

WALALAKOO ABORIGINAL CORPORATION MEMBERS' REPORT 2016-17



Warning: This plan may contain images, names and references to deceased Aboriginal people.

Design and layout: KRED Enterprises.

Citation: Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC: Members Report 2015-16.

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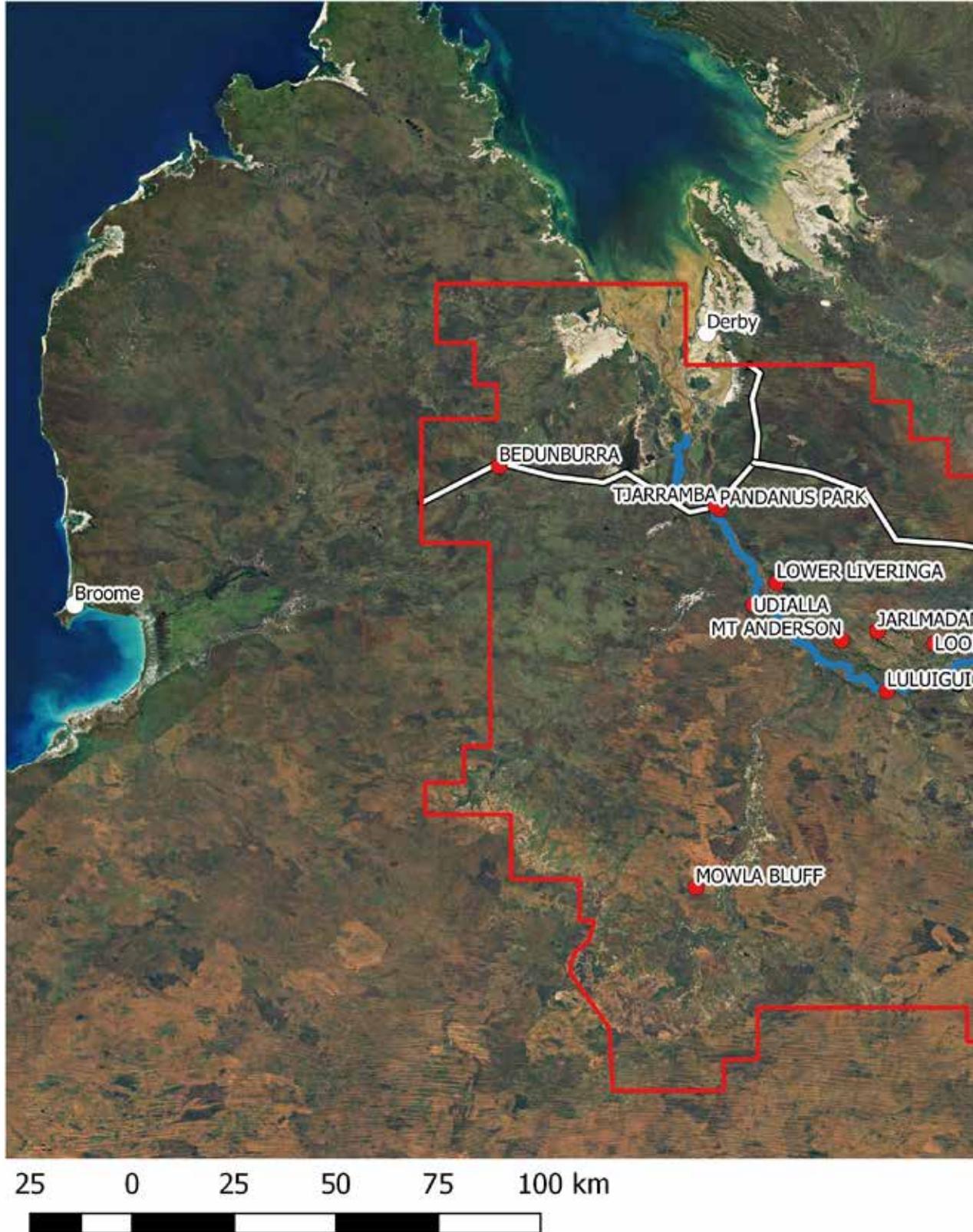


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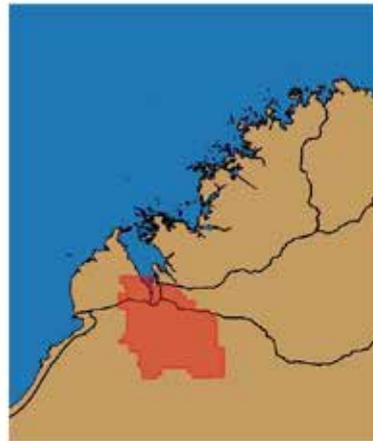
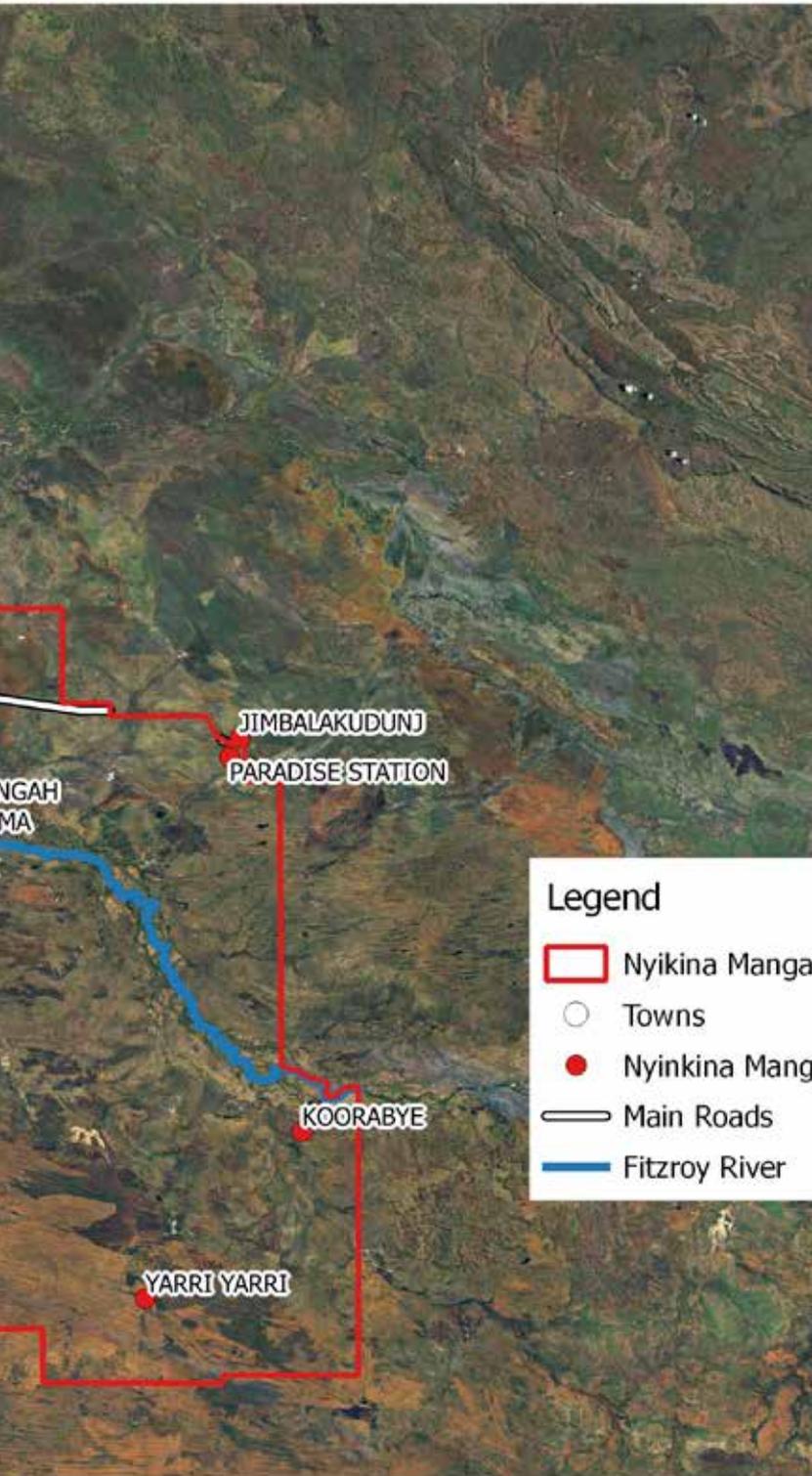


MAP

Satellite Map Ny



Nyinkina Mangala



Legend

-  Nyinkina Mangala Native Title Determination
-  Towns
-  Nyinkina Mangala communities
-  Main Roads
-  Fitzroy River





ABOUT WALALAKOO



Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation is positioning itself as the key political, social and economic body representing the Nyikina Mangala people of the Kimberley region in Western Australia. Based in Derby, Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation was established following the Nyikina Mangala Native Title Determination on the 29th May, 2014. It oversees approximately 26, 215 square kilometres of exclusive and non-exclusive possession native title.

There are a number of existing interests on our country, including mining and pastoral

interests. We're interested in involvement, both as a way to create economic opportunities for Nyikina Mangala people and also as a way to ensure our country and our cultural heritage are protected. Additionally, we're excited to be driving Indigenous-owned economic development and creating sustainable opportunities for our people.

Mardoowarra, the Fitzroy River, keeps our people alive. It's the lifeblood of Nyikina Mangala country and was formed by Woonyoomboo back in the Dreamtime when



the world was still soft. Since then, we've known how to look after country, we've known the right names for our places, and we've passed Woonyoomboo's laws along from generation to generation for thousands of years.

Our first real experience of 'kartiya's', or whitefellas, came through the establishment of the pastoral industry in the Kimberley following Andrew Forrest's report of 1884, describing 40,000 square kilometers of available grazing for sheep and cattle.

The next fifty years were incredibly hard on our people, with plenty of station managers quick on the whip, quick to deliver hidings and quick on the trigger. Gradually Nyikina Mangala people began to work on the stations, where we were given basic rations and clothes in exchange for long hours fencing, droving, shearing and breaking horses. A lot of good men and women never got paid. During this time, a lot of Aboriginal people had accidents with horses and bullocks. We received no compensation.



In the late 1960s we were pushed off the stations and into the towns. At that time, Marra Worra Worra helped to sort out rations and pensions. Throughout the '70s we began to get organised, we heard that in the Territory the mob were setting up Land Councils. "That's what we need here," we said. Our old people, including senior Nyikina Mangala people, set up the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) as a political land rights organisation. The first Chairman was Frank Chulung, then Jimmy Beindurry, then Darryl Kickett, then John Watson.

This was also around the same time as the Noonkanbah dispute, and Noonkanbah was the setting for one of the most powerful land rights movements in Australia. Under the leadership of Malaga Nipper Tabagee, we

fought the exploration company Amax that wanted to drill for oil on our sacred sites. It wasn't just Nyikina Mangala people fighting, but people came from all over Australia to support us. We stood in front of the trucks and we demonstrated hard.

First contact isn't distant history for our people. Some of our old people walked out of the desert in this lifetime. From first contact to now—Nyikina Mangala people have fought hard for land rights, social justice and equality. A senior cultural leader in the Kimberley once said, 'On my left is our past and all of our culture, our heritage and my history. On the right is my future, my children and my grandchildren. I am in the middle making sure that the best of my past and my culture is kept

strong as we make our way into the future.'

This is what the Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation Directors, our Heritage and Culture Advisory Committee and our Caring for Country Advisory Committee are striving to do.

Protecting places of cultural and heritage significance is crucial to Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation's mission of advancing culture. It's important that any companies wishing to work with Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation or access our native title area for mining or exploration understand this. Some of our key principles in relation to heritage protection include a moratorium on uranium exploration and mining, an insistence on 'no means no' in our heritage protection agreements, no

fracking without our consent, and we ask that companies stay away from our river.

The Fitzroy River has been recognised on the National Heritage List as a place of national significance and we have agreed on a buffer zone around the river which must be respected.

Our vision is to be self-sufficient organisation that adopts the world's best practice in environmental and agricultural sustainability and provides social and material prosperity to Nykina Mangala communities. We aim to preserve culture, provide Indigenous employment opportunities and to operate an influential organisation with strong internal and external communication channels.



NOOKANBAH WAS THE SETTING FOR ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL LAND RIGHTS MOVEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.



ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



ChairpersonWayne Bergmann
 Deputy ChairpersonCyril Archer
 DirectorAnne Poelina
 DirectorLinda Nardea
 DirectorRobert Watson
 DirectorRona Charles
 DirectorTina McMahan
 DirectorJoseph Milgin
 DirectorAnthony Watson

DirectorTheresa Henry
 Director/Cultural AdviserJohn Watson
 Director/Cultural AdviserRosita Shaw
 Cultural Adviser.....Kimberley Watson (absent)
 Cultural Adviser.....Annie Narda (absent)
 Cultural Adviser.....Harry Watson
 Cultural Adviser.....Jeanie Warbie (absent)
 Cultural Adviser.....Roger Narda (absent)
 Cultural Adviser.....Annie Milgin (absent)



DAMIEN PARRIMAN - CEO REPORT



Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (WAC) is now in its fourth year of operation and I have been the CEO for two years. The past two years have been a challenging and exciting time for the organisation as we endeavour to build a sustainable and prosperous organisation.

At this year's AGM, WAC will hold its second election for directors and cultural advisers. There was a decision made at the June 2017 board meeting to hold the elections at this year's AGM rather

than wait until April 2018 when the two year term expires. The reason for this was to avoid the additional costs of a second members' meeting in the one calendar year. The board has met four times since the last AGM and has continued to be very efficient whilst being diligent in their performance and duties to the organisation.

WAC has been engaged in two significant land management projects this past 12 months with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The first project was the development of a Healthy Country Plan which provides a ten-year plan for the way Nyikina Mangala people want to look after country, people and culture. The Plan was launched at the Nyikina Mangala ranger base in Jarlmadangah in May this year.

The second project is the Development by Design Project. This project involved collating all available environmental, cultural and social data into a digital mapping program. This program will be used to assess development proposals against the data so that there will be a more accurate and detailed assessment of the impacts that the development will have on country.



Although WAC has been successful in obtaining funds for project work, very few of these funds contribute to the operational costs of the organisation. Without an increase to PBC support funding from the Government, income generation remains the priority for the organisation going forward. The Board is investigating many potential opportunities for income generation and I am implementing processes to keep the organisations operational costs to a minimum.

With the steadily recovering oil prices, Buru Energy has recommenced operations at Ungani. Initial production levels are minimal but the income this will generate for Walalakoo is critical. Buru Energy has also picked up their exploration program and will be focusing on proofing the viability of additional conventional oil well sites to increase production levels.

The negotiations between Sheffield Resources and the Mt Jowaelenga Applicants have stalled and the parties are in litigation. Sheffield Resources need to consult with WAC regarding two miscellaneous licenses they have applied for which will give them access to the Thunderbird tenement through the Determination area. WAC is entitled to be compensated for the impacts that the granting of the licenses will have on Native Title rights and interests. These consultations have been progressing over the past two months and there is potential for an agreement to be made.

The negotiations with the Indigenous Land Corporation for the divestment of Myroodah station to the PBC have been very slow. The ILC rejected a proposal for a Joint Venture between the ILC and KAPCO which is WAC's preferred management company. WAC and KAPCO have been actively seeking investment and debt finance to secure the divestment of Myroodah and the livestock.

It is an exciting but still challenging time for WAC, as we have been able to strongly progress the divestment of Myroodah and the transfer of the Ranger Program. KAPCO is also performing strongly. These things take time to fully transpire but they are at a point where they are almost resolved.

I would like to thank the board, cultural advisers and all the members for their hard work and support over the past 12 months. It has been a huge effort and I look forward to another year.

WAYNE BERGMANN - CHAIRPERSON



I am currently serving my second term as Chairperson after being re-elected in April this year. It is a privilege being the Chairperson of Walalakoo and I am grateful that the members and other directors have the confidence in me to help guide the organisation into the future.

There has been a big demand from third parties on WAC and its members over the past 12 months. A lot of research is taking place in the Fitzroy Catchment

areas particularly around water quality and quantities and investigating opportunities for irrigated agriculture projects. Petroleum exploration has declined more recently but there was still a substantial amount of activity in the first second half of last year. In addition to all of this Walalakoo has been busy with our own activities.

The cultural mapping work has been successful, the Board is now in a position to process membership applications as they are received. After identifying the various issues with the construct of the native title group we have now developed a process with the necessary information to address these issues.

The Corporation has also been busy with our own land management and planning projects. The Healthy Country Plan is in its final stages and when complete will become the blue print for our rangers working on country program. The Development by Design project incorporating our cultural values is a first in the world for the Nature Conservancy's US based DbD team. This will provide valuable tools to Nykina Mangala people to assist with the assessment of development proposals on our country. We are also developing a business plan to assist us in the development of our own sustainable cultural and land management enterprise.

The biggest challenge currently facing our organisation is creating economic opportunities to ensure WAC is financially sustainable going forward. With the suspension of operations at Buru's Ungani oil field, WAC's major source of income has been diminished. In response to this we have been busy trying to create other sources of revenue for the organisation. WAC's biggest investment has been in KAPCO. KAPCO has officially been operating since March when the sub leases for Mt Anderson, Bohemia Downs and Frazier Downs were executed. Musters at Mt Anderson and Bohemia Downs were very successful and the outlook for the next 12 months and beyond is very promising.

I would like to thank all the directors and cultural advisers for all their hard work over the past 12 months. The key to our success will be strong governance. The way in which the board has conducted business over the past 12 months gives me great confidence going forward. Our ability to shape our own future will depend on us standing together and standing strong.





PASTORAL UPDATE



Our old people were once the backbone of the pastoral industry in the Kimberley. They worked on stations across the region and they worked hard for ten months of the year - yarding, branding, fencing and droving. They weren't paid for their work but received a shirt, trousers, boots, hat, tobacco and tucker.

Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation believes Nyikina Mangala people can play a significant role in the pastoral industry once again. This time, we want our people to be working on *and* managing successful stations across the region. As a step toward this, Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation has invested in the Kimberley Agriculture and Pastoral Company (KAPCO). Discussions and negotiations with the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) to transfer Myroodah Station to WAC have been ongoing for nearly two years now. The ILC board has approved the divestment to WAC on the condition that a sub lease be granted to the ILC's subsidiary company Australian Indigenous Agribusiness AIA. This condition was unacceptable to the WAC Board so we have been exploring other options.

A joint venture proposal between AIA and KAPCO was presented to the ILC but it was rejected by AIA. The only option is for WAC and KAPCO to raise the funds to purchase the Myroodah herd from the ILC. This option looks promising and may be resolved by the 2017 AGM where where the KAPCO Chairman will provide a report to the WAC Members.

WAC has established the Walalakoo Land Holding Aboriginal Corporation which will be the entity that the property will be transferred to. The WLHAC is now incorporated and endorsed for charitable purposes by the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission.





WAC PROPOSED LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Native Title Claim over the Derby Area

On the same day as the 2016 WAC AGM, the Nyikina Mangala People authorised the Booroola Moorool Moorool Native Title Claim. The claim has been registered by the National Native Title Tribunal. In 2012 the Warrwa people filed a native title application, the Warrwa #2 claim over Derby and the surrounding area; in 2014 this was combined with another Warrwa native title claim that had been filed over a small area for mining. The 2012 claim on behalf of Warrwa was filed by an independent legal firm Hopgood Ganim Lawyers.

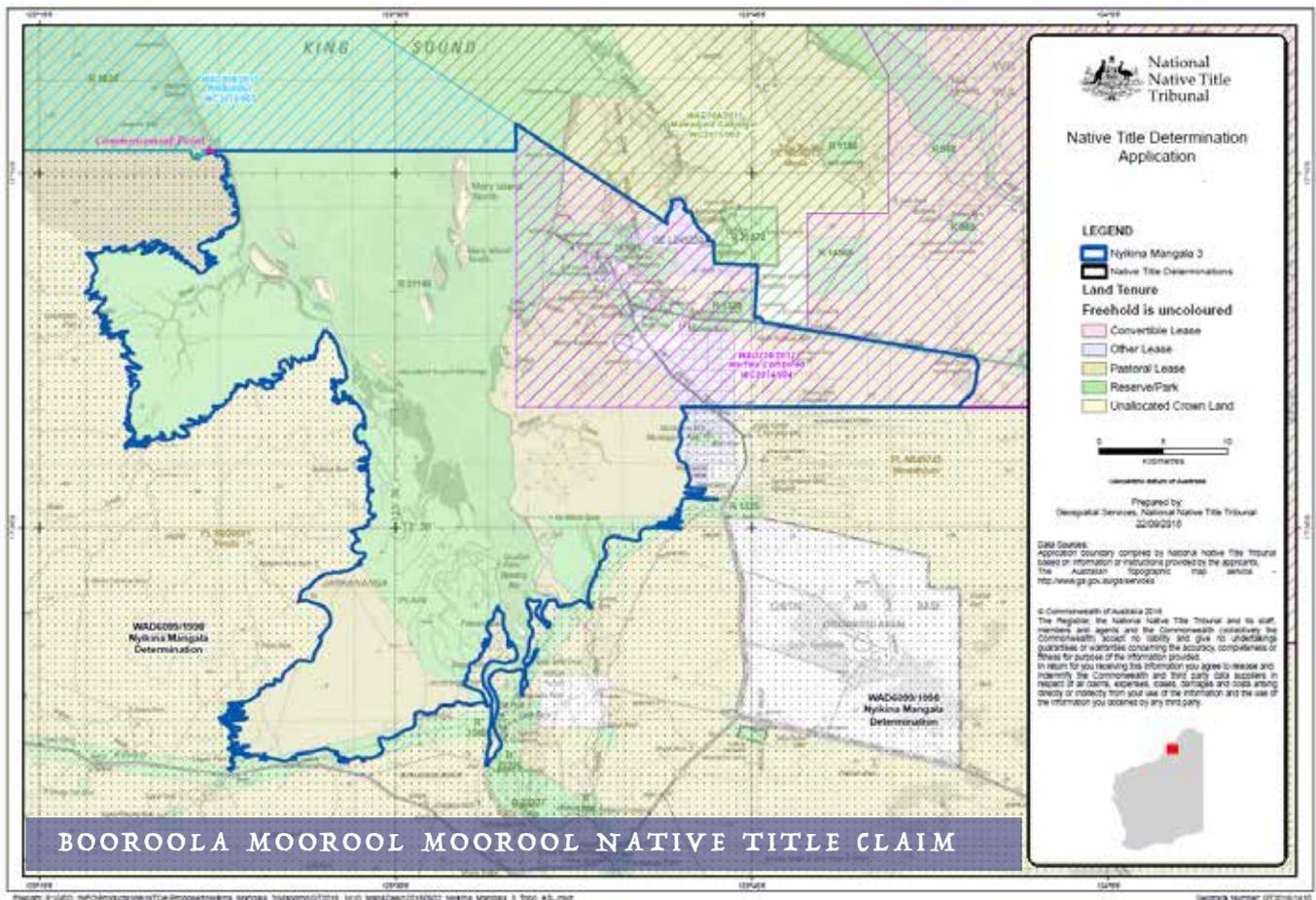
Booroola Moorool Moorool and the Warrwa #2 claims overlap over the area of the Derby township. WAC has applied to the KLC for funding to cover costs associated with registering the claim. The KLC is yet to make a decision about the funding. However, the KLC has agreed to fund a mediation process between the two Applicants. The first mediation was held in Broome in July. There was a good discussion between the two Applicants, however none of the issues presented for mediation were resolved. The KLC will be advising on the next stage of the mediation.

2. Joint Native Title Claim

There is an area of Unallocated Crown Land between the Karajarri, Rubibi and Nyikina Mangala native title determinations. There have been on-going discussions since about 2003 with representatives of the three groups about the potential for a Native Title Claim over the area. The potential for a claim has resurfaced due to a third party sending an expression of interest to the State Government for the use of that land for a pastoral station

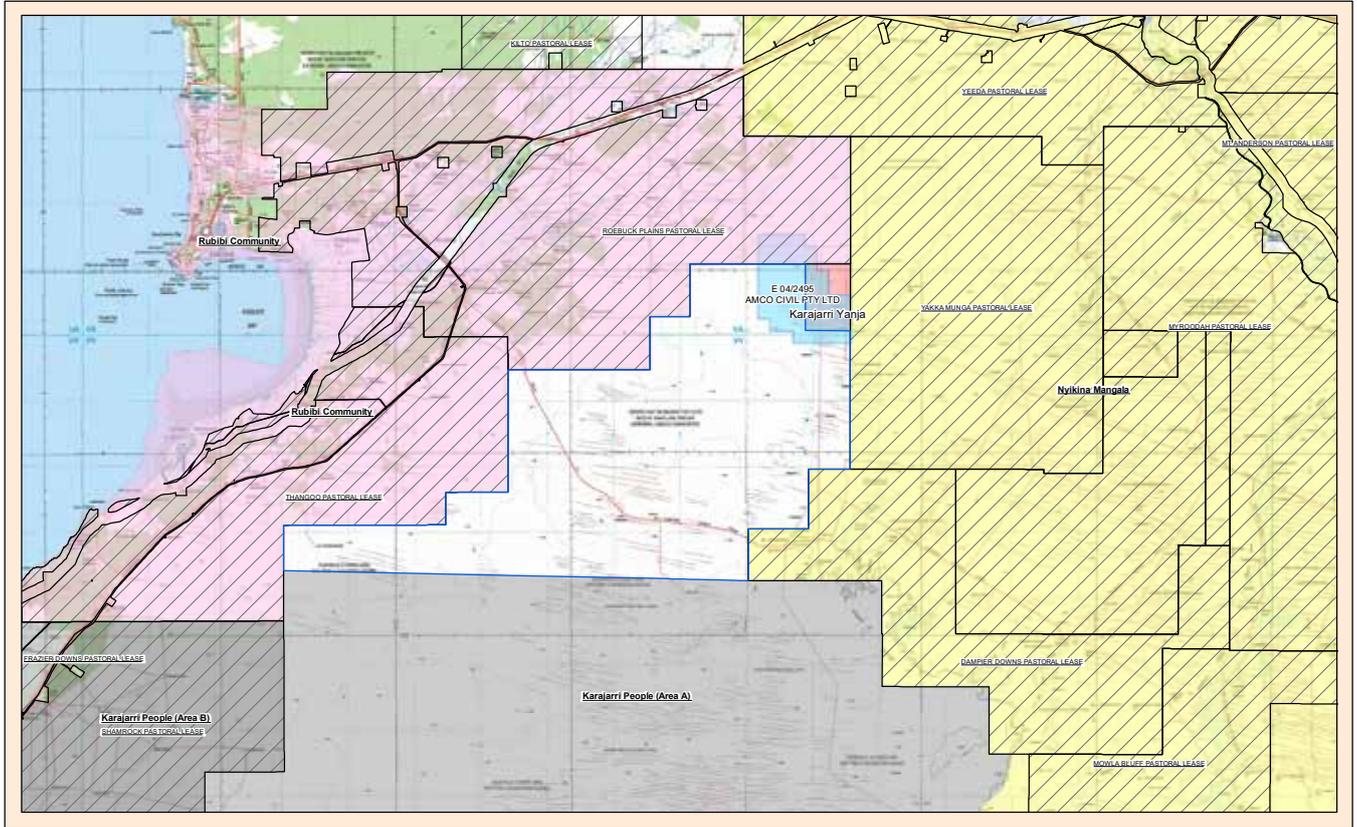
The WAC Cultural Advisers have attended three meetings in the past 12 months to discuss the options with the KLC and the other groups of the best way to structure a native claim over the area. The three groups have agreed to work together and the KLC have engaged Anthropologist Daniel Vachon to do some preliminary connection work for the area.

Before a native claim is lodged each group will have a full community meeting to decide on the structure of the native title claim. This is expected to be towards the middle of 2018.



3. Sheffield Resources Miscellaneous Licences Application

Sheffield Resources has applied for Miscellaneous Licences in the Nyikina Mangala Native Title Determination area that will provide them access to their Thunderbird Project. Sheffield are required to consult with the native title holders. Consultations were initially slow but have progressed more recently. These consultations are continuing at present, and an update will be provided to the members at the AGM.



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 Kilometres
 Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Horizontal Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA)
 Grid: Map Grid of Australia 1994, Zone 51

Legend

		Native Title Determinations	

 **Respectful Land Relations**

Date: 9/10/2017
 Drawn: WD
 Rev: 0

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BURU ENERGY UPDATE

Buru Energy and Walalakoo are pleased to advise that re-commencement of oil production at the Ungani oilfield, located 90km east of Broome, started on 16th June 2017. Buru had discontinued production in January 2015 due to the low oil prices worldwide, which dipped to below US\$30 per barrel at the time, however with price currently sitting above US\$50 per barrel, the market conditions are favourable for production.

The first shipment since resumption occurred in early September, with 65,000 barrels trucked to the Wyndham port, where they were loaded and bound for a refinery located in Papua New Guinea. There the crude oil will be refined into various products, including kerosene, diesels and tars for roads. There are long term aspirations for Buru to export from the much closer Broome port in the future.

In late June, Buru presented to the Ungani Implementation Committee on the restart of operations at Ungani as well as advised of an asset swap that took place with Mitsubishi in May 2017, with Mitsubishi agreeing to transfer its 50% stake over to Buru in exchange for Buru's stake in an exploration permit in Valhalla. Walalakoo is also working with Buru to organise a visit for Nyikina Mangala and Karrajarri elders to the Ungani oilfield in late 2017.

Buru also conducted two heritage surveys with Walalakoo during August and September 2017, at the Ungani oilfield and Yakka Munga Station. The well at Ungani will see drilling commence for oil in mid-October, whilst the heritage survey at Yakka Munga station has cleared the way for some more exploration work in the future.





HEALTHY COUNTRY PLAN



In May 2017 the Walalakoo Healthy Country Plan (HCP) was publicly launched in Jarlmadangah. The Jarlmadangah community, Nyikina Mangala Rangers and Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation invited community members, friends and partners to spend a day on-country to learn about Nyikina and Mangala's aspirations for Healthy Country Management, explore Nyikina and Mangala's people rich culture, and learn about the life of a Nyikina Mangala Ranger.

The Walalakoo HCP gives guidance to the Nyikina Mangala Rangers and Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation about cultural and natural land management priorities and will inform land-management decisions. The Healthy Country Plan tells the story of how Nyikina and Mangala Traditional Owners want to look after country.

For a copy of the Walalakoo Healthy Country Plan please visit www.walalakoo.org.au or contact your corporation staff. The Nature Conservancy and the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program supported the development and launch of the Walalakoo Healthy Country Plan.

DEVELOPMENT BY DESIGN



Building on the Walalakoo Healthy Country Plan, WAC partnered with The Nature Conservancy to undertake a project that incorporates cultural and social values into an impact assessment framework. The Development-by-Design (DbD) project increases Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation's capacity in land-use negotiations and decisions by providing critical information on the impact of a development proposal on the Traditional Owner community and country. As part of the Development-by Design project Walalakoo AC appointed a DbD-working

group that met several times this year to give feedback on the project and to progress the development of a reporting tool that will help the Corporation. The project collated, modelled and sourced a library of information to inform our decision-making. In September, Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation and TNC Australia met with Commonwealth and State Departments to present on the Development by Design project and discuss how it can inform decision-making processes.



THE FITZROY RIVER DECLARATION



“
Traditional Owners of the Kimberley region of Western Australia are concerned about the potential for cumulative impacts on the Fitzroy River and its catchment and the potential for cumulative



*are concerned by the extensive development proposals facing the
impacts on its unique cultural and environmental values.* ”



THE FITZROY RIVER DECLARATION

Traditional Owners from the Fitzroy River catchment area met on the 2nd and 3rd of November 2016 in Fitzroy Crossing. Participants from that meeting developed the below statement:

Traditional Owners of the Kimberley region of Western Australia are concerned by the extensive development proposals facing the Fitzroy River and its catchment and the potential for cumulative impacts on its unique cultural and environmental values.

The unique cultural and environmental values of the Fitzroy River and its catchment are of national and international significance. The Fitzroy River is a living ancestral being and has a right to life. It must be protected for current and future generations, and managed jointly by the Traditional Owners of the river.

Traditional Owners of the Fitzroy catchment agree to work together to:

1. Action a process for joint PBC decision making on activities in the Fitzroy catchment;
2. Reach a joint position on fracking in the Fitzroy catchment;
3. Create a buffer zone for no mining, oil, gas, irrigation and dams in the Fitzroy catchment;
4. Develop and agree a Management Plan for the entire Fitzroy Catchment, based on traditional and environmental values;
5. Develop a Fitzroy River Management Body for the Fitzroy Catchment, founded on cultural governance;
6. Complement these with a joint Indigenous Protected Area over the Fitzroy River;
7. Engage with shire and state government to communicate concerns and ensure they follow the agreed joint process;
8. Investigate legal options to support the above, including:
 - 1) Strengthen protections under the EPBC Act National Heritage Listing;
 - 2) Strengthen protections under the Aboriginal Heritage Act; and
 - 3) Legislation to protect the Fitzroy catchment and its unique cultural and natural values.

This Declaration was endorsed by the members of Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation at the 2016 AGM.





YIMARDOO WARRA RANGERS NYIKINA MANGALA



Sawfish Research with Murdoch University

The rangers' ongoing work with Murdoch University in sawfish research is paying off with well over 100 sawfish tagged this dry season. The Fitzroy River sawfish population is looking very healthy after last year's big wet. The project also attracted national media coverage with the ABC News doing a story on the rangers and their work with the sawfish.

WWF partnership, Spectacled Hare Wallaby Survey

We undertook a Spectacled Hare Wallaby survey in partnership with WWF, Nyikina Mangala, Karajarri & Yawuru Rangers. The survey had really exciting results with 9 cameras out of 40 having photos of the rare Spectacled Hare Wallaby that was thought to be extinct in the West Kimberley. The survey basecamp was at Sheep Camp and the survey was conducted on the UCL (unclaimed land) off the Great Northern highway south of Broome.

Crocodile Management

Another cheeky saltwater crocodile who was harassing people on the Fitzroy River was removed from Telegraph Pool by the rangers in August at the request of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. It went into the trap on the first night. The rangers are getting good at setting these traps! This croc had been a problem for some time in this part of the river. Its new home is at the Malcom Douglas Crocodile Park.

Ranger Forum

This year the KLC Ranger Forum was held at Pender Bay on the Dampier peninsular. Hundreds of Rangers came from across the North of Australia, Kimberley, North Queensland and Northern Territory. It was a very good event with a big focus on biosecurity. The Nyikina Mangala Rangers did a presentation on the progress of the sawfish projects that we are currently working on, as well as participating in the Kimberley Ranger Expo to showcase all our work on country. It was a very successful event and we look forward to the next one.

Black Flanked Rock Wallaby survey

The rangers in partnership with WWF continued with the ongoing Black Flanked Rock Wallaby surveys. This trip was based at Gee Gully Creek on Mowla Bluff Station. WWF supplied a helicopter so the Rangers could search remote rocky outcrops out in the Great Sandy Desert in Mangala Country with Traditional Owners John Watson and Roger Nada (Green) It was a good survey as we found evidence of the wallabies in new areas which has now extended their known range. Another great outcome for the Nyikina Mangala Rangers.

Bushfires

Several wild fires have threatened Looma and Jarlmadangah communities this dry season. In partnership with DFES the Nyikina Mangala Rangers have been fighting these fires to bring them under control. These late dry season fire cause a lot of damage to the plants and animals of our area. The Nyikina Mangala Rangers practise "Right Way Fires" only burning in the early months after the wet season when the fires are cool fires which is better for country.



YIMARDOO WARRA RANGERS NYIKINA MANGALA [cont]

NESP River Flow Project ongoing until 2020

The Nyikina Mangala Rangers have been in partnership with NESP Researchers from the University of Western Australia and Charles Sturt University. This is the start of the project which will run until 2020. Researches have been studying the flows of the Fitzroy River through research on the fish and plants of the river. Three teams are involved in this river flow project, made up of a team of plant ecologist, a team of fish biologist and a researcher looking at cultural values and connection to the river. The Fitzroy River is looking really good this year with the river still flowing in late October/November. Lots of fish of all sizes are looking very healthy. Hopefully we get another good wet season this year to continue the health of the river in 2018.



DAMIEN GILES
NEW RANGER COORDINATOR

Hi everyone. I started with the Nyikina Mangala Rangers in the position of Ranger Coordinator 5 months ago. I have come from working at the Broome Residential College where I was a supervisor working with high school boarding students from across the Kimberley communities. Before that, I was a safari tour guide in Africa and South America, I ran camping tours across the Kimberley, and I have had three years' experience conducting heritage surveys in the resource industry.

The last 5 months working with the rangers has been a very busy time as we work through our 2017/2018 work program. My focus is to build on the current strengths of professionalism in the ranger program as well as to develop long and lasting partnerships with the Traditional Owners, community groups and research organisations. In the past 5 months since I've been with the rangers we have partnered projects with Murdoch University, Yiriman Foundation, Sharing Stories Foundation, WWF, DBCA, University of Western Australia and Charles Darwin University just to name a few. It is so exciting that so many prestigious organisations are looking to partner with the Nyikina Mangala Rangers. The future is looking bright with all the field work, research projects, education and training towards the Nyikina Mangala Rangers goal of caring for country. Thanks for making me feel so welcome.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM TRAINING

Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation staff and Nyikina Mangala Traditional Owners and Rangers attended a two-day long training workshop to learn basic GIS skills in early October. Participants explored a special computer software for mapping and utilised their freshly learned skills when they developed their first maps for Nyikina Mangala country. The workshop increased the capacity of WAC to utilise Geographic Information Systems to support the corporation. Attendants of this workshop are invited to participate in a follow-up training next year that builds on this workshop and applies the skills on the Nyikina Mangala Development-by-Design GIS tool.





ACHIEVEMENTS



Nyikina Mangala Ranger Conan Lee, together with Kija Ranger Imran Paddy and Gooniyandi Ranger Virgil Cherel travelled to the Maasai Mara in Kenya in a knowledge exchange program to learn about the techniques and skills rangers in Africa employ to protect and preserve their country and wildlife. Rangers have seen giraffes, zebras, wildebeest, gazelles, impalas, ostriches, baboons, falcons and a familiar one...bush turkey! They have met many Maasai rangers who are employed in a Maasai community conservation area located between several major national parks. The rangers went on a short patrol to see some wildlife and meet local Maasai herders at their camp where they keep their goats and cattle safe from hyenas and lions. The exchange has been organised by the Thin Green Line Foundation, with support from the Big Life Foundation and the KLC. We are looking forward to hearing more stories from Conan when he returns.



A big congratulations to **Walalakoo Director Anne Poelina!** Anne has just been nominated as one of ten laureates from around the world to be recognised as “an exceptional figure among the first nations of the world” in conjunction with the United Nations’ International Day of Rural Women. Anne is the first Australian in almost twenty years to receive the Women’s World Summit Foundation Prize for Women’s Creativity in Rural Life. The Prize acknowledges rural women leaders and groups for their work to end poverty, marginalisation and

violence in rural communities across the world. Anne says she’s grateful and delighted at receiving this international recognition and confident she can achieve positive outcomes for Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley and across Australia. Dr Poelina was honoured alongside laureates from nations including Sweden, Columbia, India and Mongolia.

Members’ Benefits Policy

The Members Benefits Policy along with the application form and rules for applications can be found on the Walalakoo website at <http://www.walalakoo.org.au/social/>

Although some members have utilised the assistance, there have not been very many applications. The assistance program is open to all members of the Nyikina Mangala Native Title group and there are three categories in which assistance can be applied for:

- **Education;**
- **Sports and Arts; and**
- **Cultural Activities.**



MADJULLA INC.

Mardoowarra's Right To Life - Dr Anne Poelina

In October 2016 I presented Mardoowarra (Fitzroy River) vs State of WA and Federal Government in a mock trial to the Tribunal for Nature in Brisbane. This citizens' tribunal heard cases presented by citizens and Earth lawyers concerned about the destruction of ecosystems and the wider Earth community in Australia. Together with friends of the Mardoowarra, I brought the case to the Tribunal to ask the citizens of the court to recognise the Mardoowarra as a living entity with a right to life ... like her sister the Wanganui River in New Zealand. The Wanganui River has stood strong, and with the help of her Indigenous guardians and the strength and wisdom of their legal and cultural governance, she now has set international legal precedence across Mother Earth!

Natural Resource Management scoping study to establish the 'Natural History & Cultural Park for Education and Tourism'

Dr Anne Poelina Managing Director of Madjulla Inc in partnership with V& C Semeniuk Research Group were successful in acquiring the State NRM Funding to support the collaboration with the Nyikina Mangala Walalakoo (Native Title) Body Corporate (WBC) propose to develop a Natural and Cultural Heritage Precinct for Education and Tourism.

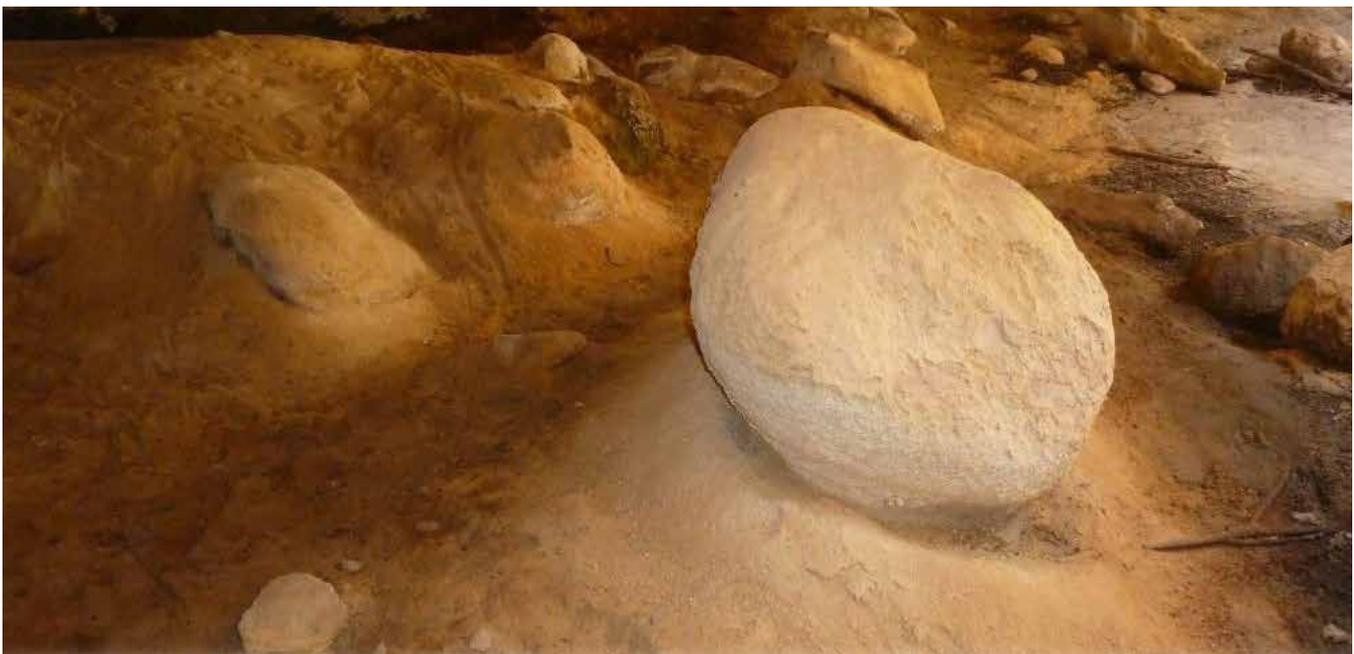
Following the presentation of the literature review of the Natural and Archaeological information on the Mardoowarra, the next part of the NRM-funded project by the V & C Semeniuk Research Group on the Mardoowarra (with the objective to establish a Natural History & Cultural Park for Education and Tourism) was a scoping study that involved gathering data and identifying locations for the various types of baseline studies required for the design of trails, education sites, geotours and ecotours for the proposed Natural History, Cultural and Archaeological Park on the Mardoowarra (the Fitzroy River and its tributaries).

In total, there were 14 days of field surveys in October 2016 and March 2017. There were many sites visited to determine (1) the feasibility of trails, education sites, geotours and ecotours for the proposed

Natural History, Cultural and Archaeological Park, (2) the accessibility of sites during dry seasons and wet seasons for such endeavours, (3) the activity of processes during dry seasons and wet seasons; and (4) what further studies were required for environmental management, and to realise the design of a robust and tourism-attractive trails, education sites, geotours and ecotours.

From the fieldwork and the literature review it is clear that some aspects of Mardoowarra have enough information and are assessable to be rapidly developed as tourist attractions and geotrains though they will need specific writing-up into brochures and signage, and tracks and geosites need to be formally developed. Many of other iconic features of interest such as boabs, termitaria, and the archaeological of Mt Anderson, need specific focused study to develop a larger and more robust information base so that they can be written-up into brochures and signage and tracks and sites can be formally developed.

A more detailed summary of the study can be found on the WAC website at www.walalakoo.org.au



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