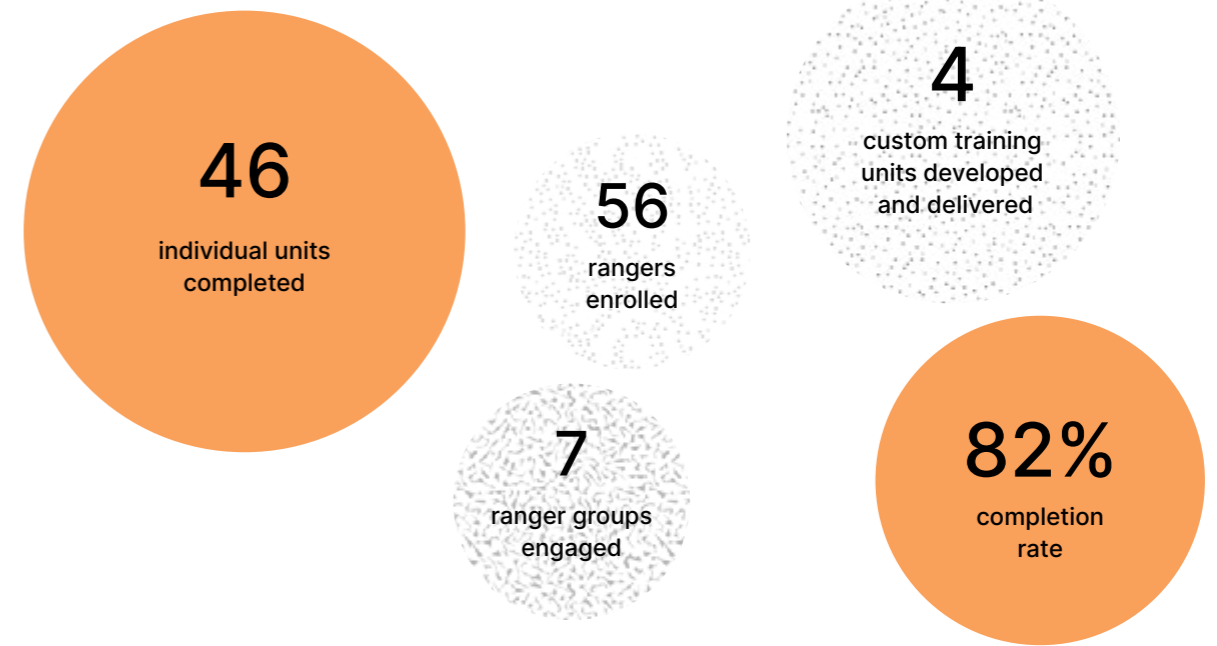
The Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA) NT Capacity and Training Program was established in 2021, with the aim of demonstrating a new model of training specifically tailored to the needs of First Nations fire practitioners. This model combines on-the-job training and mentoring with the development and delivery of targeted and nationally-accredited fire management training units to build the capacity of remote rangers to confidently manage fire. The units focus respectively on: Early Dry Season Fire Planning; Aerial Ignition Practices; Late Season Fire Suppression; and Preventing Injury.

This year, ALFA reviewed and updated all existing training materials to improve the approach to training and assessment, as well as continuing to deliver existing units across Arnhem Land's ranger groups. Students who were unable to complete training units in the year prior were also given special support to enrol and engage again.

The program has continually adapted and improved since its inception to meet different learning needs and improve how rangers are engaged in workplace training. One way to pursue this has been through developing multilingual instructional videos. This is a key element of achieving two-way adult learning, by ensuring that rangers are given the opportunity to learn skills in their first language from skilled peers and colleagues.

The program has been driven by a strong commitment to delivering a high standard of training focused on the unique individual needs of rangers in this region. Future development will maintain this focus, with ambitions to better map and meet individual goals for aptitude, and align more closely with existing levels of both accredited and unaccredited knowledge within ranger teams.

With the generous support of one donor, KKT funding has enabled the ALFA NT Capacity and Training Program to begin and develop—without taking from carbon offset income, which is essential to the sustainability of ranger activities, or requiring rangers to travel long distances to gain accreditation.



Left: Alfred Rickson, Mimal ranger and Director, Central Arnhem Land. Photo: Stacey Irving

Right: Cool burn in Central Arnhem Land. Photo: Stacey Irving



Expanding the fire management program

Partner: ALFA

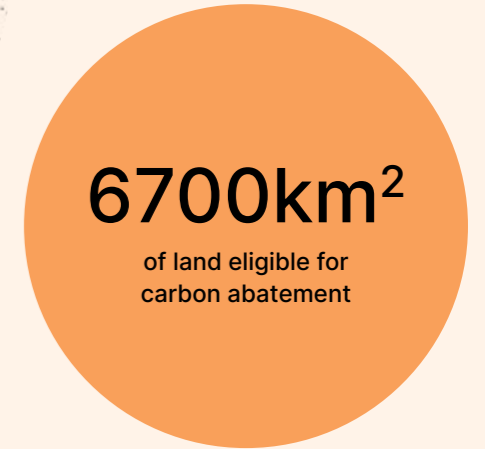
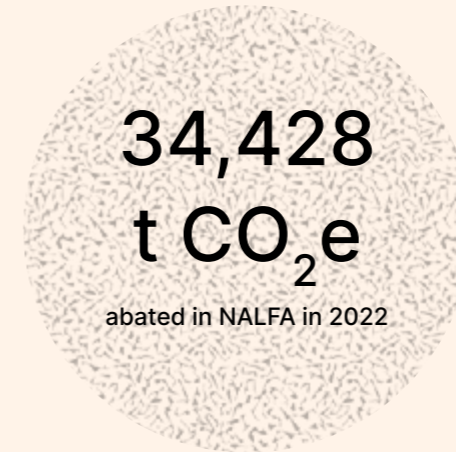
In December 2022, after a long process of consultations and approvals, the Northwest Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NALFA) project was declared an eligible carbon offset project area with the Clean Energy Regulator.

The registration of this new project area was a major milestone, and expands the total area of carbon farming in Arnhem Land by 6,700 kilometres squared. It ensures that the Garngi, Mardbalk and Adjumarllarl rangers can now earn an income from managing their Country with fire for at least the next 25 years.

The registration also recognises the carbon abatement activities these groups undertook in the 2022 calendar year, which resulted in 34,428 Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)—far exceeding early estimates. ALFA will sell these credits to fund NALFA fire management operational budgets in 2023 and 2024, ensuring the ongoing sustainability of their activities.

One welcome co-benefit of this project has been the opportunity for Traditional Owners and Elders to visit 'empty Country'. Many areas in NALFA are difficult to access, far from towns and services, and consequently suffer from a lack of active management. With an ongoing income source for fire management now secured, custodians will have the opportunity to connect with and care for their Country by engaging in consultations, on-ground burning and aerial burning—now and into the future.

With the generous support of donors, KKT funded the essential upfront costs required to consult, register and approve this new project area, and support the first year of operations until it secured an income from the sale of carbon credits.



Left: Mardbalk ranger.
Photo: Stacey Irving

Right: NALFA project area by plane.
Photo: Stacey Irving

Establishing a new carbon methodology

Partner: Mimal

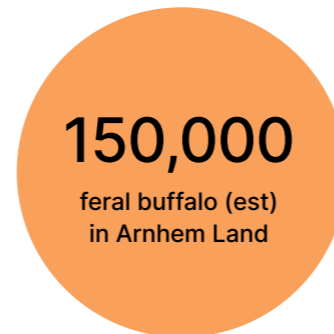
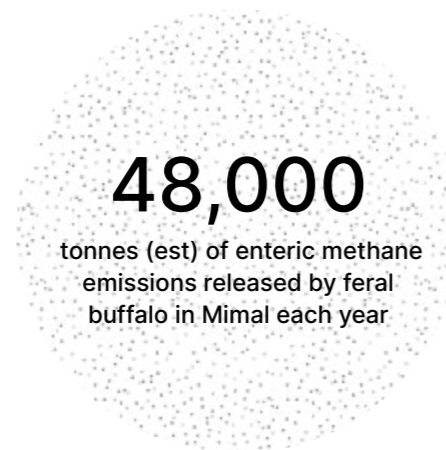
Bringing together support from multiple generous donors, KKT funded the development of this methodology, and is continuing to fundraise for its registration and eventual implementation across multiple pilot sites. This will lead to a new and widely recognised methodology that supports ecosystem health, responsible feral livestock management and greenhouse gas reductions.

An estimated 30,000 feral buffalo exist in the Mimal Land Management area in Central Arnhem Land. In addition to the extensive damage that the buffalo inflict on native habitats and biodiversity (see [page 32](#)), they are also a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Buffalo emit potent methane gases from enteric sources and a range of other greenhouse gases from both their manure and the damage they cause to carbon-sequestering vegetation and soil. The enteric methane emissions alone are estimated to be around 1.6 tonnes per head per year, which equates to an annual amount of around 48,000 tonnes of methane from the Mimal herd.

Feral livestock are already manipulated and managed by humans and the resulting impacts on climate and biodiversity values can be verified following similar accounting approaches used for domestic livestock (enteric emissions) and other natural capital accounting procedures (impacts on natural and cultural values). With the appropriate accounting methodology, this can incentivise responsible and sustained reductions in feral livestock populations on Indigenous estates, which can also generate an independent source of income for effective land management in these remote communities.

This year, Mimal worked to finalise an appropriate accounting methodology called 'A method to quantify the reduction in feral livestock individuals, populations, methane emissions and other benefits that result from responsible management intervention.' Once finalised, it will be eligible for registration under voluntary verification schemes, after which Mimal can begin pilot projects in collaboration with other ranger groups also grappling with the impacts of feral livestock on their country.



Buffalo damage, Mimal.
Photo: Amelia Ellerton



Investing in women rangers



Over 54 per cent of Australia is recognised as part of the Indigenous Estate, and the majority of this is managed through First Nations ranger programs that blend precise Indigenous ecological knowledge with cutting-edge technology.

Prior to the last decade, the ranger programs within Arnhem Land predominantly consisted of men, whose roles were centred around the management of feral animals and re-establishing a regime of early burning to prevent the outbreak of wildfires.

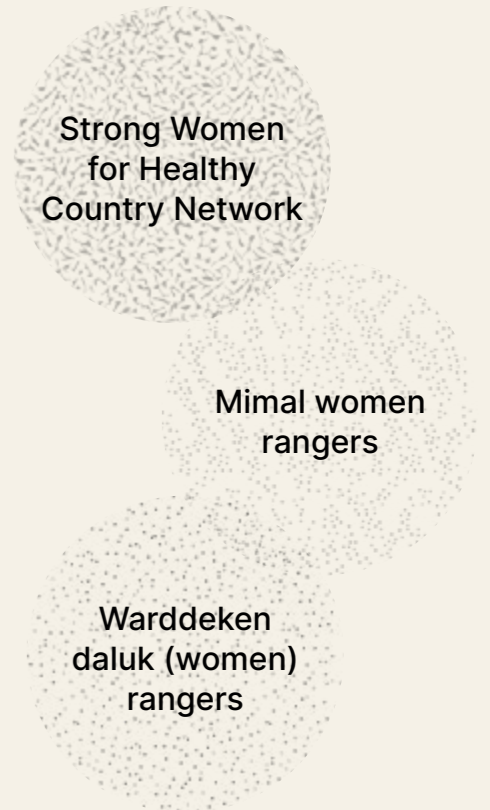
Since then, several land management groups have designed their own women's ranger programs that recognise and value the specific ecological knowledge that First Nations women hold, as well as their exclusive access to certain sites and areas. These programs allow the women to work alongside the men, while also ensuring that their role is flexible and culturally appropriate.

Ultimately, not only do the women's programs ensure that the most holistic management of Country is administered, but they also guarantee that younger women and girls can identify strong female role models within their communities, and that they can inherit the invaluable knowledge and practices of the rangers and Elders.

The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust supports core costs associated with the Warddeken and Mimal women's ranger programs, and for the Strong Women for Healthy Country Network to collectively grow the women's ranger movement.

Mimal woman ranger with a drip torch for early burning.
Photo: Stacey Irving

This year, the projects we have supported in this pillar are:



“The most important message for us... was to share how Indigenous women can implement governance in a traditional context. That was our vision and I’m pretty sure they felt empowered. Everybody collectively felt empowered to be able to see us Indigenous people doing something for ourselves.”

Chantal Miller, SWHCN member and artist

Growing the women's ranger movement

Partners: Strong Women for Healthy Country Network, Mimal

With the generosity of donors, KKT supports the operational costs of hosting the Strong Women for Healthy Country Forum and working towards their vision of a year-round program that strengthens the broader women's ranger movement.

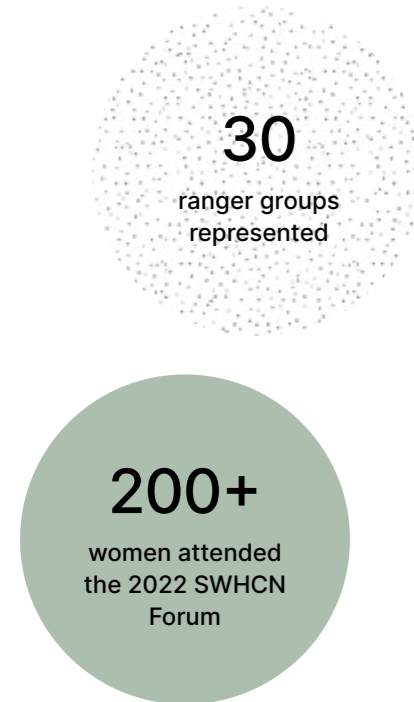
The Strong Women for Healthy Country Network (SWHCN) unites First Nations women working in land management from across the Northern Territory to collaborate, communicate and advocate with one voice. The initiative began in 2019, when women from Mimal Land Management invited other women engaged in caring for Country to come together and support one another—and were overwhelmed when 150 women responded to the call from 32 ranger groups.

This year signalled the culmination of three years' work to define exactly how women wanted to work together and what their detailed, long-term priorities would be. Much of this was agreed upon during their 2022 Forum on Eastern Arrente Country, attended by over 200 women from 30 different ranger groups.

As a result, the Network gained a clear direction for: advocating for dedicated women's spaces; supporting First Nations women working as mentors; creating best practice guides for employing women; securing training and support for women to advocate for themselves; convening annual forums; hosting communication platforms and tools; facilitating work exchanges; and supporting healing workshops. To achieve this, the Network is preparing to become its own independent organisation, fully owned and led by First Nations women, and offering year-round activities and support services.

They have also established a 'Message Stick' group, where representatives of First Nations women caring for Country across 20 different communities in the Northern Territory meet at least every two months to talk about their respective communities' successes and challenges. The Message Stick group ensures that communication, connection and learning together is sustained throughout the year.

The fourth Forum is taking place in September 2023.



Workshop at Strong Women for Healthy Country Forum 2022, Eastern Arrente Country. Photo: Courtesy of SWHCN

Daluk caring for the Stone Country

Partner: Warddeken

The Warddeken Daluk (women's) Rangers Program was first established at the outstation of Kabulwarnamyo in 2016. It was born from a community ambition to facilitate more multifaceted ranger programs that prioritised women's knowledge and employment. Within the first year of the program, women's participation in the workforce increased from 18 to 40 per cent, and by 2021, the program was operating from all three of Warddeken's ranger outstations.

Today, the daluk rangers continue to play a vital role in all major work undertaken across the IPA, including the protection of native species, fire management and the intergenerational transfer of ecological knowledge.

In the last 12 months, daluk have collectively worked over 13,000 hours and have accounted for over 45 per cent of Warddeken's workforce.

In addition to spending each day actively caring for Country, the daluk rangers have increasingly taken on more professional development and further education opportunities. This year, daluk participated in bombardier training to operate aerial incendiary machines for savanna burning. Six daluk completed their Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management through Charles Darwin University.

A highlight this year was for the Warddeken daluk to host a full week of on-Country workshops as part of the Digital Women Network. This brought together women rangers from Kakadu, Djelk and Mimal to engage in peer-to-peer training supported by CSIRO and Charles Darwin University. The women explored how technologies such as drones, motion sensor cameras and geospatial mapping can be utilised responsibly and respectfully to strengthen communities and support custodial responsibilities. They also spent time identifying personal goals for growth and development, recognising many ambitions for the future.

Government funding is often insufficient to support active engagement of First Nations women in ranger workforces. Thanks to the generous support of donors, KKT supports the Warddeken Daluk Rangers for core costs associated with engagement, employment, training and development of women in the IPA, so that they are better able to contribute their unique skills and knowledge to the task of land management.



Tinnesha Nabalwad and Lauren Girrabel, Warddeken daluk rangers, deploying song meters. Photo: Courtesy of WLML

Women conducting landscape-wide conservation at Mimal

Partner: Mimal

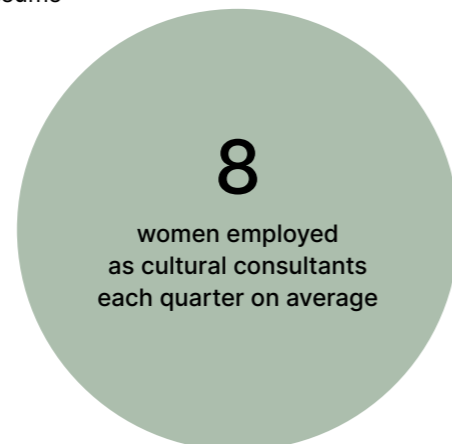
Mimal Rangers are responsible for the management of 20,000 square kilometres of Country in Central Arnhem Land. Prior to 2018, the workforce consisted predominantly of men, with a focus on men's custodial knowledge and management responsibilities. Since the formation of the Mimal Women's Ranger Program, women from across the area have been supported to practise their unique customs and skills, and take care of Mimal's significant natural and cultural assets. Over the last 12 months alone, Mimal has employed 42 women across the organisation and maintained gender parity in the ranger workforce.

One of this year's highlights has been the growth of women's involvement in fire management—traditionally a space reserved exclusively for men. The Mimal women have chosen to play a critical role in fire scar mapping, fire planning, aerial and ground burning, and late season firefighting. Women also led a number of fire consultations with Traditional Owners, which ensure that all activities are aligned with the guidance and consent of those with the greatest custodial responsibilities. At times, women conducted these fire management activities independently of both a senior coordinator and male rangers, which is a testament to the confidence and capabilities of the Mimal women rangers.

This year, women have also become more active in biodiversity surveys and management, especially as part of training for conservation and ecosystem management accreditation. Throughout the year, they have set traps and conducted surveys using a range of approaches such as motion-sensing cameras for mammals and birds, nest boxes for gliders, pitfall traps for small reptiles, drones for aerial site surveys, thermal imaging to track feral herbivores, soil nutrition surveys, vegetation monitoring cameras and geospatial mapping for key species populations. This had led to many discoveries, including populations of threatened ghost bats (*Macroderma gigas*), endemic hooded parrots (*Psephotus dissimilis*) and vulnerable Northern brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis*).

The Mimal Women's Ranger Program is ensuring that strong and engaged women rangers are incorporating their knowledge into landscape-wide conservation. Thanks to KKT donors, the program's core costs can be covered on the proven basis that the best outcomes for Country are realised through the involvement of women.

Lydia Lawrence, Mimal ranger, at a pre-season fire planning meeting. Photo: Amelia Ellerton



“The best days are when I see the girls, the other rangers, doing presentations and taking the lead. Seeing how they have gone from really shy to really confident over the years, seeing them combine their ranger skills with technology into a presentation to get up and share their story with others. That is the best day.”

Jasmin Daly, Mimal Ranger



Suzannah Nabulwad burning by foot on
Bininj Manbolh (Stone Country bushwalk).
Photo: Cody Thomas

Safeguarding Indigenous culture



First Nations peoples of Australia keep alive one of the oldest continuing cultures in the world. Despite the destructive impacts of colonisation, they maintain a special and enduring connection to the land.

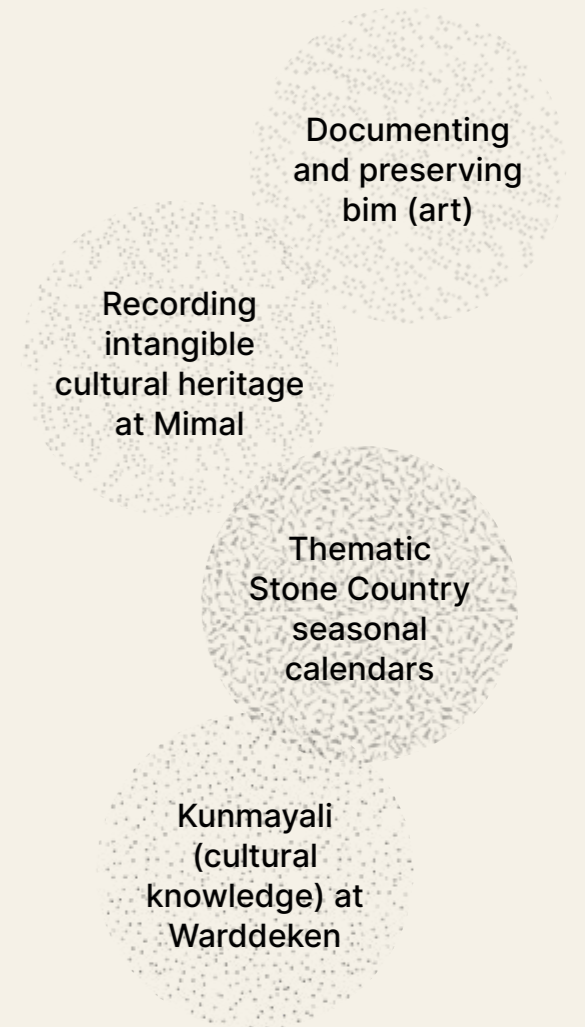
Arnhem Land was one of the last regions in Australia to be colonised on account of its remote, rugged terrain and tropical climate. As a result, Bininj have maintained much of their distinct norms, values and belief systems. This is evident in the contemporary robustness of languages, ecological knowledge and ceremonies. In fact, in this remote part of the world, there are still living Elders who grew up on Country prior to, or at the time of colonisation.

The distinct cultural heritage of Bininj is evident in a regional kinship system, shared Dreaming tracks, Songlines, and creation stories that are often performed in ceremonies. The physical presence of this cultural heritage can be found in a network of sacred sites and in the extraordinary art galleries spread across the landscape—perhaps the richest collection of undiscovered rock art in the world.

Today's Bininj ascribe great emotional significance to these places and the stories they hold, but they are at serious risk of being lost as support for homeland communities wanes, and Traditional Owners struggle to physically access their Country and provide the necessary customary care. The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust supports vital, community-led projects that work to preserve both tangible and intangible Bininj cultural heritage and ensure the safe, intergenerational transfer of Indigenous ecological knowledge.

Red ochre in Kunjekbin Country, Warddeken.
Photo: Stacey Irving

This year, the projects we have supported in this pillar include:



Documenting and preserving bim (art)

Partner: Warddeken

The Warddeken IPA holds an extraordinary body of kunwarddebim (rock art) painted over thousands of years by the ancestors of today's Nawarddeken. Recently revised estimates indicate there may be more than 50,000 kunwarddebim sites across the Kuwarddewardde, making it potentially the largest body of undocumented rock art in the world. However, these sites now rely on regular visitation to protect them from serious threats that are both tangible (such as damage from feral animals, wildfire and vegetation) and intangible (like the loss of knowledge and stories). Under the direction of senior Traditional Owners, the Kunwarddebim Project staff and a dedicated team of rangers are working to mitigate these threats.

This year, the team has reduced fuel buildups that can worsen wildfires; installed fences that prevent pigs, buffalo and cattle from rubbing up against the paintings; documented this unique intellectual property for future generations; supported the wish of some Traditional Owners to bring vanishing motifs and stories back to life with an exercise of ochre restoration at an important site; featured in an issue of the Cosmos magazine, and worked to survey undiscovered and forgotten galleries. Over the past 12 months alone, this amounted to the documentation of 17 new and 31 revisited and maintained kunwarddebim galleries.

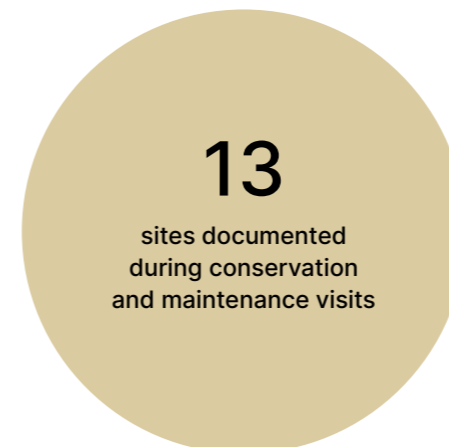
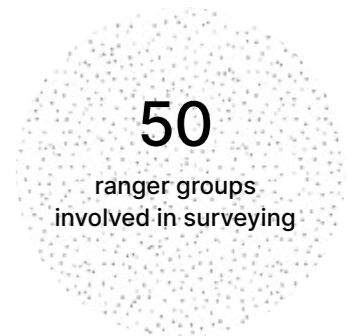
Furthermore, Warddeken's WAKADJAKA (monitoring and evaluation subcommittee) with the support of the kunwarddebim team, has selected three major historical occupation and bim sites to be monitored closely from a conservation perspective—two in Djordi and one in Bolmo Dordokiyu estate. The most problematic, from a logistical and geological perspective, depicts explorer Ludwig Leichhardt on horseback. Leichhardt would have been one of the first non-Indigenous people encountered by Nawarddeken, passing through at the end of the nineteenth century. Though this site was first documented in good condition by Warddeken in the mid-2000s, changing water channels due to the incursion of termites have begun to wash the figure away. The site is not accessible via road, so ongoing conservation efforts have been challenging. Traditional Owners are now assessing the least invasive way to protect this famous work of art with support from the kunwarddebim team.

Finally, this year the program was able to employ its first two Bininj Project Officers, with both having quickly become integral to the project's daily operations in their new, senior roles. They have been especially engaged in carrying out the essential consultations which take place before any surveying can occur. This year, this involved consulting with around 105 Traditional Owners about the ways they wanted to manage kunwarddebim on their clan estates.

Thanks to our generous donors, KKT supports the Kunwarddebim Project's entire operational budget so that these rich libraries of knowledge and stories can be protected and shared in Bininj Kunwok for future generations.



Kunwarddebim at Manamam in the Warddeken IPA. Photo: Stacey Irving



Recording intangible cultural heritage

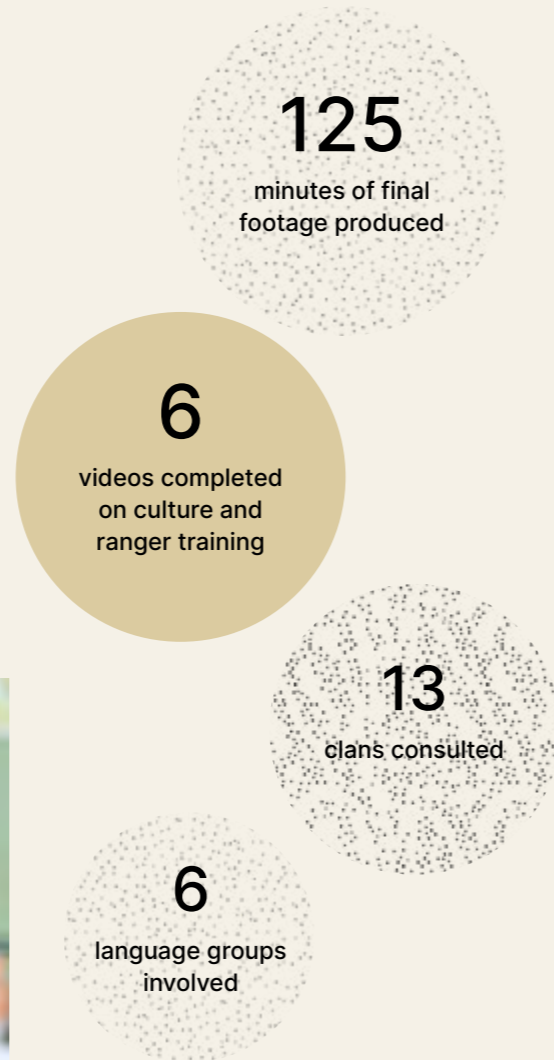
Partner: Mimal

Ranger programs are uniquely placed to respond to the needs of their members to practise, document and pass on threatened cultural knowledge. To support this need, Mimal has established a cultural heritage database, which provides an ongoing tool for both formal and informal learning, teaching, practising culture and connecting. In an effort to furnish this database, Mimal engaged the community in a media recording and archiving project which supported community members to sit strongly at the helm of decision-making to document what they deemed to be cultural priorities. This resulted in the safeguarding of some incredibly important and at-risk aspects of the living culture of the Mimal region - such as specific walking routes and ceremony - alongside training resources on topics such as rocket recovery and firebreaks. A particular highlight was the 'Wulken', where community members walked across Country for three days, sharing and recording place names, stories, songs, language, caring responsibilities and management techniques. The final night culminated with the reemergence of one of the region's beloved songlines, Bunggul Bongalinj Bongalinj, where its rightful custodian and Mimal Board member, Abraham Wesan, performed his father's song for the very first time, surrounded by the singing and dancing of family members.

The need for this work is urgent. For example, another of the films recorded knowledge related to the coveted honey source from native bees, sugarbag. Titled 'Searching for Sugarbag', it was led by a Mimal ranger and Elder who has sadly now passed away. But with the creation of this perpetual resource, just in time, some of the knowledge passed down by distant ancestors and held by him can live on and be passed down to future custodians.



KKT and our community of generous donors support the role of ranger programs in assisting communities to undertake ceremony, rituals, and cultural practices on Country, which safeguard traditional ecological knowledge for future custodians.



Robert Redford, Mimal Senior Elder, at his outstation Mount Catt. Photo: Stacey Irving

Seasonal indicators for plants and animals

Partner: Warddeken

The visual representation of the Kuwarddewardde Malkno (seasonal calendar of the Stone Country) has become an invaluable resource across all of Warddeken's programs, and a fundamental tool in the classrooms of the Nawarddeken Academy. The Kuwarddewardde Malkno details key seasonal indicators of the six Bininj seasons: kudjewk, bangkerreng, yekke, wurrkeng, kurrung, and kunumeleng.

During the initial community consultations for the original Kuwarddewardde Malkno, it quickly became apparent that further, more focused calendars were required to encapsulate all of the relevant seasonal knowledge and indicators for Nawarddeken. This led to the creation of three additional calendars: Kuwarddewardde Manme Manbu Kurrorewaken dja Kukkuwaken (yams and water foods of the Stone Country), Kuwarddewardde Manme Manbu Manbarnem Beh (fruits and above ground foods of the Stone Country), and Kuwarddewardde Mayh Karringun (animals of the Stone Country).

These calendars are due to be finalised by senior knowledge holders in November of 2023, after which time they will be printed and sit alongside the Kuwarddewardde Malkno in both Nawarddeken Academy classrooms and ranger bases.



KKT, with the support of like-minded donors, is proud to have funded the design and extensive consultation process involved in developing these thematic calendars, which support the preservation and transfer of ancient Nawarddeken knowledge of the Kuwarddewardde.

Left: Nawarddeken Academy students from Manmoyi with draft bush foods calendar. Photo: Stacey Irving

Below: Great Comorants drying their feathers. Photo: Stacey Irving



Supporting people on Country



First Nations communities in very remote locations across Australia are often at the forefront of the national conservation effort. Three quarters of First Nations peoples in the Northern Territory live in remote or very remote areas. Across these communities, ranger bases act as hubs of activity for community connection, species conservation, fire management, and the continued usage and transfer of cultural knowledge.

However, life in these communities comes with a unique set of challenges that hinder efforts to live and work on homelands on a full-time, permanent basis.

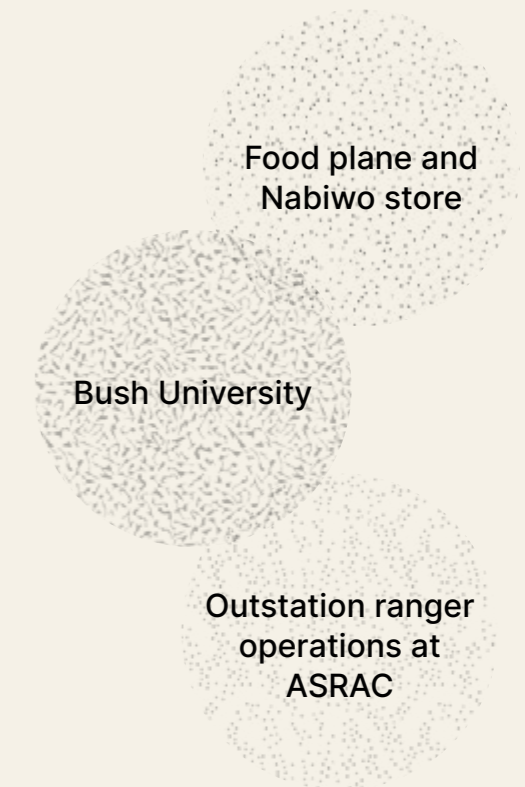
The environmental conditions of Arnhem Land are highly variable: ephemeral rivers rise up and often prohibit road access for up to six months each year, the terrain is rugged and changeable, and temperatures and humidity are becoming more severe with climate change. Sealed roads are rare and dirt roads require constant maintenance to remain accessible. Infrastructure is often limited, with variable energy and water supply that sometimes cuts out for multiple weeks. Services such as medical care, food stores and postal services may only be accessible through expensive charter flights or long drives which rely on well-maintained private vehicles.

Additional support is required for people to live and work comfortably and sustainably on their ancestral lands. Without this support, the potential for empty or 'orphaned' Country looms large. For Traditional Owners here, this is considered one of the largest threats to the conservation of nature and the continuation of First Nations cultures.

The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust is principally informed by the knowledge that Country needs people. Where required and with the generous support of donors, KKT funds critical infrastructure, key services and regional workforce development that ensures Bininj are able to live on Country and undertake integral conservation work as safely and efficiently as possible.

Mamardawerre in the early dry season, Warddeken.
Photo: Stacey Irving

This year, the projects we have supported in this pillar include:



Food security for remote communities

Partner: Warddeken

One of the more material threats to the future of remote outstations is the lack of access to basic goods. In the Warddeken IPA, access to affordable basic goods is blocked for long periods due to the constant downpour of the wet season and subsequent road closures.

This logistical challenge has been greatly alleviated through KKT's long-term partnership with Simplot Australia. Since 2017, the three ranger outstations in Warddeken have received a fortnightly 'tucker run', which delivers pre-ordered goods from the closest community supermarket via a reliable charter plane. This year, 75 tucker runs were made, ensuring that Nawarddeken had year-round access to affordable dry goods and basic necessities. This underpins the capacity of rangers to care for Country, while also supporting the long-term health and wellbeing of community members.

However, Traditional Owners living in and around the Kabulwarnamyo community—which is furthest from stores and services—still held concerns about food security with no buffer to catch shortfalls in supply between tucker runs. In response, Warddeken opened its first dry goods store last year, and has worked to maintain this service throughout the year.

The so-called Nabiwo store actively mitigates the affordability and accessibility of food in between tucker runs, by providing an option for community members to purchase basic supplies as they need. This store is supplied using additional space available on tucker runs and other inbound charter flights, as well as Warddeken staff vehicles and private vehicles travelling through townships en route to Kabulwarnamyo. The store has been run by daluk rangers who are learning how to carry out sales and manage stock.



Jayden Wurrkgidj and Zachariah Namarnyilk unload Mamardawerre's tucker run. Photo: Courtesy of WLML

Bush University

Partners: Mimal and Warddeken

This year, through the generosity of two foundations, KKT began the long journey towards securing the future of the ranger workforce in Arnhem Land and fulfilling a long-held vision of senior Traditional Owners.

For many years, there has been a clear need to transform how training and skills development is supported in remote ranger communities to deliver the fundamental, life-long benefits of adult education, professional development and leadership. Currently, training is often inflexible in its delivery, focussed on discrete technical skills without addressing significant literacy and numeracy gaps, and is rarely tailored to specific needs, including contextual relevance and cultural content. This often impacts the ability of Bininj to ascend into higher paid roles in community enterprises, and take a more active role in community development to live and work on Country for the long term.

Following a feasibility and business model study, which engaged a wide range of stakeholders, Warddeken and Mimal decided to establish a 'Bush University' with support from KKT. This organisation, housed within Warddeken and Mimal to begin, is now in its early stages of recruiting key staff and engaging Bininj advisors to focus on critical learning and development needs.

Over the following five years, with much iteration and evolution, the aspirations are for this organisation to become an independent Bininj-owned entity supporting the employment, leadership and educational aspirations of rangers across Arnhem Land.

“We are changing the tactics of Balanda education to suit Bininj learning.”

Dean Yibarbuk, Traditional Owner of Djinkarr and Co-Chair, KKT

Tinnesha Nabalwad, Warddeken Bim Officer and daluk ranger. Photo: Stacey Irving



Outstation ranger operations

Partner: ASRAC

In early 2023, KKT announced a new partnership with Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation (ASRAC). ASRAC is composed of eight different ranger groups in north-central Arnhem Land who collectively manage 14,000 square kilometres of Country. This includes Gurruwiling (Arafura Swamp)—Australia's largest paperbark swamp—its headwaters and estuaries, surrounding woodlands, floodplains and the sea country these feed out to.

ASRAC's first goal is to return people to Country by providing permanent employment for rangers, especially outside of their main operations base at Ramingining. Given that the central feature of this area is a large freshwater ecosystem, land management activities are often hindered by low accessibility, poor infrastructure and the difficulty of accessing places, equipment and supplies beyond the reach of townships.

KKT is supporting ASRAC to access, monitor and care for remote parts of Country by establishing a fourth permanent base at Malnyangarnak, and a fifth permanent ranger base following that. To achieve this, the bases require basic infrastructure and equipment as well as funding for permanent ranger positions based at these locations. Work is underway to achieve this, and we look forward to deepening our partnership with ASRAC.

Below: Otto Campion, ASRAC Chair, pointing to proposed ASRAC satellite ranger bases.
Photo: Stacey Irving

Right: ASRAC ranger monitoring floodplain health.
Photo: Amelia Ellerton



Educating future custodians



The Northern Territory has the lowest proportion of students meeting the minimum standards for literacy and numeracy, and only around 40 per cent of First Nations children here achieve Year 12 or equivalent. Elders reiterate time and again that they want to see the next generation of custodians growing up and being educated on their homelands, in both local Indigenous ecological knowledge and the Australian Curriculum, so they grow up strong in both worlds.

Since 2015, the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust has supported the movement for bi-cultural, on-Country education for First Nations children in West and Central Arnhem Land. This began with the establishment of the Nawarddeken Academy, which now guarantees access to full-time education at all three ranger outstations in the Warddeken IPA. It then grew to include support for Mimal's Learning on Country Program, and the newly formed Djelk Homeland School Company.

Bi-cultural education involves children, from early learners to high school students, regularly spending time on Country with Elders, rangers and community leaders. Through this, they learn the stories, songs, practices and places that their ancestors have held and passed on for millennia. Contextually appropriate content can then be incorporated back into the Australian Curriculum, making for a more engaging and place-based school experience overall.

The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust recognises the implicit link between cultural heritage, community strength and conservation outcomes, and is therefore committed to providing support for bi-cultural education where government funding is insufficient. Together with our partners, we are investing in the next generation of custodians.

Families connect to Country on Bininj Manbolh (Stone Country bushwalk).
Photo: Cody Thomas

The homeland communities that house ranger bases are usually very remote and often too small to qualify for full-time government education funding. Education may consist of one day of fly-in/fly-out teaching per week. This means that accessing education can often be incredibly difficult for families dedicated to caring for their ancestral homelands. It may mean that rangers are forced to choose between meaningful employment, and moving away to larger townships to enrol their children in government schools.

This year, the projects we have supported in this pillar include:

Learning on Country in Mimal

Nawarddeken Academy High School expansion

Nawarddeken Academy early learning program

Consultation for homelands schooling in Djelk IPA

“Our kids want to go to Nawarddeken Academy because they’re on their homelands. They’re comfortable in their environment and they feel safe. Sisters, brothers, cousins, all in the same classroom, learning together alongside their families. This is what we’ve fought so hard for.”

Michelle Bangarr, Djungkay for Manmoyi and Nawarddeken Academy's Cultural Education Advisor

Engaging students on Country

Partner: Mimal

In 2019, Mimal's Learning on Country (LoC) program was born from concern among Traditional Owners that their children were disengaged from the mainstream Australian school system and curriculum. They asked for a space to pass down ancestral knowledge, and to integrate this into the classroom for a more enriching and meaningful overall school experience. Through introducing of Learning on Country at the local Bulman School, rangers and Elders have been working alongside teaching staff to connect students with Country, culture, languages and the land management work of the Mimal rangers. These sessions are run bi-weekly (once for each multi-grade class) and supplemented with school camps and longer excursions.

Over the past 12 months, the LoC program ran 81 regular on Country classes, and five multi-day culture camps. These were structured around different term themes, based on the seasons and management activities: sky during the humid build up, water during the wet season, earth during the dry season and fire during wildfire season.

One of the camps included a trip to Wugularr (Beswick) to visit the Djilpin Arts, Ghunmarn Culture Centre, arising from concern among women Elders about the risk of fibre art practices dying out. Here, young female students and women rangers collected pandanus and dye, which they then stripped and wove into baskets and mats. As there is no arts centre in Mimal, students learnt about the role of arts centres and the opportunities they create.

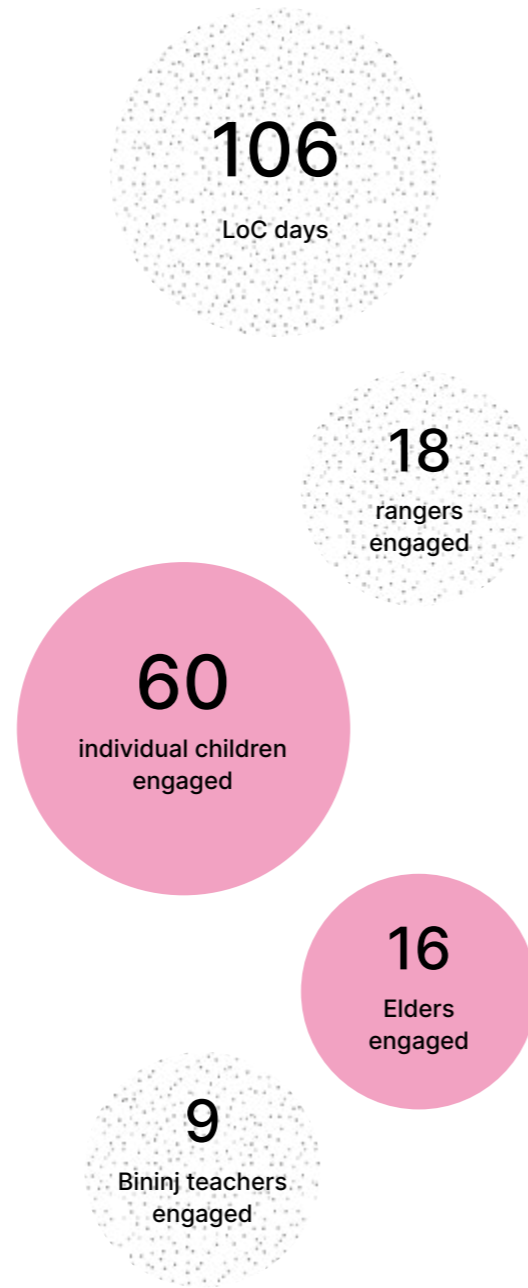
Activities this year were greatly supported by the new 'troopy' 4WD vehicle, which was funded by KKT donors, and is better equipped for the road conditions when visiting important sites in the surrounding areas. This was particularly useful when visiting nearby outstation Mt Catt, where students spent many days identifying bush tucker, practising dances, learning songs and listening to stories from senior Elders. One particular visit involved using traditional funnel and square traps to catch freshwater fish and crabs, and students then used Mimal's digital field guides to identify species and record their names in multiple languages.

As the activities and ambitions of the program grow, so too does attendance and engagement at Bulman School, particularly on days that LoC lessons take place.

"The kids see us working as a ranger and want to be like us."

Anthea Lawrence, Mimal Ranger

The Mimal LoC program is unable to access ongoing government funding, relying on the generous support of KKT donors to cover operational costs and salaries for key staff.



Mimal Learning on Country students.
Photos: Emma Lupin



Independent homelands high school education

Partner: Nawarddeken Academy

The success of the Nawarddeken Academy, the first full-time school in the Warddeken IPA, remains a great source of pride for communities and Traditional Owners. Following its expansion to all three Warddeken ranger outstations last financial year, and the security of ongoing government funding for its day-to-day operations, all Nawarddeken children now have access to bi-cultural primary and middle school education.

This year, the Academy has continued to pursue the broader vision of Traditional Owners—to have connected on-Country education pathways from early learning to high school, and beyond. To achieve this, the Academy has taken the first steps towards high school education for its 24 high-school-aged students.

In weeks four and eight of Term 2, these students came together from all three outstations to participate in a HEAL (Health, English, Arithmetic, Literacy) trial. HEAL is a flexible intervention program run by the NT School of Distance Education for students who encounter barriers to accessing the standard curriculum. The program focuses on English, numeracy, literacy, health and technology skills. Through the program, the completion of each unit increases literacy skills of students whose first language is not English, and provides a pathway for enrolment into high school certificate subjects. HEAL also equips students with the literacy skills to independently navigate the responsibilities of family, community and work, and provides a pathway for those students who wish to transition to the NT Certificate of Education and Training.

The trial was a success, and HEAL will now provide an avenue for students to continue developing the skills needed for secondary subjects until the Nawarddeken Academy is ready to launch its own custom-built secondary teaching program. The Academy has begun building the foundation for this by developing tailored responses to the individual learning needs and academic and vocational aspirations of high-school-aged students in the Warddeken IPA. At Manmoyi, high school students now constitute half of the student body, so supporting these students, and all other high-school-aged students across the IPA, will remain a high priority over the coming year.

The Nawarddeken Academy was the first project backed by KKT supporters many years ago, covering the essential start-up costs for services, infrastructure and curriculum design. This is now covered by ongoing independent school funding from government sources, but such funding does not extend to secondary education. KKT, with the support of donors, plans to continue funding the Nawarddeken Academy's secondary education and custom-built curriculum until that too is eligible for government support.



Nawarddeken Academy students and Rosemary Nabalwad speaking at a community event.
Photo: Stacey Irving

Nawarddeken Academy student at Mann River, near Manmoyi.
Photo: Stacey Irving



24
high-school-aged
students

2
HEAL study camps
held on country

6
high-school-aged students
engaged in preliminary work
experience with Warddeken

“[My sons] like going every day to school. They get up every morning feeling fresh, saying ‘hurry up, I want to go to school’, just like I’m going to work every morning too.”

Manoah Nawilil, Warddeken Ranger

“When I grow up, I’ll be working as a Warddeken ranger like my dad.”

Kayless Nawilil, Nawarddeken Academy student

First experiences for early learners

Partner: Nawarddeken Academy

Karldurrk is the Bininj Kunwok word for kookaburra, the iconic bird known for its loud laugh, similar to the laugh of young children. Named for this reason, the Karldurrk Early Learning program is a bi-cultural education program for infants and children up to five—and their families. The program is highly unique for the region, providing dedicated spaces for wurdurd (young children) to have their first educational experiences following a ‘Families as First Teachers’ model, which builds the capacity of parents and communities to engage in teaching and learning.

This year, it grew from one program in Kabulwarnamyo to a formal program operated through the Nawarddeken Academy across three communities. Early Learning in Manmoyi and Mamadawerre began under the shade of a tree or kodbarre (paperbark shelter). Shortly after, the planning and building commenced for new infrastructure to house the lessons. From these humble beginnings, this year the program engaged approximately 20 wurdurd and their families, and the community of Manmoyi now have access to a balabbala (custom-built, permanent shelter) dedicated to their Karldurrk program.

To support the ongoing growth of this program, seven daluk (women) travelled to Darwin to participate in Abecedarian Approach training with other early childhood educators from across the Northern Territory. Participants learnt a set of evidence-based teaching and learning strategies for early childhood educators and parents to use with children from birth to five. This involved new approaches to engaging families on outstations, and hearing from other early childhood educators about the unique challenges within their respective remote communities. All of the daluk returned home with new ideas and a greater sense of confidence in their ability to deliver a culturally rich educational program.



Early learning programs such as this are not eligible for government funding in the same way as independent primary and secondary schooling. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, KKT supports the basic services, infrastructure, salaries and resources required to effectively prepare young children to learn and grow on Country and to be strong in both the Bininj and Balanda worlds.

3
communities

20
wurdurd
enrolled

1
new balabbala built

Wurdyaw (child) at an early learning class in Mamardawerre.
Photo: Amelia Ellerton

7
daluk involved in
program planning

“I just love teaching kids how to learn new things and showing them books. One of the things I love doing is the flowers and the painting with the kids. I can show them the different colours [of the flowers] and they can feel the flowers are soft. I’m really excited about the new balabbala and can’t wait to move in there and teach the kids.”

Colleen Nagurrurrba,
Early Learning Program teacher



Families enjoy early learning together at Mamardawerre.
Photo: Amelia Ellerton



Mimal Ranger Base in Weemol.
Photo: Stacey Irving

Partner insight

Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA)

Wurdyaw (child) performing a cool burn.
Photo: Cody Thomas



The 2022-23 Financial Year has been one of significant growth for Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA). Indigenous carbon credits produced through the savanna fire management method have continued to gain market recognition for their integrity and significant environmental, social and cultural outcomes. In Arnhem Land, fire projects have been able to generate greater revenue from the sale of carbon credits than ever before thanks to the strong price of carbon.

Within this context, partnerships between KKT, Aboriginal ranger groups and ALFA have become increasingly important and powerful. These partnerships work together to leverage opportunity, generate much-needed funding, and raise awareness to support on-ground partners in their work to address the enormous disadvantages faced by remote Aboriginal Australia. Together, we achieve this with a strong focus on building and maintaining local capacity to deliver land management and community development aspirations for the people of Arnhem Land.

Over the last 12 months, ALFA has focussed on strengthening its core business. This has involved supporting the operational capacity and resilience of ALFA and our Aboriginal ranger group partners across Arnhem Land, continuing to enhance governance and stakeholder relationships, and protecting and growing ALFA's unique carbon market position.

A key highlight has been the addition of a new registered carbon project in northwest Arnhem Land, with the support of KKT. This brings the footprint of ALFA's projects to over 86,000 square kilometres —three times larger than ALFAs beginning in 2013 with the WALFA project. This has also brought in two new ranger group project partners from northwest Arnhem Land, enhancing the long term sustainability and impact of their land management work.

Further highlights include the continued provision of culturally appropriate on-the job mentoring and support for fire management work and the delivery of bespoke accredited training for rangers engaged in fire management, with KKT's support. Meanwhile, ALFA has also engaged in the Commonwealth Government's Independent Review of the Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU) scheme and has finalised a new strategic business plan with support from ALFA's Aboriginal ranger group partners and Directors.

ALFA are very proud to partner with KKT and we look forward to continuing to work together with our joint Aboriginal project partners to deliver lasting outcomes for the people and country of Arnhem Land.

Jen Ansell
CEO
Arnhem Land Fire Abatement

Indigenous partner organisations

Each project we partner on is 100 per cent community owned, from concept to implementation. KKT's support enables our partners to expand their work, build connections, and enhance their capacity to focus on the implementation of world-leading environmental, cultural and community initiatives.



Kabulwarnamy spring at dusk.
Photo: Amelia Ellerton

“There is going to be change if we all come together. KKT is here to support people.”

Annette Miller, Director of Mimal Land Management

Founding partners



Bawinanga Djelk Rangers

Bawinanga Djelk Rangers, hosted by Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, was established in 1995 by Traditional Owners of the Djelk Indigenous Protected Area. They manage 200 kilometres of coastline and over 6,700 square kilometres of land and sea country in West and Central Arnhem Land—from estuaries, wetlands and rivers to monsoon rainforests and tropical savannahs.

Their work plays a vital role in keeping the cultures and languages in their region strong, while offering employment and career pathways and sustainable enterprise development opportunities on Country, and working with many partners for the benefit of all 13 language groups and over 100 different clan groups.



Warddeken Land Management Limited

Warddeken Land Management Limited operates across 14,000 square kilometres of the Kuwarddewardde, from three remote ranger bases on the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area: Kabulwarnamyo and Manmoyi in Koyek ward, and Mamardawerre in Kakbi ward.

The Warddeken IPA is owned and managed by the Traditional Owners of 36 different clan groups, through a complex system of customary law. Their vision is to have healthy people living and working on healthy Country. They want the management of their land to be in their hands now and into the future.

Each year, up to 200 Indigenous rangers are employed to work on a variety of projects, including fire management and carbon abatement, weed and feral animal control, rock art conservation, education and cultural heritage management.

They combine Indigenous ecological knowledge with western science to manage and protect one of Australia's most unique environments.

Partners



Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NT) Limited

Across Arnhem Land, in the remote tropical savannas of northern Australia, Aboriginal Traditional Owners and rangers utilise customary fire knowledge to accomplish highly sophisticated landscape-scale fire management.

Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NT) is an entirely Aboriginal-owned not-for-profit carbon farming business created by Aboriginal Traditional Owners in Arnhem Land to support their engagement with the carbon industry.

ALFA currently supports Traditional Owners to manage six fire projects across an area of over 86,000 square kilometres. This includes four declared Indigenous Protected Areas—the Djelk, Warddeken, South East Arnhem Land and Laynhapuy IPAs—as well as two IPAs currently under consultation — Mimal and ASRAC.



Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation (ASRAC)

ASRAC is an independent not-for-profit Aboriginal organisation based at Ramingining in north-east Arnhem Land, 580 kilometres east of Darwin in the Northern Territory.

ASRAC was established in 2013 to support and administer a catchment-based network of eight ranger groups working together. Within ASRAC, these groups are responsible for looking after 14,000 square kilometres of Country for Yolŋu and Bininj people from 27 clans. The ranger groups bring together traditional Indigenous knowledge and Western scientific knowledge to look after Country across inland, freshwater and swamp areas.

All management activities are underpinned by ASRAC's Healthy Country Plan. ASRAC's Board of eight Yolŋu and Bininj directors, representative of the landowning clans within the region, is responsible for monitoring progress to achieve the targets in their Healthy Country Plan.



Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation

Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation manages 20,000 square kilometres of Central Arnhem Land, comprising woodland forests, rocky Country, freshwater places and sites of great cultural significance.

Caring for Country and culture is Mimal's primary goal. Their highest priorities include fire management, controlling invasive weeds and feral animals, saving native species, maintaining strong culture and sustainable visitor management.

There are approximately 300 Indigenous members of Mimal, who manage corporation through electing the corporation's nine directors. Mimal is therefore more than just their members. Mimal is working for all Traditional Owners, for all clans and for all the people who live at Bulman, Weemol and Barrapunta.

Mimal also currently administers the Strong Women for Healthy Country Network.



Nawarddeken Academy Limited

The Nawarddeken Academy was established at the request of Nawarddeken Traditional Owners, who wanted access to full-time education in their home communities to make their children strong in both Bininj (Indigenous) and Balanda (non-Indigenous) worlds. Beginning with one teacher under a tarpaulin in 2015, the curriculum, resources, student attendance and staff team grew, until Nawarddeken Academy Limited gained registration as an independent school and wholly-owned subsidiary of Warddeken Land Management Limited in 2017.

The Academy combines traditional Indigenous knowledge and the Australian Curriculum to provide a holistic and engaging educational experience, which has resulted in average attendance rates above 90 per cent whilst in community. It operates across three remote homeland communities in the Warddeken IPA: Kabulwarnamyo, Manmoyi and Mamadawerre. The Academy is registered to deliver K-7 education, and is in the process of establishing high schools and growing its Early Learning Program.

Incoming partners

Homeland School Company

Community leaders and Traditional Owners in the Djelk IPA established the Homeland School Company in 2023. Learning from the success of the Nawarddeken Academy, their aspiration is for this organisation to deliver on their vision for the future of their Country, culture and communities, with full-time education at remote homelands.

At present, students are unable to live on and learn about their homelands, which has led to families moving between their homeland communities and the township of Maningrida to access consistent education. This company intends to resolve this issue through establishing bi-cultural independent schools at key homelands across the IPA.

Supporter insight

Margie Moroney



“I call us the accidental philanthropists...”

Margie Moroney, Director

Lois Nadjamerrek and Margie Moroney at Kabulwarnamyo spring. Photo: Courtesy of Margie Moroney

My family and I have been supporters of the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust for nearly 10 years. I first visited this amazing Country in Arnhem Land in 2014 with my younger daughter Anna. We had very little idea of what to expect, and any preconceptions were soon blown away by these extraordinary remote outstations and the incredible people who live and work there.

We were welcomed to Country in the glorious waters of the Kabulwarnamyo spring. Standing together in that ancestral place, Traditional Owner Lois Nadjamerrek spoke to me of the community's desire and need for a school, to educate their children, the families of working Indigenous rangers. This vision of bi-cultural homeland education on their Country had existed for decades. I understood its suitability for purpose immediately.

Coming home I spoke to my husband, Neil Watson, about the task to fundraise for a 'bush school' saying "we'll just host one fundraising dinner and then we will pass it on"...

Returning to Arnhem Land a few months later with Neil, Anna and our older daughter Sara we all soon became engaged, and a long-term, family commitment has followed.

There are three significant factors we observed then, and that have kept us in the fold. First, there are outstanding people at every turn, both Bininj (Indigenous) and Balanda (non-Indigenous).

Then there is the clutch of matriarchs, with a powerful group of sisters in each community ensuring that the young ones 'move along' as Lois puts it. Third, there is the practical impact of enterprise coming to these communities, with market economics finally valuing indigenous knowledge in tangible, monetary terms, via world-first research involving CSIRO to generate and sell carbon credits through traditional cool-season fire management and burning practices.

We led several fundraising rounds and the first little school, called the Nawarddeken Academy (NAL), opened in Kabulwarnamyo in June 2015. It was funded entirely by philanthropy for the first three years, and then in 2018 the NAL achieved registration as an Independent school and some federal government funding ensued.

We stayed on as donors throughout expansions to three primary school campuses, the evolution of a high school, and now funding is in place to develop the long-envisioned 'bush university.' For some time now, I have also been a board Director of both KKT and NAL—so I guess the 'just one dinner at home' thing didn't quite eventuate, hence the accidental philanthropist title.

The Nawarddeken Academy, and its extensions, are my overarching passions but, up there, everything is connected and each project supports the others. KKT works with six pillars of community support around environmental, social and cultural sustenance. An example, with children now in school a women's (daluk) ranger program was enabled, to get up-and-coming female rangers out into the field, and gaining work skills.

These traditional landowners of Arnhem Land, their supporters, and our joint work, all occupy a large piece of my heart and have immeasurably enriched our minds. Our collective efforts have introduced us to such wonderful people and we grow together in learnings, outcomes, in friendships and in fun. In some ways I feel like we are just getting going...

There have been many cups of tea... If you would like to hear more just call me or Stacey—we are always keen for another cuppa.

Margie Moroney
KKT Director
September 2023

Thank you

“KKT ngandibidyikarrme bimken, mayhken dja kunbolkken o kunredken.”

“KKT supporters help us in being able to care for Country on projects such as species care, rock art, land/ecology and education.”

Lorna and Suzannah Nabulwad
Warddeken rangers

Thank you to our partners in Arnhem Land whose tireless effort and determination inspires and drives what we do. Thank you to our generous supporters who make this work possible. Together, we recognise the value of Indigenous land management and the benefits it brings to Country, culture and communities.

Supporters for the 2023 financial year include:

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In addition to the above, our sincere thanks goes out to every person who has made a donation in support of country, culture and community in West and Central Arnhem Land.

Thank you to our partner organisations



Thank you to our founders

Jan & Peter Cooke AM
The Nature Conservancy
The PEW Environment Group

Thank you to our in-kind supporters

Ellis Jones
Rodeo
White and Case
The Hub

2023 financial report



As we grow as an organisation, so does our impact. We are supporting more Indigenous ranger groups and projects on the ground than ever before.

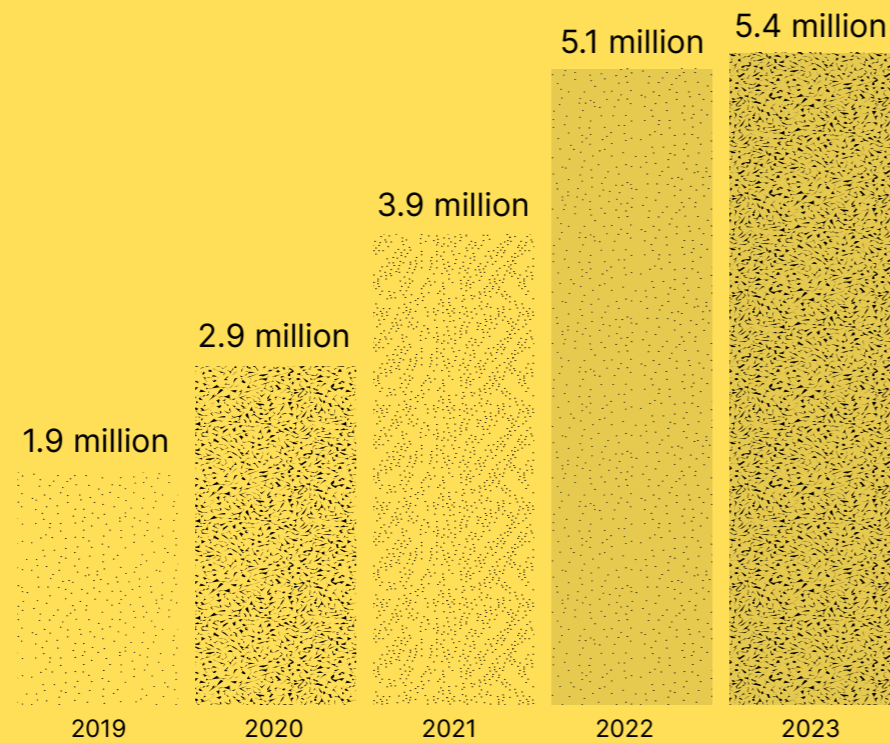


Keishon Bangarr, Nawarddeken Academy student in Manmoyi. Photo: Stacey Irving

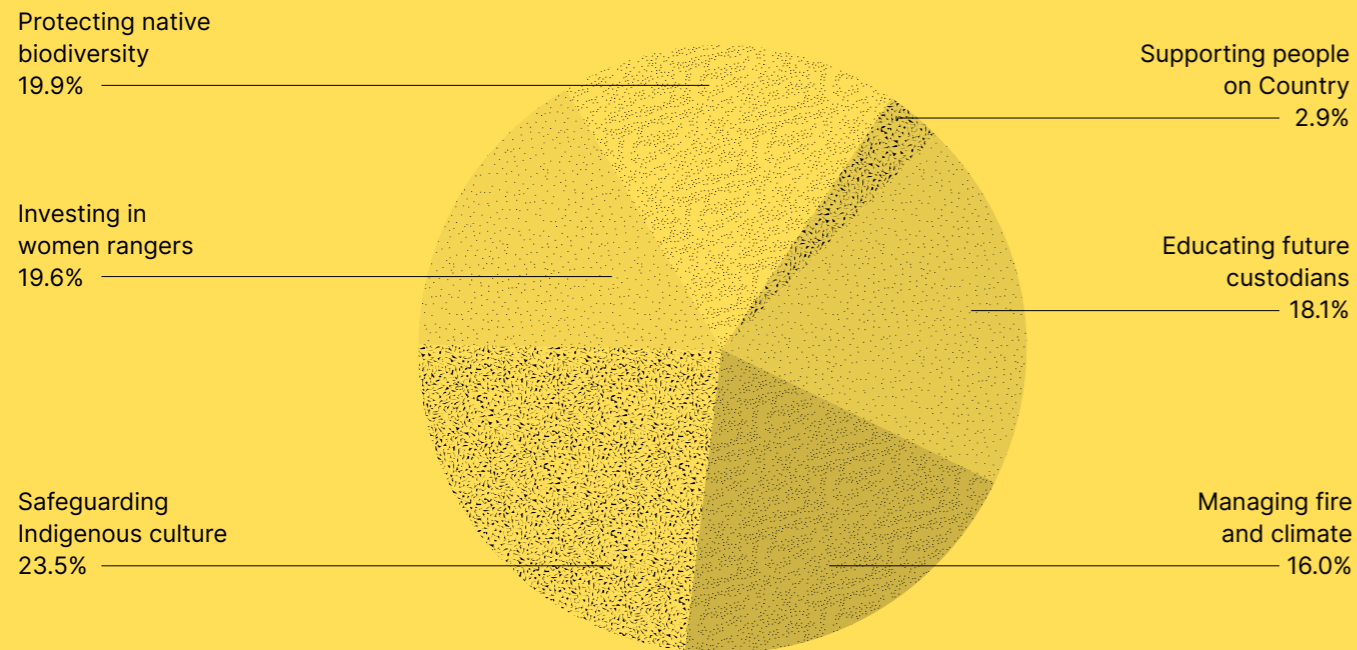
Right: Djirrhiddid (forest kingfisher). Photo: Stacey Irving

Total income

Thanks to our supporters and partners, our 2023 financial year income was \$5.44 million, a 4.4 per cent increase on the last financial year.



Allocation of KKT grants made



Directors' Report

In respect of the financial year ended 30 June 2023, the directors of the trustee company of the Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust (the Trust) submit the following report, made out in accordance with a resolution of the directors:

Directors of the trustee company

The names of Directors of the company in office at the date of this report are: Dean Yibarbuk (Co-Chair), Justin Punch (Co-Chair), Emeritus Professor Jon Altman, Margie Moroney, Frederick Hunter, John Dalywater, Teya Dusseldorp, Cindy Jinmarabynana, Otto Campion.

Principal Activities

Create a sustainable financial model that will assist funding of indigenous ranger groups and land owners to protect and manage the natural and cultural environment of West and Central Arnhem Land.

Trading Results

An operating surplus of \$762,222 was recorded for the year (2022: \$1,334,102).

Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

There were no significant changes not otherwise noted in the state of affairs of the Trust during the year.

Events Subsequent to Balance Date

Since the end of the financial year the Directors are not aware of any matter or circumstances not otherwise noted within the report that have significantly affected the operations of the Trust, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Trust in subsequent financial years.

Likely Developments

At present, no developments are planned which would significantly affect the operations or results of the Trust.

Directors Benefits

No Director of the company has, since the end of the previous financial year, received or become entitled to receive a benefit (other than a benefit included in the total amount of emoluments received or due and receivable by Directors shown in the accounts) by reason of a contract made by the company as trustee of the Trust with a controlling entity or a related body corporate of a Director or with a firm of which a Director is a member, or with an entity in which a Director has a substantial financial investment.

Independence

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 is set out on [page 82](#).

Signed at Sydney and Melbourne this 27th day of September 2023

Director

Director

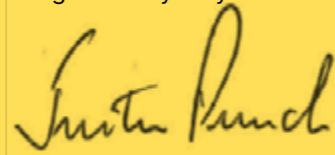
Directors' Declaration

In the opinion of the Directors:

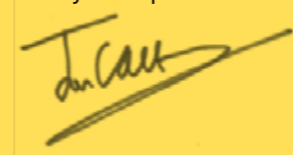
- The Directors of Karrkad-Kanjdi Ltd as trustee for the Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust (the Trust) have determined that the Trust is not a reporting entity and that the special purpose financial statements are appropriate to meet the information needs of members and users of the financial statements. The special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with note 1 to the financial statements.
- The accompanying Statement of Financial Performance has been prepared so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the Trust for the year ended 30 June 2023.
- The accompanying Statement of Financial Position is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust as at 30 June 2023.
- At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Trust will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- The accompanying financial statements have been made out in accordance with the provisions of the Corporations Act 2001 and laws and give a true and fair view of the matters with which they deal.
- The special purpose financial report complies with all of the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards and reporting requirements under the Corporations Act 2001.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors

Signed at Sydney and Melbourne this 27th day of September 2023



Director



Director

Auditor's Independence Declaration

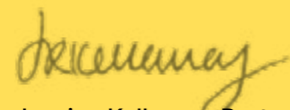
To the Directors of Karrkad-Kanjdi Ltd.

This auditor's independence declaration has been provided pursuant to s307 of the Corporations Act 2001.

Independence Declaration

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 there have been:

- no contraventions of the auditor independence as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Jessica Kellaway, Partner
CA, CPA, Registered Company Auditor
28/09/2023

Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023(\$)	2022(\$)
Ordinary income		
Donations — projects and untied	3,647,266	3,614,129
Donations — KKT operations	551,370	759,223
Grants — projects and untied	951,380	632,591
Grants — KKT operations	158,370	170,000
Investment income	137,140	37,429
Other income	353	-
Total ordinary income	5,445,879	5,213,372
Expenses		
Accountancy	-	2,500
Advertising	2,648	978
Audit fees	4,500	4,400
Bank charges	3,205	6,669
Board expenses	58,095	2,207
Camping gear	-	4,766
Catering	7,177	3,850
Computer and internet	17,019	11,389
Consultants & contractors	28,860	31,140
Depreciation	3,698	2,148
Dues & subscriptions	3,379	3,313
Event expenses	38,719	5,399
Grants	3,731,546	3,232,448
Insurances	15,374	8,285
Investment management fees	6,202	5,240
Minor equipment	1,822	1,997
Office expenses	1,690	4,249
Printing	14,741	10,264
Professional development	2,030	7,684
Rent	33,336	11,892
Telephone	1,522	1,178
Travel & accommodation	115,736	56,237
Salaries & wages	533,187	419,450
Superannuation	54,481	40,783
Sundry expenses	4,690	804
Total expenses	4,683,657	3,879,270
Net operating surplus *	762,222	1,334,102
Non-operating items		
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	27,395	(92,260)
Net total surplus	789,617	1,241,842

*The vast majority of Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust funding is gifted at the end of the financial year, and allocated to our partners for deployment in the following financial year. Refer to Note 3—Committed funds for more detail.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2023

<u>Assets</u>	Current assets	Note	2023(\$)	2022(\$)
	Cash at bank — operating accounts	2a	714,114	546,316
	Cash at bank — public fund	2b	4,060,881	3,928,028
	Contingency fund	2c	495,360	483,786
	Stripe donations account	2d	1,957	19,734
	Trade receivables		276,077	331,213
	Net GST receivable		90,469	128,460
	Prepayments		75,673	-
	Other current assets		7,083	1,320
	Total current assets		5,721,614	5,438,857
	Non-current assets			
	Plant and equipment	4	9,102	7,195
	Intangible assets	5	19,452	-
	Endowment fund	6	1,194,094	652,416
	Total non-current assets		1,222,648	659,611
	Total assets		6,944,262	6,098,468
<u>Liabilities</u>	Current liabilities			
	Trade creditors and accrued expenses		62,171	30,547
	Other payables		40,486	19,051
	Provision for annual leave		47,540	42,936
	Total current liabilities		150,197	92,534
	Non-current liabilities			
	Provision for long service leave		12,894	14,380
	Total non-current liabilities		12,894	14,380
	Total liabilities		163,091	106,914
	Net assets		6,781,171	5,991,554
	Equity			
	Committed & allocated funds*	3	5,891,347	5,015,360
	Retained earnings		900,744	1,014,509
	Investment revaluation reserve		(10,920)	(38,315)
	Total equity		6,781,171	5,991,554

*A significant portion of Karrkad-Kanjdi's equity as at 30 June 2023 is represented by cash and cash equivalents that are tied to projects, FY2024 operational expenditure and committed for future use by the trust. Project commitments as at 30 June 2023 are displayed in Note 3.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2023

*Retained Earnings includes movements in Committed and Allocated Funds

	Investment revaluation reserve (\$)	Retained Earnings* (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance of Equity as at 1 July 2021	53,945	4,695,767	4,749,712
Revaluation of investments	(92,260)	-	(92,260)
Operating Surplus for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022	-	1,334,102	1,334,102
Balance of Equity as at 1 July 2022	(38,315)	6,029,869	5,991,554
Revaluation of investments	27,395	-	27,395
Operating Surplus for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	-	762,222	762,222
Balance of Equity as at 30 June 2023	(10,920)	6,792,091	6,781,171

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023(\$)	2022(\$)
<u>Cash flows from operating activities</u>		
Cash inflows:		
Operating receipts	5,835,741	5,199,636
Interest receipts	107,533	4,661
Cash generated from operations	5,943,274	5,204,297
Cash outflows:		
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,017,346)	(610,975)
Payments for grants	(4,104,701)	(3,555,693)
Cash used in operations	(5,122,047)	(4,166,668)
Net cash generated from operating activities	821,227	1,037,629
<u>Cash flows from investing activities</u>		
Cash outflows:		
Purchase of plant and equipment	(5,179)	(6,096)
Purchase of software	(22,000)	-
Purchase of investments	(500,000)	-
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	400	1,000
Cash used in investing activities	(526,779)	(5,096)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	294,448	1,032,533
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	4,977,864	3,945,331
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	5,272,312	4,977,864

Notes to the financial statements

Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. The financial report has been prepared on a consolidated basis consisting of two entities, The Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust, ABN 98 502 331 587 (the Trust); and Karrkad-Kanjdi Limited, ABN 69 139 324 557 (the Company). The Company exists solely for the purpose of acting as trustee of the Trust and receives donations and grants into the gift bank account it operates. Revenue received is then transferred to the Trust for use in its charitable activities.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Corporations Act 2001 and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of the statements are as follows:

- a) Cash and Cash Equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdraft facilities.
- b) Trade Debtors and Other Receivables
Trade debtors are recognised and carried forward at invoice amount including any applicable GST.
- c) Investments
All investments are measured at market value. Unrealised movements in market value are recognised as non-operating gains or losses in the Statement of Financial Performance and accumulated in the Investments revaluation reserve account in Equity.
- d) Trade and Other Payables
Liabilities for trade creditors and other amounts are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services rendered including any applicable GST.
- e) Revenue Recognition
Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the association and the revenue can be reliably measured.

Grants and donations are recognised in accordance with AASB1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Entities.

- f) Employee Liabilities
These liabilities accrue for staff as a result of services provided up to the reporting date that remain unpaid or for entitlements unused.
- g) Income Tax
The company is exempt from paying income tax due to it being a not for profit entity under s50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.
- h) Comparatives
Where necessary, comparatives have been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.
- i) Contingent assets and liabilities
There have been no events which meet the definition of an event as per AASB 110 Para 3. There are no contingent assets, contingent liabilities or any obligations as per AASB 137 Para 10.
- j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)
The company is registered for GST. All revenue and expense amounts are stated as exclusive of GST.

Note 2 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Note 2a Operating Funds		
Operating Account	664,574	485,370
Day to Day Account	49,540	60,946
Total Operating Funds	714,114	546,316
Note 2b Public Fund		
Gift Account	4,060,881	3,928,028
Total Public Fund	4,060,881	3,928,028
Note 2c Contingency Fund		
Contingency Fund	495,360	483,786
Total Contingency Fund	495,360	483,786
Note 2d Stripe Donations		
Stripe Donations Account	1,957	19,734
Total Stripe Donations	1,957	19,734
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,272,312	4,977,864

Note 3 Committed Funds

The balance of cash and cash equivalents includes the following funds that have been received by the Karrkad-Kanjddji Trust but not yet spent. The projects are still in progress or have yet to commence.

Project Commitments	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
KKT Endowment Fund	1,194,094	652,416
Native Biodiversity	413,493	533,329
Climate Change	45,508	332,508
Bi-cultural Education	1,526,490	351,293
Women Rangers	572,690	618,299
Cultural Heritage	525,240	388,703
Community Sustainability	-	-
	4,277,515	2,876,548
Allocated Funds		
KKT Operations FY2023	230,248	932,739
KKT Contingency	495,360	483,786
KKT Project Development Fee	888,224	722,287
	1,613,832	2,138,812
Total funds held available for future use as at 30 June	5,891,347	5,015,360

Note 4 Plant and Equipment

	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Computer equipment	14,005	10,655
Accumulated depreciation	(6,400)	(5,299)
	7,605	5,356
Furniture & fixtures	703	703
Accumulated depreciation	(275)	(205)
	428	498
Plant & Equipment	1,363	1,363
Accumulated depreciation	(294)	(22)
	1,069	1,341
Total plant and equipment	16,071	12,721
Total accumulated depreciation	(6,969)	(5,526)
Written down value	9,102	7,195

Note 5 Intangible Assets

	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Website	20,000	-
Accumulated amortisation	(548)	-
	19,452	-

Note 6 Endowment Fund

	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Opening balance at market value	652,416	717,672
Contributions	500,000	-
Reinvestment of net income earned	14,283	20,329
Movement in market values — realised and unrealised	27,395	(85,585)
Closing balance at market value	1,194,094	652,416

Note 7
Segment Note
—Public Fund

Segment Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30 June 2023

In accordance with Section 30-265 (2) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 and Taxation Ruling 95/27 Karrkad-Kanjddji Trust maintains a Public Fund. Income and expenditure related to activities of the Public Fund are detailed below.

Ordinary income	Public Fund	Other	Total
Grant income	-	1,109,750	1,109,750
Interest and investment income	100,134	37,006	137,140
Donations	4,198,636	-	4,198,636
Other income	-	353	353
Total ordinary income	4,298,770	1,147,109	5,445,879
Expenses			
Grants	3,731,546	-	3,731,546
Operations	434,372	517,739	952,111
Total expenses	4,165,918	517,739	4,683,657
Net operating surplus	132,853	629,369	762,222
Non-operating items			
Unrealised gain on investments	-	27,395	27,395
Total net surplus	132,853	656,764	789,617

Note 8
Related Parties and Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel comprise the Chief Executive Officer and Directors and Committee members of the Company.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel, and entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by those key management personnel individually or collectively with their close family members.

During the year ended 30 June 2023 Karrkad-Kanjddji Trust entered into no contracts with related parties (2022: \$nil).

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Report

To the Directors of Karrkad-Kanjddji Ltd.

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Karrkad Kanjddji Trust, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of financial performance for the year then ended, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the director's declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Karrkad Kanjddji Trust, in all material respects, for the period 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards and to the extent described in Note 1, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and Division 60 the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter—Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

Without modifying our opinion expressed above, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the Corporations Act 2001 and for the purpose of fulfilling the entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Responsibility of Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the reporting requirements and needs of the Trust. The Directors responsibility also includes such internal control the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are responsible for overseeing the Trust's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

GALPINS ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS



Jessica Kellaway, Partner
CA, CPA, Registered Company Auditor
28/09/2023

What's next

Together with our supporters, we continue to work towards our five-year plan to enhance, grow, sustain and share our work and the work of our partner organisations.

In the coming year, we are especially looking forward to bringing education to homelands in the Djelk IPA, growing the reach and impact of the Strong Women for Healthy Country Network and renewing our focus on KKT's visionary goal of long-term flexible funding for remote First Nations communities.

ASRAC Rangers looking out over Gurruwiling (Arafura Swamp).
Photo: Amelia Ellerton



Bringing education to homelands in the Djelk IPA



The Djelk Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) encompasses 6,732 square kilometres of Bininj land in North-Central Arnhem Land. Traditional Owners from Djelk have witnessed the success of the Nawarddeken Academy and hold their own ambitions for community-owned, full-time education across Djelk's remote homeland communities. There is currently one government teacher servicing 12 homeland communities in Djelk, without the resources or infrastructure to deliver full-time and culturally relevant lessons.

However, thanks to the trailblazing work of the Nawarddeken Academy in the neighbouring Warddeken IPA, communities can see a different pathway for their children.

Over the coming three years, KKT aims to raise philanthropic funding for the newly established Homeland School Company to start and register three primary schools across the Djelk IPA. Eventually, these schools will transition to federal independent school funding—ensuring place-based education for the long term.

Growing the reach and impact of the Strong Women for Healthy Country Network



The Strong Women for Healthy Country Network, established by women Elders and rangers from the Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation, has been growing the voice of First Nations women in the Indigenous land management movement since 2019. The Network now holds ambitions to become an independent organisation, entirely owned by women from the Network, providing year-round support for members.

This will include ranger exchanges to learn from one another, social workers and counselling to support wellbeing, and opening up an invitation to First Nations women from across Australia to connect and stand united.

KKT aims to provide funding for the Network over the coming three years so that it can continue to grow, smoothly transition to 100 per cent First Nations leadership, and achieve its vision for strong women and healthy Country.

KKT Endowment: A long-term vision for healthy Country



The founding intention behind KKT was to raise philanthropic funding for an endowment, the earnings of which could fund Indigenous land management in West and Central Arnhem Land in perpetuity. Over time, it became clear that filling immediate project needs on the ground should be KKT's first priority, and this has supported KKT's success to date. Nevertheless, this visionary goal to provide flexible, responsive and community-directed funding in perpetuity remains at the

heart of our work and a continuing ambition for KKT's Bininj directors and partner organisations.

This year, a renewed focus on KKT's endowment will include the launch of a new, best practice Gift in Will Program, with the intention of connecting the legacy of our supporters with the continuation of the oldest living culture on Earth. We look forward to sharing this with the KKT community in the coming months.

Common terms

In this report, you will find some terms from dialects in the Bininj Kunwok (“bin-iny goon-wok”) language group spoken in West Arnhem Land. We have provided some rough translations and pronunciations, along with other common English language terms.

Anbinik:	an ancient, endemic and culturally-significant proto-eucalypt tree species with the scientific name <i>Allosyncarpia ternata</i>
Balabbala:	traditional permanent shelter with a raised platform and canvas roof
Balanda:	person of non-Aboriginal decent
Bim:	Indigenous art from this region
Bininj (Bininy):	Indigenous person or people from this region, or specifically a man/males
Daluk (dah-look):	female, woman or wife
Djang (jhang):	roughly translates to a significant place where cultural practices and beliefs are embodied in the physical location or features of the landscape linked to ceremonies, totemic emblems, native species, creation stories and spirit beings
Djungkay (Jhoong-kye):	landowners who have inherited responsibilities to care for land and culture from their mother's side
Karrkad (gada-gut):	higher grounds away from the floodplains, above the escarpment
Kanjdji (guny-gee):	downstream lowlands towards the coast
Malkno (mulk-no):	seasons
Kuwarddewardde (Koo-wahr-day-wahr-day):	Stone Country of the Arnhem escarpment
Kunwarddebim (goon-wahr-day-bim):	rock art
Landowners:	collective term for both Traditional Owners and Djungkay, referring to people who have inherited responsibilities to care for land and culture from their mother's and/or their father's side
Mayh (my'):	animals
Nawarddeken (Nah-wahr-dehgen):	people of the Warddeken area
Orphaned Country:	land without its people
Traditional Owner:	landowners who have inherited responsibilities to care for land and culture from their father's side , but often used as the collective term instead of landowner
Wurdyaw (woord-yaw):	little kids
Wurdurd (were-durd):	children



A note on language

The areas where we work are highly linguistically diverse. Each different language of this region is often also composed of several varieties or mutually intelligible dialects. Most are endangered, with some smaller language groups having very few speakers while others have more than 1000 speakers. However most, if not all, of these have a standard spelling system or orthography designed by linguists in consultation with speech communities. Depending on the language, knowledge of these spelling systems is sometimes limited and can result in non-standard or alternative spellings.

KKT occasionally uses words from local languages to reflect culturally specific terms and expressions commonly used by the communities we partner with. We have provided a list of common terms on the opposite page and have checked these terms with local speakers and linguists to respect standard spelling systems. Nevertheless, we acknowledge there may still be occasional differing views about spelling and usage.

Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek teaching Dalabon words to wurdyaw (child).
Photo: Amelia Ellerton

This work is made possible by the generosity of our community.

To support us, please contact mail@kkt.org.au

ASRAC rangers Solomon O’Ryan and Chris Wangaypuma.
Photo: Stacey Irving



Donate



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↓ Fill out the donation form and return to the reply paid address.

Yes, please sign me up to the KKT mailing list.

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Address			State
Email	Phone	Date of birth / /	
I will give \$	One-off donation <input type="radio"/>	Recurring monthly donation <input type="radio"/>	
Cheque/money order ^(enclosed) <input type="radio"/>	VISA <input type="radio"/>	MasterCard <input type="radio"/>	AMEX <input type="radio"/>
Card no.	Expiry date /	CVC	
Cardholder’s name		Signature	

All donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductable.
Cheques made out to: Karrkad Kanjdji Trust

Karrkad Kanjdji Trust
Wurundjeri Country
Level 2, 696 Bourke Street
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

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Barrapunta (Emu Springs)
seasonal outstation in Mimal.
Photo: Stacey Irving



For the protection and management
of the natural and cultural environment
of West and Central Arnhem Land.

kkt.org.au
mail@kkt.org.au

Karrkad Kanjdji Trust
Wurundjeri Country
Level 2, 696 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000



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