



Warddeken
Land Management Ltd
Annual Report 2018-19

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The bidbimyo (hand stencil) at the centre of the Warddeken logo is the hand of Warddeken's founder and patron, Baradayal Lofty Nadjamerrek AO (Wamud Namok, 1926-2009). The symbol reminds us that it is his guiding hand that led the land management movement in western Arnhem Land. His vision leads us into the future.

FRONT COVER: Oasis of Bladderwort near Mt Howship in NW corner of the Warddeken IPA.
Manlabbarl kore Bladderwort darnkih Mt Howship, Kakbi karrikad kubuldjdjarn Warddeken IPA.
Photo by Natalie Chester

Vision

Our vision is to have our healthy people living and working on our healthy country in the Arnhem Plateau.

We want the management of our land to be in our hands now, and into the future.



Photo by Rowand Taylor



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The Warddeken Story

The Warddeken story is about Nawarddeken returning to country, reconnecting with our heritage, and maintaining bininj knowledge and language. It is a story about caring for country using both traditional and contemporary management practices.

The Kuwarddewardde is the stone country of the Arnhem Land Plateau. It is the home of Nawarddeken, our people. For thousands of generations Nawarddeken clan groups lived on their ancestral estates in the stone country.

Nawarddeken cared for and shaped this landscape. They walked and camped throughout the Kuwarddewardde, undertaking fine scale traditional burning across their estates each dry season. Djungkay (ceremonial managers) carried out and managed ceremonies, and regularly visited djang (sacred sites) and other cultural sites.

With the arrival of balanda (Europeans) Nawarddeken began to leave the Kuwarddewardde, lured by Christian and government missions, opportunities to work in the mining and buffalo industries, and the appeal of larger settlements such as Gunbalanya and Maningrida. Some also served with the armed forces in WWII.

By the late 1960s, the Kuwarddewardde was largely depopulated. Nawarddeken elders considered the country orphaned. For the next 30 years, our professors saw and felt the devastation of large wildfires and an increasing number of feral animals impacting on biodiversity

and cultural sites. Their concern was matched only by their desire and motivation to return to country, to once again look after the Kuwarddewardde and pass on their knowledge to future generations.

In the early 1970s, our visionary elder, Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek AO, began bringing Nawarddeken back to their homeland communities. Finally, in 2002, Lofty moved back permanently to his childhood home at Kabulwarnamyo and established the Manwurrk ranger program that allowed landowners to make a living on country.



The Manwurrk rangers pioneered a number of innovative fire management programs, including Australia’s first savannah carbon project, the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Project (WALFA). Since then, carbon projects have become one of the biggest indigenous industries and economies in Australia – and they originated here.

In 2007, after extensive consultation and meetings between

landowners, clan members and the Northern Land Council, Warddeken Land Management Limited was formally registered as a not for profit public company, limited by guarantee, and Manwurrk evolved into Warddeken. Our Board of Directors is comprised of representatives drawn from more than 36 clan groups of the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area.

ABOVE: Rangers and families taking part in the 2019 bushwalk at Morlekarrang campsite. *Bedda kabirri durrkmirri rangers dja mak namud kore Morlekarrang, bushwalk 2019.* Photo by Alys Stevens

Our company is responsible for extensive fire management, feral animal control, weed control, and monitoring of our unique and threatened biodiversity. Through this work, Narwarddeken can once again live on country and look after significant sacred sites, rock art and archaeological sites, and transfer knowledge to younger generations.



Buffalo skull painted by Berribob Watson at Manmoyi.
Nganabbarru kodjmurrgno Berribob Watson bimbom kore Manmoyi.
Photo by Rowand Taylor

Our Professors

We acknowledge the most senior and knowledgeable Nawarddeken as our professors, those who are still with us and those whose spirits have returned to the stone country. Our professors hold unequalled knowledge about our home, the Kuwarddewardde. Their wisdom and foresight set us on the path we follow today. We carry them in our hearts and their vision continues to guide us into the future.



Jimmy Kalariya Namarnyilk



Peter Nabarlambarl Billis



Jack Djandjomerr



Ruby Bilidja



Mary Naborlhborlh



Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek AO



Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek



Djawida Nadjongorle



Josie Maralngurra



Jacob Nayinggul



Lillian Guymala



Timothy Nadjowh OA



Leonie Guymala



Leanne Guymala



Wurdib Nabalwad

Indigenous Protected Area

The work of our professors, particularly the late Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek, led to the dedication of the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) on 24 September 2009. Since its establishment, more than 250 indigenous people have worked within the IPA.

The Warddeken IPA encompasses approximately 1.4 million hectares of the Kuwarddewardde (stone country) in West Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, bordering Kakadu National Park to the west, and overlapping with the Djelk IPA in the north. It encompasses the upper reaches of the Liverpool, Mann, East Alligator, Katherine and Goomadeer rivers, and includes part of the South Alligator River catchment.

Outstation communities of the IPA are:

Koyek (east) - Kabulwarnamyo, Manmoyi and Kamarrkawarn

Kakbi (north) - Kudjekbinj, Kumarrirrbang, Mamardawerre, Marlwon and Table Hill

Karrikad (west) - Kudjumarndi and Mikkinj

Walem (south) - Marlkawo

There are four permanently populated outstations in the IPA, Manmoyi, Kabulwarnamyo, Marlkawo and Mamardawerre, just outside our northern boundary. Warddeken operates across 14,000 square kilometres of the Kuwarddewardde from three ranger bases; Kabulwarnamyo and Manmoyi in Koyek ward of the IPA, and Mamardawerre in Kakbi ward.

Thanks to the support of the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, the Mamardawerre ranger base was established this year. Additional ranger bases are vital to expanding our management







programs to address issues right across the IPA.

The repopulation of the Kuwarddewardde is steadily empowering Nawarddeken to care for and manage their lands. As Warddeken grows we will continue to explore and develop new ranger bases to support the return of Nawarddeken to their country enabling the proper care of these lands into the future.

OPPOSITE: Photo by David Hancock



LEGEND

-  Warddeken IPA
-  Outstation Ranger Base
-  Outstation
-  Seasonal Camp
-  Outstation
-  Community/Township

2018-19 Board of Directors

More than 363 Nawarddeken are registered members of our company, Warddeken Land Management Limited. Warddeken is governed by an indigenous Board of Directors. Every three years, three board members are elected for each ward of the Warddeken IPA: Kakbi (north), Karrikad (west), Walem (south) and Koyek (east). The next election will be held in 2019.

Kakbi



Kevin Buliwana



Victor Garlingarr



Conrad Marlangurra

Representing clan groups: Warddjak (Maburrinj), Ngalngbali (Kudjekbinj), Yurlhmanj (Djalbangurrk), Madjuwarr (Kunukdi), Marrirn (Kumarrirnbang), Wurrik (Mandedjkadjang), Mayirrkulidj (DjurIka), Durlmangkarr (Kudjaborrng/Kunburray), Djok (Ngolwarr), and Barrbinj (Kumarrirnbang/Kudjaldordo)

Karrikad



Jessie Alderson



Fred Hunter



Kenneth Mangiru

Representing clan groups: Manilakarr Urningangk (Mikkinj), Maddalk (Kumalabukka), Warddjak/Worrrkorl (Balmana from Kundjikurdubuk), Bolmo (Dedjrungi and Dordokiyu), Badmardi (Balawurru, succession/ caretaking), Wurnkomku (Nawoberr), and Danek (Kudjumarndi)

Walem



Dean Yibarbuk



Joelene Miller



Lachlan Jumbirri

Representing clan groups: Djorrorlom (Bamo), Murruba (Morre), Karnbirr (Djohmi), Mimbilawuy (KarIngarr), Barabba (Mimbrung), Mandjuwarlwarl (Bobbolinjarr), Bolmo (Marlkawo), Barradj (Yanjkobarnem), Buluwunwun (Walangandjang), and Bulumo (Makkebowan)

Koyek



Terrah Guymala



Stuart Guymala



Lois Nadjamerrek

Representing clan groups: Bordoh (Ngorlkwarre), Mok/Berdberd (Ankung Djang/Ngalkombarli), Yamarr (Kidbulmaniyimarra), Kulmarru (Kubumi), Rol (Bolkngok), Djordi/Djorrorlom (Kodwalewale), Wurrbbarn (Nabrang), Warridjngu (Boburk), and Yamarr (Kidbulmaniyimarra)

Chairman's Report



Dean Yibarbuk

To me, this year has been a great year and a hard year as well. There have been a lot of challenges, especially with the school registration, but we succeeded and the Nawarddeken Academy is now registered as an independent school. The new Minister for Education knows that our children need their education.

Families at Manmoyi and Mamardawerre have a strong belief that kids should have full-time education; two days per week is not enough. They have given their consent for the Nawarddeken Academy in both areas and this is now in process. At the same time, we want our relationship with

neighbouring schools at Gunbalanya and Maningrida to keep growing, to keep talking to each other.

This year, the fire program was also a really big job. In the past, we stopped early burning by July or mid-August, but this year we had terrible wildfires. Our rangers were great, they just kept on pounding on and on until they stopped the fires spreading to other areas. Some fires were from lightning strikes and some from campfires. The message needs to get out to visitors and families out hunting to make sure your fire is out.

Now we have ranger bases at Manmoyi and Mamardawerre with coordinators in both areas. We are not trying to centralise our services, it's very important to see those two areas have their own coordinators, man and woman, and senior rangers program. We need to see indigenous and non-indigenous people working together. With our long serving coordinators Jake and Georgia leaving, we are in the process of settling in our new people. We

want to see reliable people who are committed and connected to the land and engaged with our people.

Through the language program and Steven Bird we are developing a language app for bininj employees to learn English and balanda employees to learn Kunwinjku. Some of our rangers also shared their stories in Kunwinjku at events in Darwin.

It is important for us to tell our stories. This year, together with Denis Rose from Guditj Mirring, and David Ross from Central Land Council, I met with First Nations communities and government officials in Canada. There were a lot of questions. We sat down and talked about how we started and how we are continuing to work with government to realise the dream of our visionary elders for all Narwaddeken.

Dean Yibarbuk
CHAIRMAN

“Warddeken has always followed up what our people wanted, especially the important things. Warddeken growth has been 'steady steady' - we are not in a rush.”

Verticordia cunninghami grows on seasonally flooded sandy drainage flats. *Manbirrbirr kadjordmen kore kukabohkabo kubolkkawadjwern*. Photo by Rowand Taylor

Warddeken CEO's Report



Shaun Ansell

The 2018-19 year was epic. In a year full of major challenges that included registering schools, extreme firefighting efforts and the departure of some of our much-loved key staff, Warddeken prevailed. 2018-19 sees our company larger, stronger and more capable than ever.

Good fire management requires the careful application fire during the early dry season to renew country and establish a fine scale mosaic of burnt and unburnt ground. This needs to be backed up by willing, expert fire fighting teams during the late season.

We began this year with a challenging wildfire season which tested our team's expertise and endurance to their limits. Using their skill and knowledge of country they overcame incredibly difficult

weather conditions to produce an outstanding result.

With the help of the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation we achieved the long-held vision of establishing a ranger base in the Kakbi ward of the IPA. The development of the new Mamardawerre base is a prime example of Warddeken investing the proceeds of the WALFA project with our partners to deliver increased benefit to our members.

It was also a huge success, after a long and arduous journey, to achieve registration of the independent school at Kabulwarnamyo, the Nawarddeken Academy. Thanks to our directors, staff and many friends for their extraordinary efforts.

In this year of change, one change in particular stands out. This year we said goodbye to Jake and Georgia who are leaving us after 12 and 10 years of service respectively, first with Manwurrk Rangers, then with Warddeken Land Management.

It was a remarkable period in the company's history that saw us grow from very small and humble beginnings into something that is now quite inspirational. A huge amount of that success is down to

their hard work and dedication.

The intense challenges of the 2018 fire season will impact our organisation financially and our board is working closely with me to keep our company strong. The financial consequences of such a year demonstrate the importance of solid ongoing funding for individual projects such as the Anbinik Project, which is currently unfunded.

The incredible work of our amazing rangers and other staff was recognised and celebrated when we were awarded the 2018 Banksia Award for Indigenous Sustainability. The staff and directors who attended were honoured by the well-deserved recognition they received. The judges were impressed by our independence and resilience, and commitment to our environmental and cultural sustainability.

I would like to thank all of our members, staff, partners and incredible supporters - without them none of our work would be possible.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Ansell'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Shaun Ansell
CEO

“In a year full of major challenges, Warddeken prevailed. 2018-19 sees our company larger, stronger and more capable than ever.”

Children enjoy a refreshing dip on a bush trip.
Wurdurd kabirrinjilngmak kabirriwurlebme kore anbokedjelk.

Highlights 2018-19

CARING FOR COUNTRY SINCE 2007



1.4 Million hectares
363 Nawarddeken members
303 Bininj employed



AERIAL PRESCRIBED BURNING (APB)

Early dry season (April-July)



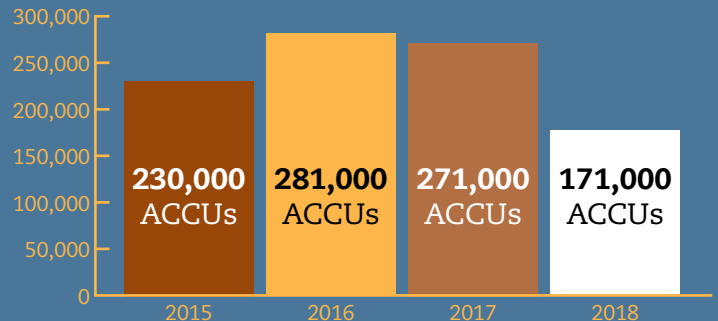
WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION

Late dry season (Aug-Dec)

22 Fires controlled
3253 Ranger hours
96.8 Chopper hours

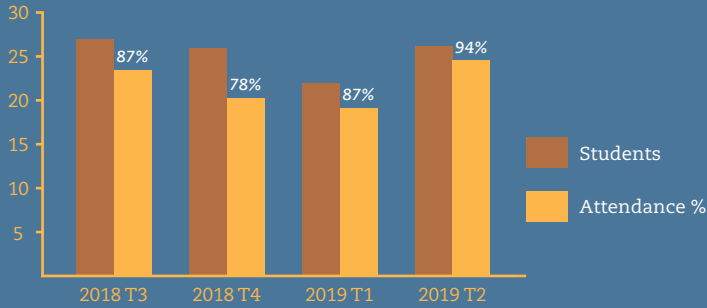
WALFA

Carbon credits earned



NAWARDDEKEN ACADEMY

2018-19 Average weekly attendance whilst in Kabulwarnamyo



EMPLOYMENT

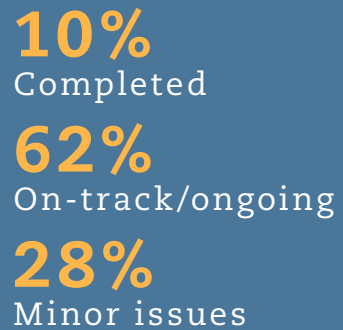
2018-19 Total = 165 people

1 icon = 10 people



2016-2020 PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Monitoring 87 strategies



500 ha

ANBINIK ISOLATES

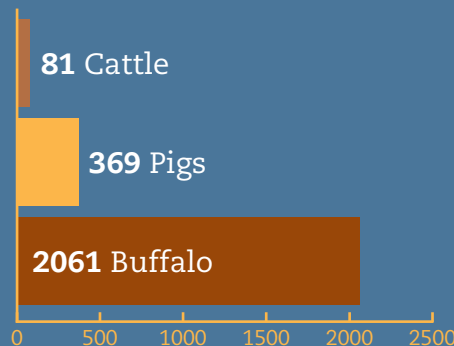
3 Isolates protected by on-ground fire break

12 Isolates protected by targeted APB



KUKKU

Aerial culling to preserve freshwater places



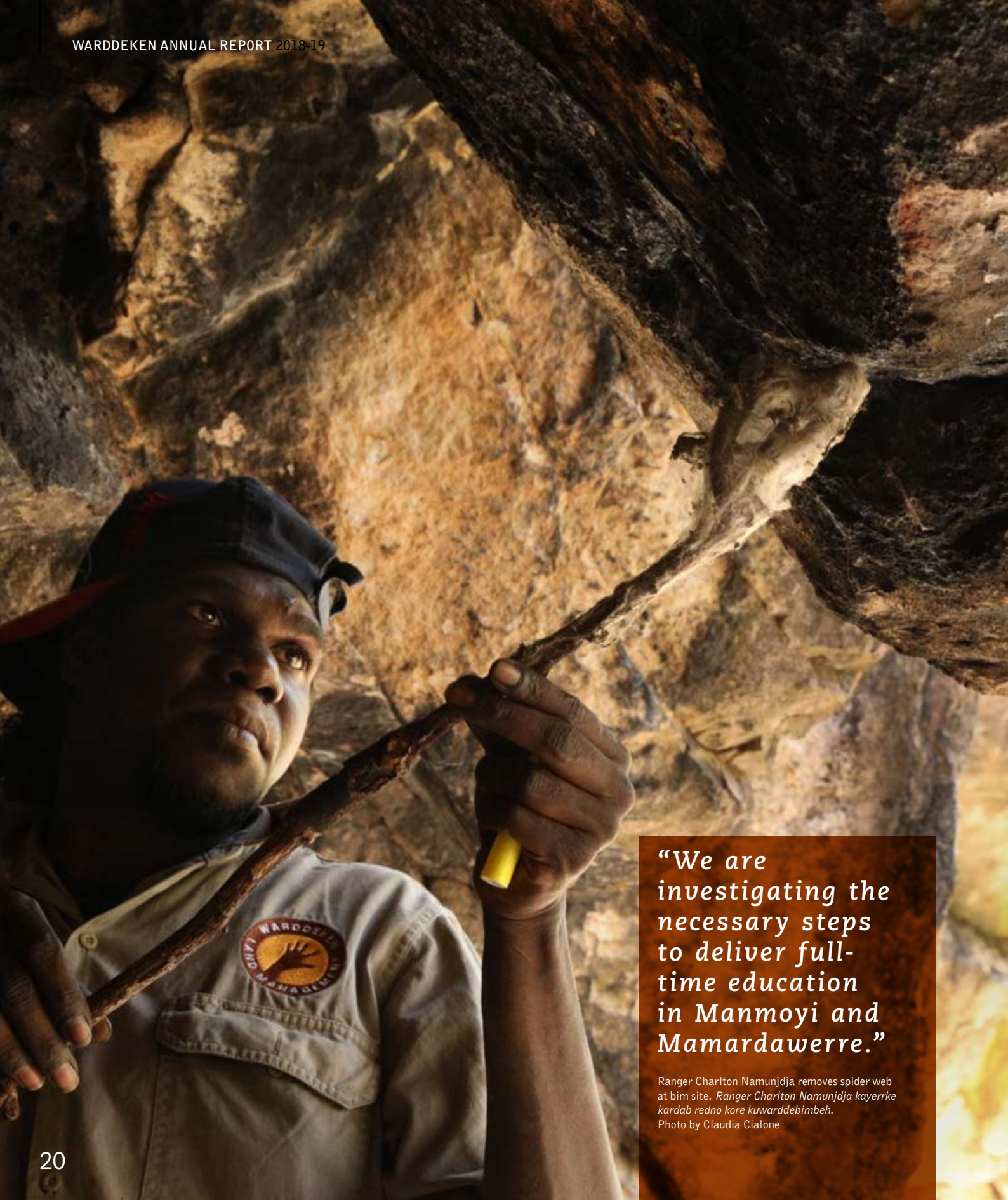
KUNWARDDEBIM

2018-19

30,000+ Sites in the IPA

30 Sites conserved

60 Sites re-discovered



“We are investigating the necessary steps to deliver full-time education in Manmoyi and Mamardawerre.”

Ranger Charlton Namunjda removes spider web at bim site. *Ranger Charlton Namunjda kayerrke kardab redno kore kuwarddebimbeh.*
Photo by Claudia Cialone

Governance

Our Board of Directors has an impressive level of knowledge, making high level decisions and developing organisational relationships. As representatives of our 363 Nawarddeken registered members, landowners and clan groups of the Kuwarddewardde, the Board provides direction for the company and is responsible for strategic planning and review, financial management and policy development.

Objective

Our company aims to:

- Alleviate poverty, suffering, isolation, serious economic disadvantage, and improve our members health and wellbeing;
- Conserve indigenous knowledge;
- Protect the environmental values of the land;
- Advance indigenous education;
- Participate in natural and cultural resource management projects;
- Participate in fire, weed, feral animal and threatened species management; and
- Manage the IPA as part of the Australian National Reserves System in accordance with the Union for the Conservation of Nature Protected Area Category VI.

Warddeken Land Management Ltd

During 2018-19 the Warddeken directors met at Kabulwarnamyo, Gunbalanya and twice at Mamardawerre. In addition to their regular role in delivering the efficient and effective governance of our company, the directors have overseen some exciting new developments, including:

- Supporting the Nawarddeken Academy to achieve the registration of the Kabulwarnamyo school;
- Development of the bim (rock art) project;
- Guiding the establishment of the Mamardawerre Ranger program and base;
- Exploring new research partnerships, including the establishment of a relationship with the Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage.

In response to requests from Traditional Owners, community members and families at Manmoyi and Mamardawerre, the board has also been exploring how best to support broader provision of full time education in remote communities in western Arnhem Land.

Wakadjaka Sub-committee

Standing still and taking stock is critical to understanding where you are and whether you are getting to where you want to go. The core purpose of the Warddeken Kananan dja mak Karrmorokme (Wakadjaka) Sub-committee is to evaluate the progress towards achieving the vision articulated in the 2016-2020 Plan of Management.

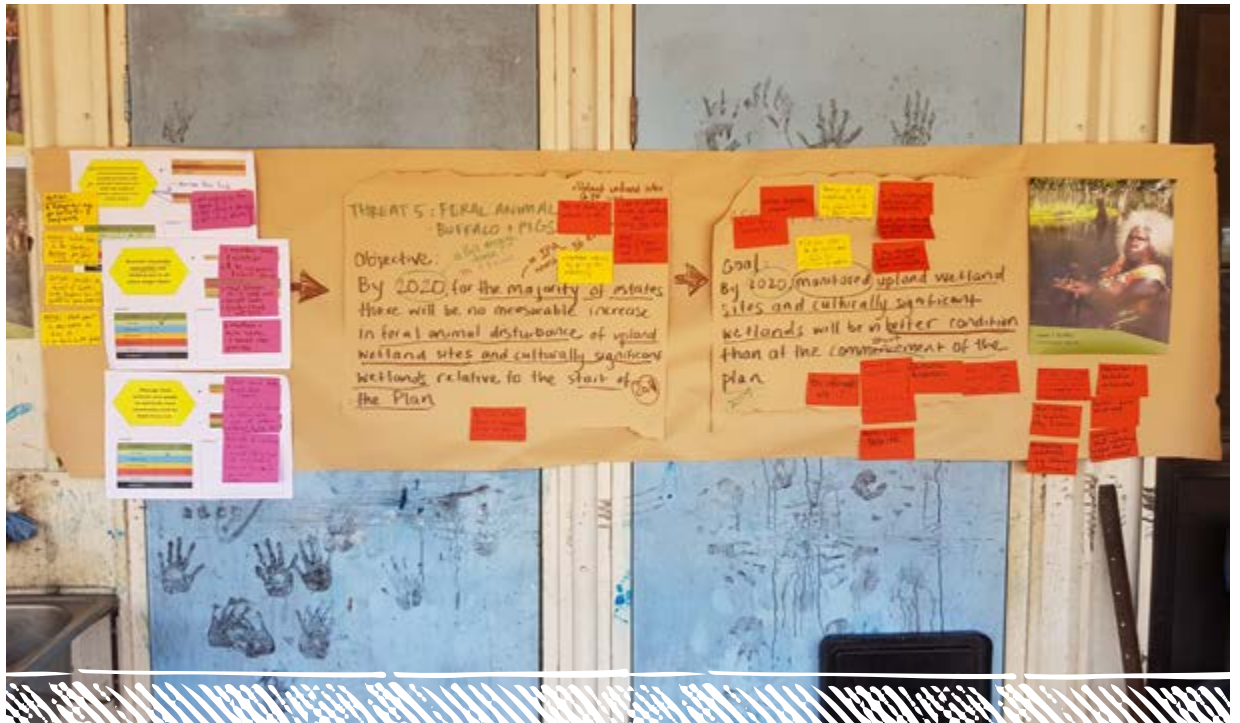
The second meeting of the Wakadjaka Sub-committee was held at Mamardawerre in August 2018.

At this meeting, the Sub-committee reported on all 87 strategies articulated in the Management Plan using the traffic-light system. They found that 72 percent of strategies were complete or tracking well. Only minor challenges and obstacles were identified and discussed for future improvement.

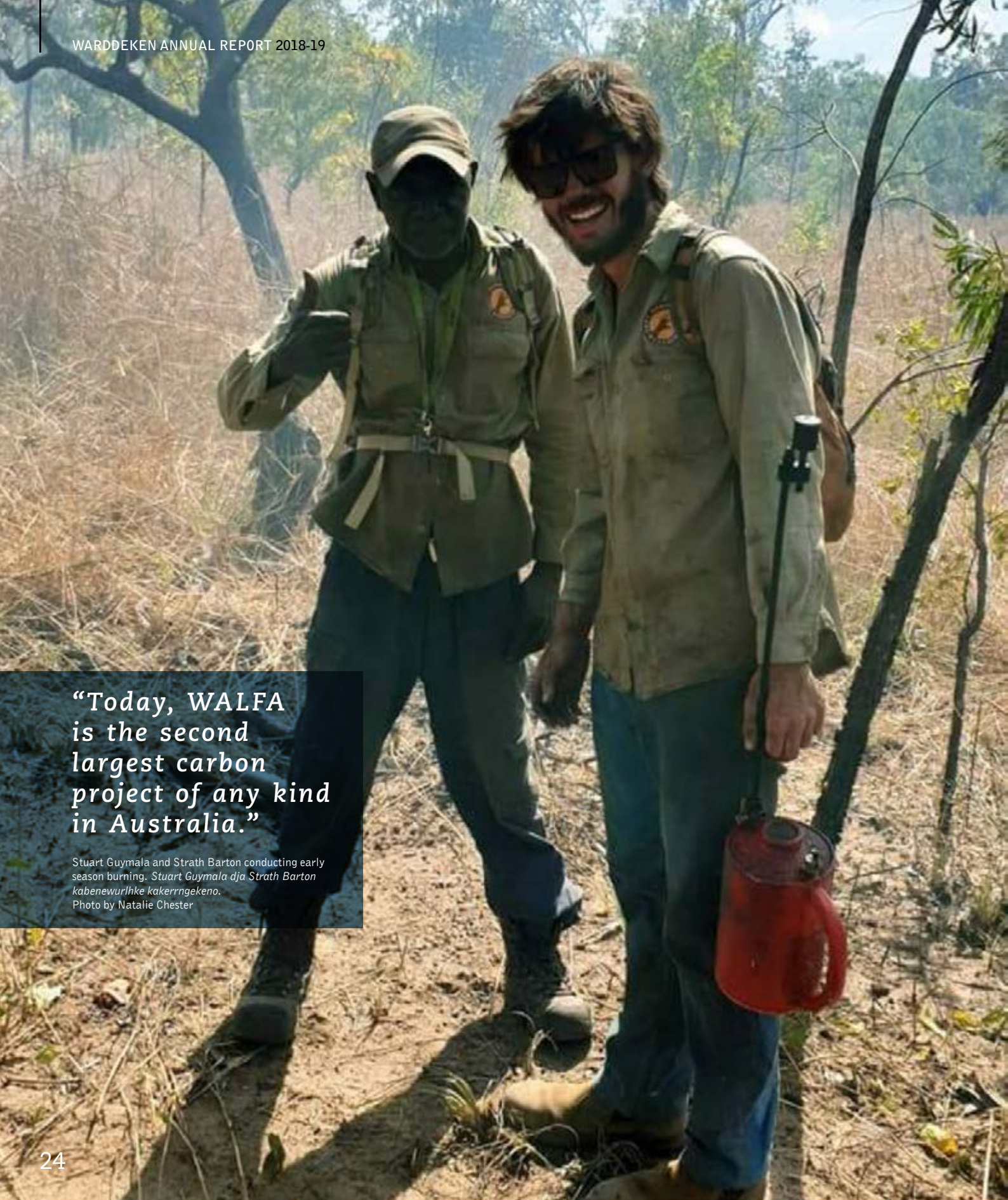
As a requirement of the Sub-committee, monitoring and evaluation will become a standard part of the Warddeken work program, facilitated by the Monitoring Officer. To this end, the Sub-committee worked through

and agreed to the structure of the Warddeken Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Implementation (MERI) Plan, which is on track for completion by the end of 2019.

The MERI Plan will include the traffic light system as well as a deeper assessment of the more complex markers of progress. The MERI journey remains faithful to the two-toolbox approach, blending western science-based methodologies with the rich and multifaceted knowledge of Nawarddeken elders.



ABOVE: Wakadjaka working through a MERI structure looking at the asset of kukku (freshwater places).
 Wakadjaka kabiridurrkmirri kabirriwokdi dja kabirrikaremarnbun 'kukku' asset.
 Photo by Bianca Twaddle



“Today, WALFA is the second largest carbon project of any kind in Australia.”

Stuart Guymala and Strath Barton conducting early season burning. *Stuart Guymala dja Strath Barton kabenewurlhke kakerrngekeno.*
Photo by Natalie Chester

Manwurrk *(Fire management)*

For thousands of years, Nawarddeken used fire to manage country to their benefit and the ecology of the Kuwarddewardde expresses this imprint in many ways. From the 1960s, the Kuwarddewardde was largely depopulated and large wildfires devastated the region. In 2002, Bardayal established the Manwurrk Rangers, who reintroduced customary fire management practices to the region. The Manwurrk Rangers played a central role in the development of the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) Project.

WALFA

Today, WALFA is the second largest carbon project of any kind in Australia. WALFA uses a 'two-toolbox' approach to address the significant issue of uncontrolled wildfire, combining traditional knowledge and Western science in fire management.

Through the WALFA project, we are able to increase strategic early dry season (EDS) burning in order to reduce the extent and severity of late season fires. In 2018 our rangers worked hard in very challenging conditions to secure another successful year with over 171,000 Australian carbon credit units (ACCU) generated.

Early dry season burning 2018

After one of the driest wet seasons on record country was very dry, which meant that the window for EDS burning was shorter than in previous years. In addition, it was the first year in the life of Warddeken that the burning would be undertaken without the support of our long time operations manager, Jake Weigl.

In the absence of this central coordinating role, we devolved responsibility to new ranger coordinators at our three ranger bases at Kabulwarnamyo, Manmoyi and Mamardawerre. Each base had responsibility for its own area of the IPA and worked closely with the Traditional Owners

of those different areas to plan and implement the burning.

The team of relatively new coordinators rose to the challenge. The different bases aligned and coordinated the work, implementing a significant program of on-ground and aerial burning across the IPA with lots of engagement and a strong result. We had to pull up earlier than usual as fires smouldered for longer than in previous years.

With the new structure, there was a particular focus on further empowerment, training and support of senior rangers to undertake more of the aerial prescribed burning. A real feature of the year was how much people have helped each other out.

Anbinik *(Allosyncarpia rainforests)*

The incredibly significant Anbinik (Allosyncarpia ternata) was the dominant tree species of the Kuwarddewardde as far back as the last Ice Age. These large, spreading, shady trees are of strong cultural significance to the Nawarddeken.

Anbinik forests are slow growing and fire sensitive. When Nawarddeken left the plateau in the 1960s, Anbinik forests were left vulnerable to devastating wildfires and entire stands were destroyed.

Today, Anbinik is largely restricted to the deep gorges and rugged escarpments where the landscape provides protection from fire. In the savannah, small isolated pockets persist in a sea of fire. Old people maintained these patches through careful fire management, a practice now reinstated by Warddeken at 15 of the most 'at risk' Anbinik isolates.

This year, the Anbinik Management Program was scaled back due to staffing changes and limited funds, which placed additional strain on resources. The unusually high level of expenditure on 2018 wildfires and reduced income due to the larger than usual extent of early dry season burning, resulted in a significantly reduced program of works.

Instead of visiting 15 sites on-ground as usual, only three sites were visited this year and aerial prescribed burning was executed strategically around the other sites. There are obvious signs of forest

growth on some sites, including Yidngarremanneng in the Bolmo estate. These have been noted and plans to increase the size of the fire breaks are being made.

Originally funded by the Federal Department of Environment, this important program is at risk. While we are able to protect the Anbinik patches relatively inexpensively as part of our early dry season burning program, additional funding would allow us to continue to drop off teams to each site early in the season to monitor growth and manage fire breaks.

“Today, Anbinik is largely restricted to the deep gorges and rugged escarpments. The old people maintained these patches through careful fire management, a practice now reinstated by Warddeken.”

Old values, new tools. Rangers install mineral earth breaks around vulnerable Anbinik patches. *Mankare kunmayali, mankerenge kunyirrk. Rangers kabirriwakbun kabirrikurmehkurme kunkulk kore darnkih Anbinik kamokendi.* Photo by Strath Barton



“In 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages, it is fitting that we celebrate the immense resilience of Nawarddeken who are one of just a handful of indigenous groups in Australia who continue to raise their children speaking their ancestral language.”

Sarah Bilis and Deborah Nabarlambarl reading George Chaloupka book on rock art. Sarah Bilis dja Deborah Nabarlambarl kabenebimnan George Chaloupka nuye djurra bimbom bimken. Photo by Rowand Taylor



Kunmayali *(Knowledge)*

Language project

In 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages, it is fitting that we celebrate the immense resilience of Nawarddeken who are one of just a handful of indigenous groups in Australia who continue to raise their children speaking their ancestral language.

For Warddeken, mutual literacy between bininj and balanda is vital to caring for country. Cultural wellbeing requires people can read instruction manuals, kinship relations, and everything in between.

In 2018-19, the Commonwealth Department of Communications and the Arts funded the 'Mobile Software for Oral Language Learning in Arnhem Land' project, a collaboration between Warddeken and Charles Darwin University. Led by Dean Yibarbuk and linguist, Steven Bird, the project involves running language workshops and testing new language apps.

Through a series of practical activities, Warddeken rangers and staff have been practicing their Kunwinjku and English, and there has been a marked increase in the use of Kunwinjku between rangers

and support staff. Balanda are becoming more confident speaking Kunwinjku, and bininj are becoming more confident speaking standard English.

Warddeken rangers have also been involved in 'Language Parties' in Darwin, celebrating linguistic diversity. Rosemary Nabalwad, Conrad Maralngurra, and Serina Namarnyilk took to the stage to share their stories in Kunwinjku followed by English translations. This was a soulful experience for audiences, and a moment of pride for our rangers.

LEFT: Gathering manme. *Ngarrimanahmang manme*. Photo by Rowand Taylor

RIGHT: Dreaming stories written, translated and illustrated by Elizabeth Nabarlambarl, Sarah Bilis and Berribob Dangbungala. *Dreaming stories*. Elizabeth Nabarlambarl, Sarah Bilis dja Berribob Dangbungala Watson birribimbom. Photo by Jake Weigl



Manme dja manrakel (bush foods and medicine) project

Work continues with the Manme dja Manrakel (Bush Foods and Medicine) Project, which is a key project for the daluk rangers in Kabulwarnamyo and Manmoyi, and plans to expand this to Mamardawerre. The project aims to document manme dj manrakel and produce educational and reference

material for intergenerational knowledge transfer.

The project will provide opportunities for daluk rangers to get out on country and share traditional knowledge. With key contributors in each outstation, daluk will have access to a vast collection of knowledge and sites in varying landscapes throughout the IPA. Students at the Nawarddeken Academy will also have the

opportunity to participate in the project, including field trips, cooking and cultural information lessons.

The project has benefited from engagement with researcher, Adam Thompson, who is working with rangers to identify and interpret manme dja manrakel for his Medicinal Plants and Soap Bush Study with the Menzies School of Health.

TOP: Donor trip at Yidngarremarneng. Keenan Nayinggul, Esau Djandjomerr, Stuart Guymala, Stacey Irwing, Rebecca Parker and Strath Barton discuss the importance of trees and how we look after them. *Donor trip kore Yidngarremarneng. Keenan Nayinggul, Esau Djandjomerr, Stuart Guymala, Stacey Irwing, Rebecca Parker dja Strath Barton kabirriwokdi baleh ngarrinahnan kundulk dja kundalk kore kured.*

BOTTOM LEFT: People on a bushwalk. *Bedda kabirridjale kudenge.*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Well cared for country provides rich and healthy bush food. Land of plenty for Tyson Maralngurra and Agnes Gumurdul. *Ngarridjarrknahnan kured wanjh manbolk kamakmen dja nawern manme ngarrikarme. Tyson Maralngurra dja Agnes Gumurdul kabirrikarme djenj.* Photo by Rowand Taylor



Bininj manbolh *(Bush walk)*

For tens of thousands of years Nawarddeken journeyed across the Kuwarddewardde. They traversed country along bininj manbolh (customary walking routes) to visit family from neighbouring clans, attend ceremonies, trade goods, and access animal and plant resources, all the time moving with the seasons.

Warddeken's stone country bushwalking program has been running since the early days of the Manwurrk rangers. Bininj manbolh is a way to renew connections to country and visit remote areas of clan estates that are only accessible by foot.

This year's activities began with a culture camp at Millerreleerre. Daluk rangers held activities for kids including digging long yams and fishing for freshwater turtle. Bininj rangers took the young men out to make spears to hunt kangaroo.

Rangers also took kids to nearby bim (rock art) sites to share stories and culture. Ground ovens were cooked, lots of stories shared and fun times enjoyed by all.

Millerreleerre to Nawarlhbin

This year 50 rangers and families walked 29 kilometers from Millerreleerre to Nawarlhbin, undertaking on-ground burning, harvesting sugarbag, telling stories and looking at bim sites along the way. Rangers conducted food drops so that participants were well fed and had plenty of energy to keep walking.

Day 1: Millerreleerre to Morlekarrang

The first day was a 5km walk. Along the way we stopped at Yenamarawai bim site to share stories and startled a buffalo who was resting in the area. Upon arrival at Morlekarrang, we caught Barramundi and

turtle for eating, with Anthony Nabarlambarl catching a Barramundi that measured over 80cm.

Day 2: Morlekarrang to Rakulabongun

Day two was quite hot, but spirits were high. The walk was about 7km, weaving through Kunwarddewardde (stone country) and finishing at Rakulabongun. Sugarbag was harvested for everyone and well received.

Day 3: Rakulabongun to Kalardaydj

This section was 5km. Participants who didn't want to continue the walk this day went back to Manmoyi. The rest of the group walked through to the idyllic



Kalardaydj Creek, where there was a wide sandy beach and cool water to drink and have a swim. Richard Nabarlambarl caught a turtle and a buffalo was harvested for an extra nice dinner.

Day 4: Kalardaydj to Nawarlhbin

Participants who didn't stay at Kalardaydj rejoined us at the halfway point of the day's 12km stretch. Lots of bim was sighted and

a nice, leisurely walk was enjoyed by all. Young bininj rangers harvested sugarbag along the way which helped boost energy levels.

At Nawarlhbin we joined in with the Dusseldorf Forums' Festival of Change where bininj and daluk put on a kunborrk (ceremonial dance) for visitors to the IPA, and Jake and Georgia cooked up a wonderful ground oven.

ABOVE: The end of the 2019 bushwalk is celebrated with kunborrk and ground oven dinner. Zebedee Nayilibidj dancing. *Bushwalk 2019 yakminj wanjh ngarrimornamerrinj, ngarriborrkeng dja ngarrikerribom. Zebedee Nayilibidj kaborrkke.* Photo by Jake Weigl

Daluk Rangers

Since 2016, the Daluk Engagement Project has been focused on building a solid daluk (female) workforce for Warddeken. The project has been built around strong daluk elders and senior rangers committed to being positive female role models. Today 41 percent of all Warddeken rangers are daluk engaged in environmental and cultural activities at Kabulwarnamyo, Manmoyi and Mamardawerre.

This year, the daluk rangers conducted early-season manwurrk (burning) along the roadsides around Kabulwarnamyo and Manmoyi, and burnt firebreaks around the communities.

In partnership with the Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research

(DCBR) daluk rangers are also working with Bianca Vranjes, conducting monthly fuel accumulation surveys at Kulnguki between Kabulwarnamyo and Manmoyi on the Mok clan estate. This survey is aimed at improving methodologies currently used to

calculate carbon abatement in sandstone woodlands and heaths found throughout the IPA.

At Manmoyi, daluk rangers were also busy with the Mayh Recovery Project, conducting photo analysis and managing the database. With this project now in its third year,



the rangers have a high level of competency and are producing exciting results.

Across the IPA, daluk rangers received survey training as part of the Bim (Rock Art) Pilot Project. They learnt how to accurately record important cultural sites across the IPA, including how to scout for new art sites, record site details and take high quality photographs.

This year has seen a revived interest in bush trips and intergenerational knowledge transfer on country. Daluk have spent many happy hours away from the confines of the community, sharing stories and

interpreting manme dja manrakel (bush foods and medicine).

The Manme dja Manrakel Project is a key project for daluk rangers at all three communities. The project aim is to produce educational materials for intergenerational knowledge transfer, particularly for Narwarddeken Academy students. Weekly bush trips give the daluk rangers an opportunity to engage with students and many yawkyawk (young women) aspire to become daluk rangers.

At the Kabulwarnamyo office, daluk rangers have also begun the mammoth task of digitising important information so it can be

accessed remotely from all bases. Years of Warddeken employee records and cultural information will be preserved. This has been great work for daluk who prefer office work, especially during school holidays with wurdwurd (children) around. It is extremely flexible work and there is plenty to do.

OPPOSITE: Children Miles and Reggina Namarnyilk and Richard Nadjamerrek help cleaning up home. *Wurdurd Miles dja Reggina Namarnyilk dja Richard Nadjamerrek, kandibidjyikarmen ngarribirme kured.* Photo by Rebecca Parker

BELOW LEFT: Rainforest patches are a vital source of food, especially at the end of the dry season. *Mandjewk kayakmen wanjh nawern manme kadjordmen kore kungarre.* Photo by Rebecca Parker

BELOW RIGHT: Janita Wood, Bernadette Yibarbuk, Penelope Yibarbuk digging for yams. *Janita Wood, Bernadette Yibarbuk dja Penelope Yibarbuk kabirrikarung karrbarrda or kayawal.* Photo by Rebecca Parker



Nawarddeken Academy

Established in 2015, the Nawarddeken Academy is a very important piece of social infrastructure for the Warddeken IPA. Our children are now receiving a first-rate education on country. Our bi-cultural education approach engages indigenous leaders, rangers and skilled teachers. The future of Nawarddeken depends on our children learning to live, work, and thrive within two knowledge systems.

In 2018, we worked hard to gain Independent School Registration. This meant investing a lot of time and energy in fulfilling Commonwealth and NT Government requirements. Despite some extraordinary challenges, in December the Minister for Education, the Hon. Selena Uibo announced that our application was successful.

We would like to thank and acknowledge everyone who have helped realise this dream, including our inspirational elders and community members, Nawarddeken

Academy directors, Academy staff and students, the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust team, the Association of Independent Schools NT, Milkwood Steiner School and Mäpuru Yirralka School, and the Minister for Education for her courage and vision. Without you all, a new school in the Northern Territory would not have been possible.

At the end of 2018 we farewelled teachers, Daniel Constantinou and Danielle Ryan, and their two girls Jacinda and Frances. We thank Daniel and Danielle for their tremendous efforts and wish them

the very best in the future.

From January 2019, we began operations as a fully registered Independent School and welcomed two new teachers, Julie Fraser and Amber Whittaker, who have experience teaching in remote communities.

With the financial security that recurrent government funding brings, there are incredible opportunities and many responsibilities for Nawarddeken as we build a new future for our people.

“With the financial security that recurrent government funding brings, there are incredible opportunities and many responsibilities for Nawarddeken as we build a new future for our people.”

Teaching and learning at the Nawarddeken Academy with teacher, Amber Whittaker. *Teacher Amber Whittaker kabenbukkan dja wurdurd kabirribolme kore Nawarddeken Academy. Photo by Rowand Taylor*



Literacy and Numeracy

Our aim is to make learning as meaningful as possible by contextualising it within community life. There are many opportunities for students to learn alongside elders and Warddeken rangers.

This year, students learnt about the structure and features of scientific reports. This was integrated into science units through their study of 'minibeasts' (insects) and Australian

animals. Students researched to their chosen Australian animal and then created a poster-sized report about the animal and formally presented to family and community members at assembly.

For the minibeast project, students identified and grouped minibeasts by their features and learnt scientific vocabulary to describe their observations. They observed, labelled and drew pictures of insects, learnt about their habitats and predicted which insects would be found in trees, holes and sand, or under rocks and logs.

The Academy recently received new hands-on maths resources. Trundle wheels, balancing scales, toy

money, cash registers, large clocks and timers have made maths more meaningful and fun. For example, students used 'school money' and calculators to play money-based games. They played shops, where they could practice finding the right amounts to pay with and give as change.

In maths and science, students used tables and graphs to record information and data collected during their Minibeasts project. They also visited the community workshop to explore the forces of push and pull, and completed a survey of how many balabbalas had hot water donkeys. This data will be used by Warddeken rangers in their planning.

LEFT: Miles Namarnyilk studies at the school. *Miles Namarnyilk kabolbme kore school.*
Photo by Rowand Taylor

RIGHT: There are no barriers between classroom and country at the Nawarddeken Academy. *'Classroom' dja 'kuwarddewardde' karohrowk kore Nawarddeken Academy*
Photo by Rowand Taylor





This year we bought two new laptop computers, which have been a great hit. Students have been asking to stay in during break times to research or complete their reports. They also enjoy locating our Warddeken bim, camera traps and leaf survey sites on Google Earth or Maps.

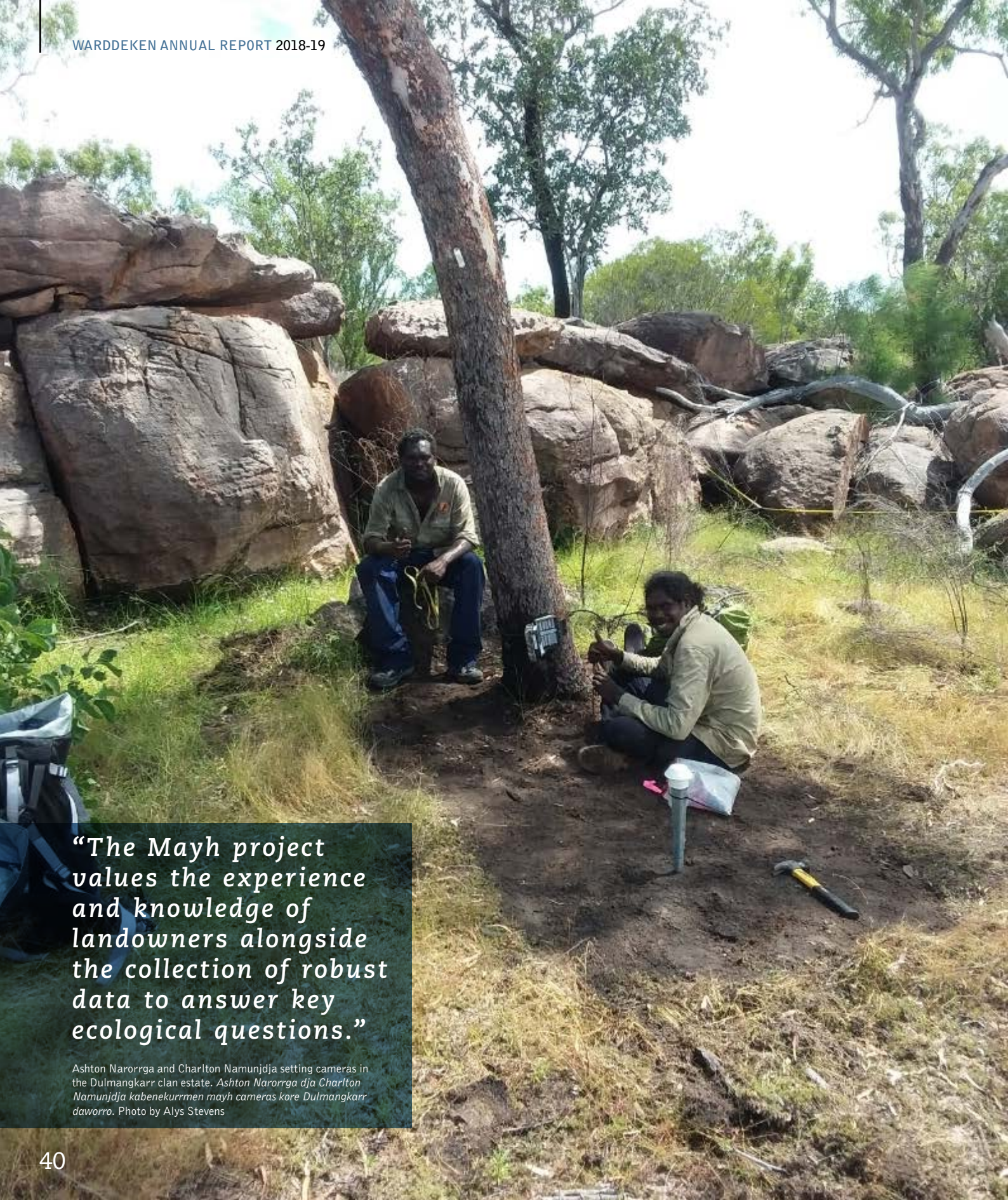
Early Learning Program

Nawarddeken early learners have enjoyed learning on country bush trips, singing, dancing and art activities, including early literacy and numeracy activities, and attending assembly. In 2018, two of the Early Learning staff

LEFT: Richard Nadjamerrek working on a maths activity. *Richard Nadjamerrek kabolbme maths kore school.* Photo by Rowand Taylor

RIGHT: Reading opens up a whole new world for Andrick Nadjamerrek. *Andrick Nadjamerrek kabolbme bu kabimnghehngyebun.* Photo by Rowand Taylor

attended the three-day Abecedarian Approach Australia (3a) Practitioner training in Maningrida. We now have four staff who have completed the Abecedarian practitioner training.



“The Mayh project values the experience and knowledge of landowners alongside the collection of robust data to answer key ecological questions.”

Ashton Narorrnga and Charlton Namunjda setting cameras in the Dulmangkarr clan estate. Ashton Narorrnga dja Charlton Namunjda kabenekurrmen mayh cameras kore Dulmangkarr daworro. Photo by Alys Stevens

Mayh (Animals)

In the face of ongoing mammal declines in northern Australia, Warddeken has established a long-term monitoring network to understand the impact of our own land management. The Mayh Recovery Project will form the basis of decision making for species conservation in the IPA.

Mayh Recovery Project

This year, monitoring of key species using motion sensor cameras continued across the IPA at 60 sites and 300 camera stations. Thirty-six rangers were involved in the on-ground work and works occurred from all three ranger bases in the IPA. Over 600,000 images are now being processed by the senior daluk at Manmoyi outstation in our bilingual database.

The Mayh Project continues to maintain community support. It

clearly values the experience and knowledge of landowners alongside the collection of robust data to answer key ecological questions.

The record-breaking hot and dry wet season of 2018-19 meant our stone country mayh were facing an incredibly tough year. The monitoring network was used to inform management actions in the IPA.

For example, we know djabbo (northern quoll) prefer inter-fire periods of three to five years. At Belbelya in the Barradj clan estate we could see the population was at

the three-year mark since the last fire. Armed with this information, senior landowners were able to make the decision to exclude fire from the djabbo population to give them the best chance of making it through the challenging year.

The project also provides opportunities to visit culturally important sites and identify priorities for research through other programs. It can catalyse the memory and oral transmission of old stories of people and country.

Senior daluk rangers, Elizabeth Nabarlambarl and Sarah Billis,



travelled by helicopter to their country on the Djordi clan estate. The women had been waiting for months for the opportunity to conquer their fears and get up in the air as part of the Mayh Project.

While setting cameras at an *Allosyncarpia* gorge, they inspected many rock paintings of

the endangered djabbo (northern quoll) and marked the site to return and document it as part of the *kunwarddebim* (rock art) project. This illustrates how multifaceted a scientific project like this can be when conducted properly.

The density of *bim* at the site implied a significant campsite and indeed on

first visit in 2017, senior *djunkayi* Stuart Guymala emotionally recalled how Lofty *Nadjamerrek* had told him this place was on an old walking route to an important *djang* site nearby. This was the first time Stuart had remembered the conversation in years, and the first time he had recounted it out loud.



OPPOSITE: Cameras have revealed previously unrecorded populations of Yok (Northern Brown Bandicoot). *Cameras kanbukkan yok, korroko minj bimmainj.*

TOP: Dean Yibarbuk and Serina Namarnyilk talk to students about the importance of biodiversity monitoring. *Cameras kanbukkan yok, korroko minj bimmainj.* Photo by Alys Stevens

BOTTOM LEFT: Tinnasha Narorrnga and Alexandria Namarnyilk set cameras in the Yurlhmanj clan estate. *Tinnasha Narorrnga dja Alexandria Namarnyilk kabenekurmen cameras kore Yurlhmanj daworro.* Photo by Alys Stevens

BOTTOM RIGHT: Daluk rangers recording and processing data for Species Recovery and the Rock Art project. *Daluk kabirridurkmirri kabirribimmang dja process data kabirriyime mayhken dja bimken.* Photo by Rowand Taylor

Kunred *(Communities)*

Mamadewerre Ranger Base

One of the biggest single events of 2018-19 was the establishment of a new ranger program under the Warddeken banner, at Mamardawerre in the Kakbi (northern) ward of the IPA. It has been a longstanding desire of the community at Mamardawerre to achieve the land management and employment available through the ranger program.

With the support of the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, we were able to secure funding for four full-time equivalent ranger positions and a coordinator at Mamardawerre. Warddeken contributed significant funds of our own to build accommodation for the coordinator and shedding for the ranger facilities.

Since late 2018 the program has been functioning well with strong employment and strong outcomes across the whole suite of Warddeken services. The community is now included in the fortnightly tucker run and, with employment and basic services, is beginning to grow again.

Balabbalas

At Manmoyi, a new balabbala was built for the rock art coordinator, bringing the total to four (three staff and one visitor). At Kabulwarnamyo we added another balabbala for the operations manager, bringing the total staff balabbalas to four, and 20 overall.

At Mamardawerrre, the new ranger coordinator's balabbala is built on the site of the original outstation camp looking out over a spring-fed billabong and big sandstone bluff.

Constructing this accommodation, we needed to review the original balabbala design to meet the requirements of living closer to the coast. Based on the original concept and design, the new 'hard' balabbala has a steel frame, security mesh, indoor bathroom and a double-skinned, fully-insulated roof.

Kabulwarnamyo airstrip expansion

We received funding from the Remote Air Upgrade Program to significantly widen the approaches and flyovers, and to establish aprons and taxiways at the Kabulwarnamyo airstrip. These works bring the airstrip closer to the required specifications for night time medivacs by CareFlight. Once fenced, night time landings will be allowed.

LEFT: The balabbalas of Kabulwarnamyo provide comfortable and appropriate bush living.
Balabbala kore Kabulwarnamyo yiman kayime kamorlewan ngarriyoy korroko.

RIGHT: With more external traffic at Mamardawerre, the hard balabbala provides better security.
Manbuyika balabbala manrayek kore Mamardawerre. Photo by Rowand Taylor

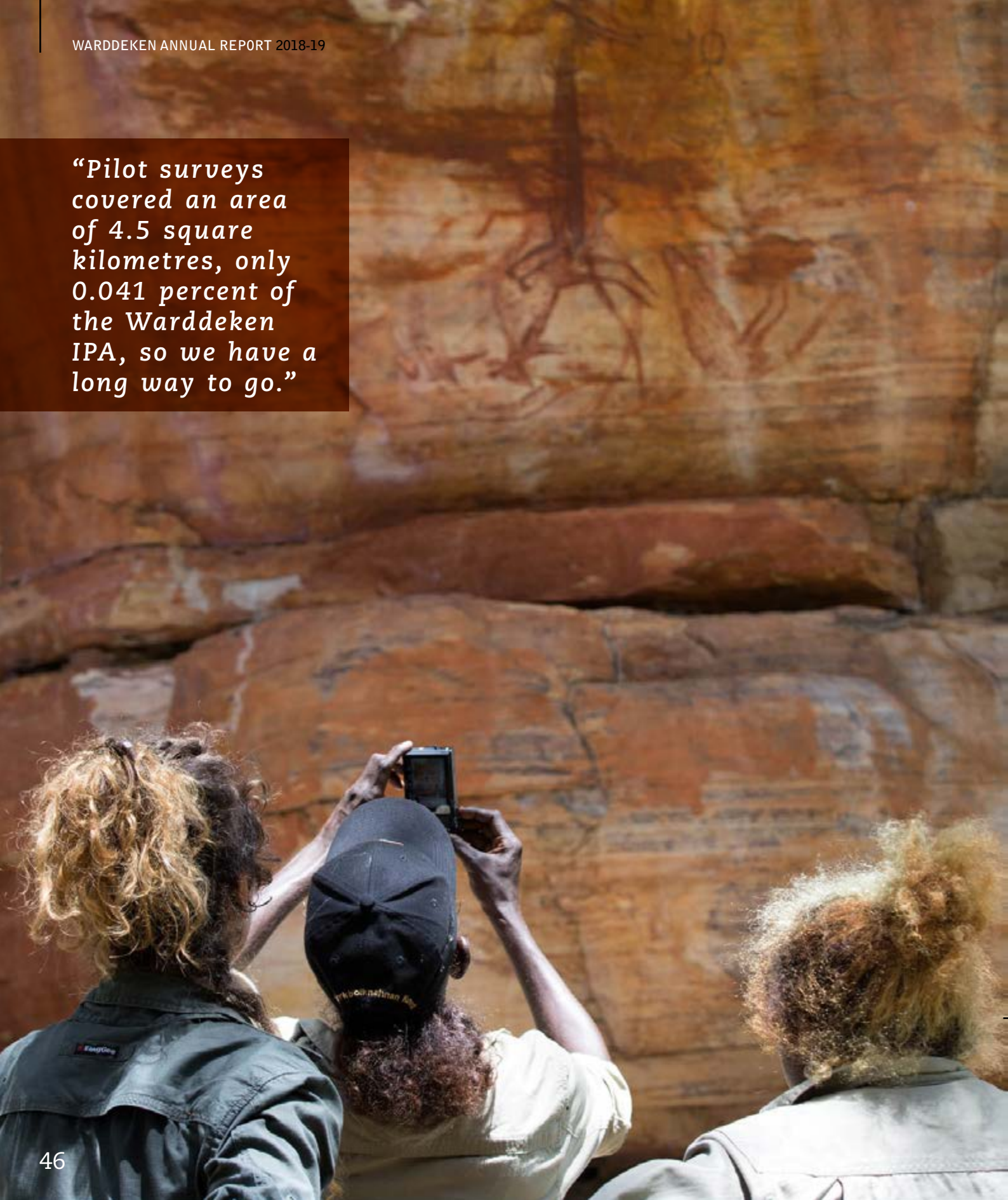


Homelands Resource Provider

Warddeken has continued to provide strong service for the people of Kabulwarnamyo, and we work closely with Demed Association as they provide services for the people of Manmoyi and Mamardawewrre.

This year, we have been recognised for the first time as the Homelands Service Provider for Kabulwarnamyo. This means the NT Government is now providing a contribution to the maintenance of this outstation.

“Pilot surveys covered an area of 4.5 square kilometres, only 0.041 percent of the Warddeken IPA, so we have a long way to go.”



Kunwarddebim (Rock art)

There are tens of thousands of kunwarddebim (rock art) sites spread across the vast expanse of the Warddeken IPA, one of the most significant collections of cultural heritage anywhere in the world. Warddeken is committed to documenting and conserving kunwarddebim, which is at the heart of Nawarddeken cultural identity.

Pilot Project

In June 2019 the two-year Kunwarddebim Pilot Project drew to a close, delivering a strong foundation for future work. Pilot surveys recorded 35 sites, of which 33 were new to bininj. These covered an area of 4.5 square kilometres, only 0.041 percent of the Warddeken IPA, so we have a long way to go.

As part of the pilot project, a mapping system was created based on bininj intuition and knowledge to identify locations for future surveys. In April, landowner consultations took place in Jabiru, Pine Creek, Murdudjdjul, Madjinbardi, Patonga Homestead and Mamardawerre.

To date, 21 landowners and djunkayi have been consulted and permission granted to conduct rock art surveys within 13 different clan estates of the IPA. In August, major surveys will take place in the Djalama clan estate in Kakbi (north) ward and Yurlhmanj clan estate in Karrikad (west) ward. Further landowner consultation is likely to identify other survey areas.

We will consult with landowners annually to ensure that everyone is still OK with planned surveys. We will also provide landowners with a report outlining the actions planned at each site. All recordings and interpretations of rock art will be organised and stored in Warddeken databases.

In June, rangers performing rock art surveys conducted cool on-

ground burning along the way.

In future, we will conduct early dry season burning in key places and fencing is being considered for four 'at risk' sites.

The pilot also resulted in two active collaborations. We are working with the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) to repatriate some of the George Chaloupka rock art collection. The MAGNT rock art strategist and anthropologist visited on country and landowners will inspect the collection in Darwin in the near future. Through a collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for Australia Biodiversity and Heritage we will develop educational resources for dating rock art through analysis of mud dauber wasp nests.

OPPOSITE: Rock art photography training at Kundjorlomdjorlom with Claudia Cialone, Lorraine Namarnyilk and Asheena Guymala. Kabirridurrkmirri photography training Kundjorlomdjorlom kore kabimdi, Claudia Cialone, Lorraine Namarnyilk dja Asheena Guymala kabirribimmang. Photo by David Hancock

Kukku *(Freshwater places)*

Nawarddeken are freshwater people. Many of our freshwater places are sacred sites and others are important sources of bush tucker, such as fish, turtles, water chestnuts and water lilies. A number of springs, creeks, billabongs and rivers are also important sources of drinking water for ranger bases and landowners spending time on country.

Following their introduction to Australia in 1824, buffalo (*Bubalis bubalis*) made their way into the escarpments of the Kuwarddewardde, where they impacted heavily on the fragile wetland ecosystems of the plateau and water quality of freshwater systems. Buffalo have also become an important source of fresh meat and vital to food security on the kuwarddewardde.

Feral animal culls

Warddeken landowners are concerned at damage being done to fragile upland springs by concentrations of feral buffalo. Eradication is not feasible and Warddeken's strategy is to conduct

several aerial culls each year targeting areas observed to be suffering badly from buffalo impact. On-ground culls are also carried out regularly throughout the year.

In late dry 2018, with the consent of landowners, we conducted two aerial culls. The September cull utilised 51.5 chopper hours, resulting in 1219 buffalo and 38 cattle culled. The October cull utilised 45.3 chopper hours, resulting in 842 buffalo and 43 cattle culled. Feral pigs were also culled wherever they were encountered with a total of 369 removed across the two culling periods.

Throughout the year, opportunistic on-ground feral animal control was conducted with a further 220 buffalo and 21 cattle culled. Rangers also continued a pig trapping program and opportunistic on-ground shooting particularly around Manmoyi and Kamarrkawarn outstations.

A large portion of buffalo and cattle culled was butchered and distributed to rangers and landowners at neighbouring outstations and communities, including Mamardawerre, Manmoyi, Marlkawo, Jabiru, Gunbalanya and Maningrida. Meat was also delivered to landowners based in Barunga and Darwin.



TOP: Buffalo are a threat to be managed and a source of fresh lean meat for people living on country. *Nganabbarru nawu nabang dja birriwern ngarridjangan ba bu kunkanj ngarringun.* Photo by Rowand Taylor

BOTTOM LEFT: Large feral herbivores and pigs have substantial impact on freshwater places. *Nakimukken mayh nawu kadalkngun dja pig-pig kawernbowarrewon kulabbarl kore manbomak.* Photo by Rowand Taylor

BOTTOM RIGHT: Buffalo wallows lead to erosion and fouling of vital freshwater resources. *Dja mak nganabbarru kabalhbalhme, kamelme dja kabolwarrewon kulabbarl kore manbomak.* Photo by Rowand Taylor

Weeds

There are a number of weed species of significance within the Warddeken IPA. Consistent and vigilant weed management and control is imperative as invasive weeds are easily spread by animals, vehicles and wet season flooding.

The 2018-19 invasive weed spraying season was successful, with noted reductions in infestations in some areas. Mam Moyi rangers headed up the spraying for the IPA and worked with Mamardawerre rangers in anticipation of handing over spraying duties within the Kakbi and Karrikad wards of the IPA in 2020-21.

Gumarrirnbang outstation had the best success with a reduction in rattlepod (*Crotalaria lanceolata*) infestations. Infestations were sprayed before setting seed in February 2019 and a follow up trip targeting any missed plants in April enabled rangers to get on top of any spread. Rangers noted that there seemed to be less plants than in the previous year.

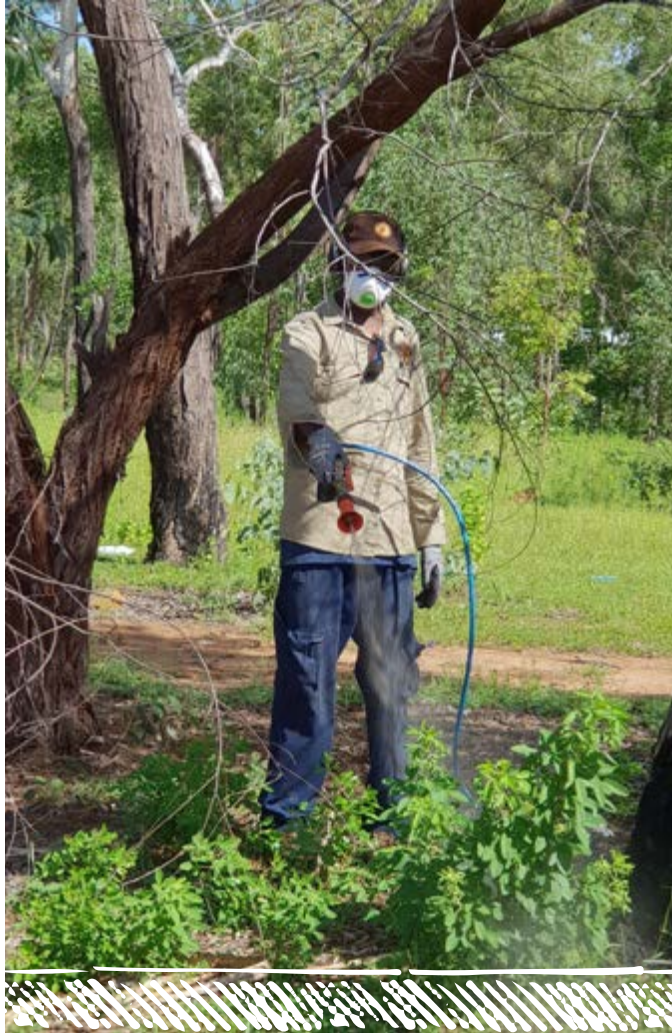
We also had some success at Kurrukurrh (Table Hill), where mission grass (*Pennisetum polystachion*) around the houses was reduced in comparison to 2017-18. Rattlepod continues to be an issue at the old quarry, however rangers were able to spray the whole infestation, that will hopefully ensure a reduction in plants for 2019-20.

Marlwon Outstation had only a few rattlepod within the community, which were hand-pulled by rangers. Roadsides were targeted as always and still show a moderate infestation of Sida (*Sida acuta*/*Sida cordifolia*) whereas rattlepod numbers had significantly decreased.

An aerial survey carried out by NT Weeds Branch, Warddeken and

Adjumallarl rangers in October 2018 was able to confirm that previously controlled Gamba Grass (*Andropogon gayanus*) individuals at Gunborlomborlom and Lupuwayaya Gravel Pit had not returned. Three individual plants were controlled at the Table Hill Telstra repeater site. Warddeken Rangers will revisit and treat in late 2019.

Warddeken and Njanjma rangers worked together at Mikjing Valley and Tin Camp Creek to control Mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*) and had more accessibility to infestations within the wetlands due to lower rainfall over the 2018-19 wet season. This annual collaboration will happen again next year, with rangers anticipating less plants than in previous years.



ABOVE: Ranger spraying weeds. Weed species of significance in the IPA are rattlepod (*Crotalaria lanceolata*), hyptis (*Hyptis suaveolens*), mission grass species (*Pennisetum* sp) and mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*).
Kadurkmirri ranger kadalkbun mandalkwarre. Mandalkwarre kore IPA nawu rattlepod (Crotalaria lanceolata), hyptis (Hyptis suaveolens), mission grass species (Pennisetum sp) dja mimosa (Mimosa pigra). Photos by Natalie Chester

“Bininj and daluk, rangers and coordinators, directors and the CEO all work together on the fire line.”

The epic destructive force of late season wildfire on sensitive plateau habitats. Bu kadalkdarlehmeng minj kabirriwulrhke wardi kunak anburllken anbang kare. *Photo by Strath Barton*



Wildfire Suppression

The 2018 wildfire season was intense. Our season started in late July when some of our early dry season burning that had burned longer than intended needed to be suppressed. From then on, we faced significant fires every month until the rains came in December.

It was a very challenging year, with new staff working alongside outgoing operations manager, Jake Weigl, learning the ropes. During the preceding three seasons the reduced wildfire activity led to the accumulation of some significant fuel loads across the IPA. Combined with strong winds and high temperatures, this resulted in wildfires that were difficult to manage throughout the IPA.

Ultimately it was a hugely successful wildfire suppression effort. By the

time the smoke cleared in December, we had controlled 22 wildfires, requiring an intense effort, including more than 3250 ranger hours and 250 helicopter hours. Despite the number of fires and their capacity to take out a lot of country, we limited the extent of these damaging late dry season fires to 1.2 percent of the IPA.

Importantly at Warddeken, fire lighting and firefighting is everyone's business; bininj and daluk, rangers and coordinators, directors and

the CEO all work together on the fire line. Nothing brings the team together more than days and weeks spent together in the ash and sweat, and very few land management activities express connection and ownership of country more than careful prescribed burning.

LEFT: Chopper pick up after a hard but successful day of firefighting. *Birribilidombom wanjh chopper kare kabenmang.* Photo by Torsten Unnasch

RIGHT: Torsten Unnasch, Arijay Nabarlambarl and Stuart Guymala on their way to a fire on the plateau. *Torsten Unnasch, Arijay Nabarlambarl dja Stuart Guymala kabirrire kabirribilidombun kunak kore kuwarddewardde.* Photo by Torsten Unnasch



Representing our company

Conferences and forums

In February, Warddeken rangers were well represented at the 2019 Savanna Fire Forum. Rangers met with peers from across the Top End and learnt about the different regimes and technologies being used in savanna fire management.

In May, Elizabeth Nabarlambarl and Milly Naborlhborlh shared our project vision and goals at the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH) in Wollongong.

Twice this year, Warddeken Chair, Dean Yibarbuk travelled to Canada to share the learnings from the Warddeken IPA. With the support

of the Pew Foundation he met with Canadian first nations people and Canadian government to talk about IPAs and ranger programs, and inspired Canadian groups to look at similar programs for their part of the world.

Dean also attended the first North American Dialogue on Biocultural Diversity held in Montreal and co-sponsored by the Centre for Indigenous Conservation and Development Alternatives (CICADA). The Dialogue led to creation of the North American Regional Declaration on Biocultural Diversity, which promotes resilient communities and strengthens the links between biological and cultural diversity in the North American region.

2018 Banksia Sustainability Awards

This year Warddeken were the winners of the 2018 Banksia Indigenous Award. Judges commented that our company stood out for its exceptional work within the indigenous community. They were impressed by the resilience shown by Warddeken and the level of independence demonstrated by earning half of our revenue through non-government means.

The judges described Warddeken as a unique entry due to our focus on environmental sustainability as well as the cultural aspect of intergenerational knowledge transfer. In particular, that they were impressed that our indigenous



knowledge has "contemporary value" within education and the workforce, and the integral role of Nawarddeken in this work.

Graz van Egmond, CEO of the Banksia Foundation said, "We were thrilled with the calibre of entries to the Awards, and the winners' commitment to progressing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It's wonderful to be able to

connect their work here in Australia with a global drive for change. They should be very proud of the impact they are having."

The judges said they would continue to follow our progress, and watch with interest as we grow and tap into new markets. Our directors who attended the awards were honoured by the well-deserved recognition they received.

LEFT: Manoah Nawilil at the NLC Ranger Forum on the Cox Peninsula. *Manoah Nawilil, NLC Ranger Forum kore Cox Peninsula.*

RIGHT: Senior landowners and support staff accepting the well-earned Banksia Award. *Kunred bedberre dja support staff kabirrikarme Banksia Award.*



Our People

Senior Cultural Advisors



Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek



Josie Maralngurra



Leanne Guymala



Lillian Guymala



Deborah Nabarlambarl



Wurdib Nabalwad



Berribob Watson



Margaret Nabalwad



Molly Nayilibidj

Our People

Management & Staff



CEO
Shaun Ansell



FIRE ECOLOGIST & MENTOR
Dean Yibarbuk



FINANCIAL CONTROLLER
John O'Brien



SENIOR RANGER
Terrah Guymala



SENIOR RANGER
Freddy Nadjamerrek



**KABULWARNAMYO RANGER
COORDINATOR** Strath Barton



MANMOYI RANGER COORDINATOR
Natalie Chester



**MAMARDAWERRE RANGER
COORDINATOR** Torsten Unnasch



SENIOR RANGER
Stuart Guymala



ECOLOGICAL MONITORING OFFICER
Alys Stevens



ROCK ART PROJECT OFFICER
Claudia Cialone



SENIOR RANGER
Greg Lippo



DALUK RANGERS TEAM LEADER
Elizabeth Nabarlambarl



DALUK RANGERS TEAM LEADER
Lorraine Namarnyilk



DALUK ENGAGEMENT OFFICER
Rebecca Parker



ADMINISTRATION OFFICER
Bianca Twaddle



RANGERS TEAM LEADER
Lindsay Whitehurst



MECHANICAL SERVICES OFFICER
Jimmy Morrison



BUILDING & MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR
Chris Bald



NAWARDDEKEN ACADEMY EO
Olga Scholes

Thanks to our dedicated rangers

Ahwon, Anne Marie
Badari, Sylvia
Balmana, Robert
Bangarr, Marshall
Billless Cooper, Sara Sarah
Billless, Jamie
Billis, Jakah
Billis, Sarah
Brown, Josephine
Brown, Terrance
Bulliwana, Kevin
Bulliwana, Kyrin
Bush / Rankin, Eldrick
Cameron / Djandjomerr, Corrienne
Cameron, David
Cameron, Joylene
Cameron, Marcus
Cameron, Marlene
Cialone, Claudia
Dakgalaway, Duane
Dakgalawuy, Sharna
Djandjomerr, Belinda
Djandjomerr, Christianna
Djandjomerr, Esau
Djogiba, Terrah
Dudduma, Dudley
Dullman, Elkanah
Forrest, Daniel
Galaminda, Anthea
Galaminda, Cecil
Galaminda, Gillian
Garlingarr, Victor
Garnaradj, Mica
Garnarradj, Joshua
Garnarradji, Carmen
Girabul, Tana
Girrabul, Tana
Gulamuwu, Theophilus (Theo)
Gumurdul, Duncan
Gurruwiwi, Eric
Guymala, Adeline
Guymala, Alio
Guymala, Ashalina
Guymala, Asheena
Guymala, Dion
Guymala, Jenkin
Guymala, Joe
Guymala, Leanne
Guymala, Lillian
Guymala, Margaret
Guymala, Mario
Guymala, Ross
Guymala, Stuart
Guymala, Terrah
Guymala, Zario
Hunter, Fred

Koimala, Deon
Koimala, Jalisa
Laraidbi, Grace
Lawrence, Fiona
Lippo, Gavin
Lippo, Greg
Makin, Karl
Managku, Jobie
Mangiru, David
Mangiru, Ron
Maralngurra, Conrad
Maralngurra, Darius
Maralngurra, Lorina
Maralngurra, Maath
Maralngurra, Nick
Maralngurra, Robbie
Marlibirr (Pascoe), Maacka
McCartney, Wayne
Midjarda, Edna
Miller, Joelene (Lisa)
Morrison, Cade
Nabarlambarl (Camp), Arijay
Nabarlambarl (Guymala), Richie
Nabarlambarl, Anthony
Nabarlambarl, Deborah
Nabarlambarl, Elizabeth
Nabarlambarl, Jamie
Nabarlambarl, Maylene
Nabarlambarl, Mitchell
Nabarlambarl, Reon
Nabarlambarl, Richie
Nabarlambarl, Ricky
Nabarlambarl, Willie
Nabegayo, Rosie
Nabegeyo, Elston
Naborlhorl, Jonson
Naborlhorl, Malakai
Naborlhorl, Ackim
Naborlhorl, Alfie
Naborlhorl, Heather
Naborlhorl, Joel
Naborlhorl, Lewis
Naborlhorl, Margaret
Naborlhorl, Milly
Naborlhorl, Nell
Naborlhorl, Rodney
Naborlhorl, Serita
Naborlhorl, Winston
Nabulumo, Paul
Nabulwad, Chantel
Nabulwad, Lorna
Nabulwad, Rosemary
Nabulwad, Suzannah
Nabulwad, Tahnee
Nadjamerrek, Enosh
Nadjamerrek, Faith
Nadjamerrek, Frankie
Nadjamerrek, Frederick
Nadjamerrek, Jenny
Nadjamerrek, June

Nadjamerrek, Keith
Nadjamerrek, Lois
Nadjamerrek, Mary
Nadjamerrek, Naomi
Nadjamerrek, Ray
Nadjamerrek, Rhonda
Nadjowh, Amaziah
Nadjowh, Robert
Nagurrurrba, Clifton
Nagurrurrba, Colleen
Nagurrurrba, Sebastian
Nalorlman, Billy
Nalorman, Judas
Namarnyilk / Djogiba, Jonathan
Namarnyilk, Alexandria
Namarnyilk, Emma
Namarnyilk, Gavin
Namarnyilk, Graham
Namarnyilk, Jack
Namarnyilk, Lorraine
Namarnyilk, Serina
Namarnyilk, Theona
Namarnyilk, Zachariah
Namundja, Charlton
Namundja, Christella
Namundja, Merrill
Namundja, Yvette
Narborlhorl, Melchi
Narorrnga / Nabulwad, Tinesha
Narorrnga, Ashton
Nawilil, Kormel
Nawilil, Manoah
Nawirridj, Eliza
Nayilibidj, Nicodemus
Nayinggul, Keenan
Naylibidj, Sebi
Nayowana, Cane
Ngabuy, Ashon
Ngabuy, Christopher
Pamkal, Garrett (Gareth)
Phillips, Gavin
Phillips, Lesley
Rankin, Corey
Reid, Johnny
Vigona, Jessica
Watson, Berribob
Watson, George
Watson, Karen
Wauchope, Hazel
Wesley, Bradley
Whitehurst, Lindsay
Wood, Janita
Yibarbuk, Bernadette
Yibarbuk, Dean Munuggullumurr
Yibarbuk, Jayrique
Yibarbuk, Penelope

“Together, Jake and Georgia were at the heart of almost everything that happened in the Warddeken IPA.”

*Kindred spirits, Georgia Vallance and Mary Kalkiwarra.
Karrimud, Georgia Vallance dja Mary Kalkiwarra.*



Farewell Georgia & Jake

For the past decade (and then some) Jake Weigl and Georgia Vallance have worked tirelessly alongside our rangers to build Warddeken into the great company that it is today. This dynamic couple brought with them to Warddeken an amazing complimentary set of skills tempered with a deep respect and empathy for our members and their vision for this country.

Jake excelled in developing an incredible team of hard working and resourceful rangers across our three bases. Georgia deftly navigated our Warddeken programs through the myriad of daily challenges that arose. Together they were at the heart of almost everything that happened in the Warddeken IPA.

Warddeken would not be the company it is today without Jake and Georgia and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for all that they have done for the Nawarddeken and this amazing country. They are much loved and will be missed by us all.

BELOW: Jake Weigl takes a cool dip during early season burning. *Jake Weigl dalkwurlhkeng dja wanjh kadjuhkendi kore manbokedjelk.*



Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust



The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust (KKT) works with indigenous ranger groups, including Warddeken Land Management Ltd, in one of the most culturally rich and biodiverse regions of Australia – west and central Arnhem Land. Through our work, rangers and philanthropists are brought together to address some of the region’s most pressing issues.

Reflecting the priorities of our partners, we take a holistic approach to conservation. Each project we support strengthens the ability of indigenous people to manage their natural and cultural assets.

Over the 2018-19 financial year, the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust and Warddeken have continued to partner to ensure communities can thrive in Warddeken’s remote context. Thanks to our generous supporters, this year we contributed \$1,051,572 of philanthropic funding to Warddeken projects. Much of their work is transitioning from pilot project to regional roll-out, with skills honed and outcomes that consistently exceed expectations.

We provide support for the Nawarddeken Academy to deliver quality bi-cultural education within the remote Warddeken IPA. Through the Mayh Recovery Project, we are helping to protect native species by blending traditional knowledge and western science. We are also supporting opportunities for indigenous women in the ranger movement, through the Daluk Engagement Program.

With a Northern Territory Government grant, secured by Warddeken and invested in the growth of KKT, we are in the midst of a capacity building phase. The organisation has grown to four staff and we have already begun working with a new partner, the Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation. As we work through this crucial grant funding we will increase our support of Warddeken and other ranger groups and projects across the region.

This year we bid farewell to Bjorn Everts who, for the past five years, led KKT from strength to strength. We thank him for his commitment to supporting bininj to live and work on country. We welcome Stacey Irving to the role of KKT CEO. Stacey has had a long affiliation with Warddeken and will no doubt build on strong foundations to grow the depth and impact of our support in the region.



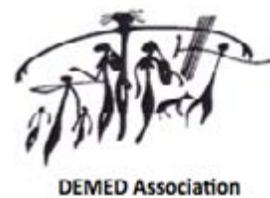
“This year we bid farewell to Bjorn Everts who, for the past five years, lead KKT from strength to strength. We thank him for his commitment to supporting bininj to live and work on country.”

Tyrell Yibarbuk, Anna Rigosi, Reggina Namarnyilk, Serina Namarnyilk and Bjorn Everts. Tyrell Yibarbuk, Anna Rigosi, Reggina Namarnyilk, Serina Namarnyilk dja Bjorn Everts. Photo by Dean Yibarbuk

Funding Partners

Thanks to our many supporters and partners





RIEL
Research Institute for
the Environment and
Livelihoods



PHILANTHROPY

A large, gnarled tree with a broken branch against a blue sky with white clouds. The tree's trunk is thick and textured, with several large, spreading branches. One branch on the right side is broken and jagged. The sky is a mix of light blue and white clouds, suggesting a bright but slightly overcast day. The overall mood is one of resilience and strength.

“The intense challenges of the 2018 fire season will impact our organisation financially and our board is working closely with the CEO to keep our company strong.”

Photo by Jake Weigl

Financial Report

*Extract from the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2019*

INCOME STATEMENT	NOTE	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
Grant revenue		3,444,883	3,319,274
Contract income		685,670	594,067
Other income		128,661	4,716
Employee benefits expense		(2,029,651)	(1,983,601)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments		(238,474)	(225,812)
Hire of plant and equipment		(599,054)	(482,358)
Repairs and maintenance		(545,783)	(263,891)
Other expenses		(1,199,839)	(1,121,875)
(Loss)/profit before income tax		(353,587)	(159,480)
Income tax expense		-	-
(Loss)/profit after income tax		(353,587)	(159,480)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	NOTE	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		431,886	982,718
Trade and other receivables		400,333	132,023
Total current assets		832,255	1,114,741
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment		1,430,699	1,409,954
Total non-current assets		1,430,699	1,409,954
TOTAL ASSETS		2,262,918	2,524,695
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables		409,350	351,172
Employee provisions		113,989	80,357
Total current liabilities		523,339	431,529
TOTAL LIABILITIES		523,339	431,529
NET ASSETS		1,739,579	2,093,166
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		1,739,579	2,093,166
TOTAL EQUITY		1,739,579	2,093,166

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

1. Basis of preparation of the financial report

This summary financial report is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 30 June 2019.

The financial statements are derived from, and are consistent with, the full financial report of Warddeken Land Management Limited.

The summary financial report cannot be expected to provide as detailed an understanding of the financial performance and financial position as the full financial report. A copy of the full financial report and auditor's report will be sent to a member, free of charge, upon request.

BELOW: Rangers Suzannah Nabalwad, Arijay Camp, Bryce Nietvelt (pilot) and Torsten Unnasch after successful aerial burning in Mamardawerre region.
Kabirridurrkmirri Suzannah Nabalwad, Arijay Camp, Bryce Nietvelt (pilot) dja Torsten Unnasch kaddumbeh birriwurlhkeng darnkih kore Mamardawerre.
Photo by Natalie Chester



Independent Audit Report to the members of Warddeken Land Management Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the income statement for the year then ended and related notes are derived from the audited financial report of Warddeken Land Management Limited for the year ended 30 June 2019.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report, in accordance with the basis described in Note 1.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of Warddeken Land Management Limited and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.



PERKS AUDIT PTY LTD
84 Smith Street
Darwin NT 0800

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated the 30th of November 2019.

Responsibilities of Directors for the Summary Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditor's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.



PETER J HILL
Director

Dated this 22nd day of November 2019

Stone artefacts of knives, spear heads and other tools are abundant across the plateau and illustrate the continual occupation by bininj and their ancestors of this ancient land.

Djerrkudmiken yiman kayime mandjawak, djalakkarradj mirrhno kamirndedi kore kuwardewardde dja kayolyolme story baleh daborrabbalk birriyoy kunkarre dja mak bininj kabirridjare kabirriyo bolkkime kore kubalkkuken kured.

Photo by David Hancock

Dedication to Lofty

Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek 1926 - 2009



Yakkake Wamud Namok, djorrhbayeng, ngundimanjbun rowk bu kanbukkabukkang ngadberre angarre nawarddeken, kankangemang ngadberre Wamud.

Wamud of the Mok clan, in whose special clan language we use the Mok clan word 'yakkake'— our dear friend. We all thank you for everything you have taught us, the culture and way of life from the rock country. Our hearts cry out to you Wamud.

Munguyhmunguyh ngarridjalbengkan ngudda.

We shall forever think about you.

Kunmalng ke karrurndeng kore Ankung Djang, kore Djabidj Bakoluy, kore Kundjorlomdjorlom, Nabiwo Kadjangdi, Ankung Kangeyh, Kabulwarnamyo, kore "the dear one".

Your spirit will return to the Honey Dreaming sacred places, to Djabidj Bakoluy, to Kundjorlomdjorlom, Nabiwo Kadjangdi, to Ankung Kangeyh and Kabulwarnamyo, the place you referred to as "the dear one".

You Wamud will always be our "dear one".



Ngarridjarrkbolknahnan kunred

Looking after country together

Warddeken Land Management Limited
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Email: operations@warddeken.org.au