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# Warddeken Land Management Ltd

*Annual Report 2015-2016*

This annual report was compiled for Warddeken Land Management Limited by Georgia Vallance.

Unless otherwise stated, all photographs are copyright Warddeken Land Management. Special thanks to the Nadjamerrek family for permission to use images of Wamud Namok and his country, and to Nawarddeken from across the IPA for permission to use their images and images of their clan estates.



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: Professor Mary Kolkiwarra harvests mankodjbang (water chestnuts) at Nakaldurrk. Mankodjbang, a favourite bush food, is in decline due to the impact of feral pigs on ephemeral freshwater creeks and streams. Rangers are working to control pig numbers at high risk sites, particularly when the food is in season. *Photo by David Hancock*

# 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.*

Nawarddeken Academy student, Jemimah Djogiba, in front of her own and her fellow students' bidbimyo (hand stencils) placed on the rock face at Kundjorlomdijorlom to celebrate the opening of Nawarddeken Academy. *Photo by Rowland Taylor*



Djabidj Bakaloy is a sacred site and dwelling place of ngalyod the rainbow serpent on the Mok clan estate. Photo by David Hancock

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# The Warddeken Story

*The stone country of the Arnhem Land Plateau, or Kuwarddewardde, is the home of Nawarddeken, our people. The Warddeken Land Management (Warddeken) story is about Nawarddeken returning to country, reconnecting with our heritage, and maintaining Bininj knowledge and languages. It is a story about caring for country using both traditional and contemporary management practices.*

For thousands of generations Nawarddeken clan groups lived on their ancestral estates in the stone country. They cared for and shaped this landscape, and were integral to maintaining the health of the Kuwarddewardde. Nawarddeken walked and camped throughout the Kuwarddewardde, each dry season undertaking fine scale traditional burning across their estates. Djungkay (ceremonial managers) carried out and managed ceremonies. Djang (sacred sites) and other cultural sites were visited regularly.

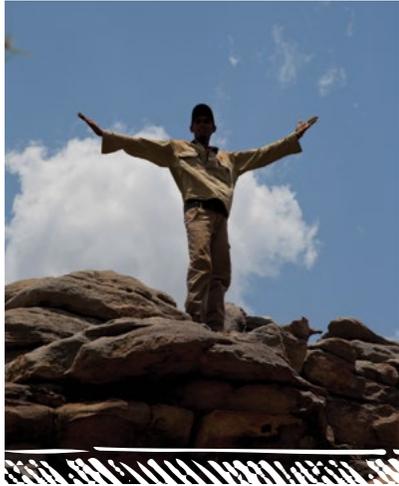
With the arrival of balanda (white people), Nawarddeken began to leave the Kuwarddewardde, lured by Christian and government missions, opportunities to work in the mining and buffalo industries, and the appeal of larger settlements such as Gunbalanya and Maningrida. Some also served with the armed forces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

TOP: Gavin Namarnyilk repaints the tail of a barrk (black wallaroo) on the last piece of bim (rock art) painted on the Plateau – likely the last rock art image painted anywhere in the world. This painting was left as a gift for future generations by Warddeken founder and leader Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek. The image is repainted each year after wet season rains cause damage to the art. *Photo by Rowand Taylor*



(RIGHT PAGE)  
 BOTTOM LEFT: Pandanas amongst savannah woodland in early dry season cool burning. *Photo by Rowand Taylor*  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Maureen and her younger brother Bundy enjoy a swim at the Kabulwarnamyo spring.



In the early 1970's, with the help of visionary elder, Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek AO, Nawarddeken began moving back to homeland communities. Finally, in 2002 after decades spent bringing other Nawarddeken back to country, Lofty returned to his childhood home at Kabulwarnamyo where he established the Manwurrk rangers, an early ranger program allowing landowners to make a living on country.

This program pioneered a number of innovative projects including the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) project.

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. In 2009,

the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) was declared. Warddeken's Board of Directors, which is made up of representatives drawn from more than 36 clan groups of the Kuwarddewardde, is responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the company, and the associated ranger program.

TOP LEFT: Jai Nadjamerrek on top of an escarpment  
 TOP RIGHT: Young Mok landowner Richard Nadjamerrek. 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 OA 1926-2009



Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek



Djawida Nadjongorle



Josie Maralngurra



Jacob Nayinggul



Timothy Nadjowh OA



Wurdib Nabalwad



Lillian Guymala

Not pictured: Leanne Guymala, Leonie Guymala

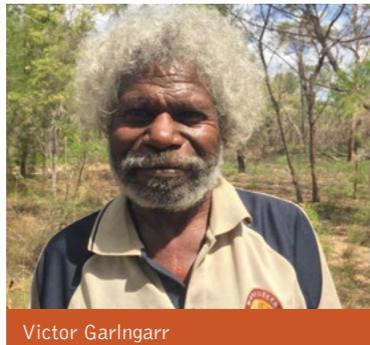
## 2015/16 Board of Directors

More than 300 Nawarddeken are registered members of Warddeken Land Management Limited, which 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).

### Kakbi



Kevin Bulliwana



Victor GarIngarr



Conrad Marlangurra

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

### Karrikad



Jessie Alderson



Fred Hunter



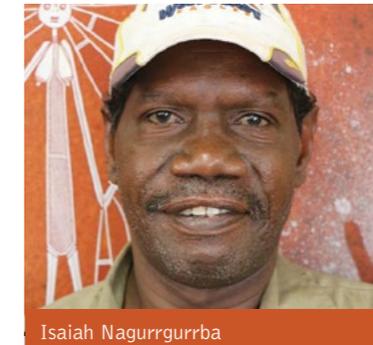
Kenneth Mangiru

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

### Walem



Christopher Ngabuy



Isaiah Nagurrurrba



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



Sarah Nabarlambarl Billis



Lois Nadjamerrek

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

## Chairman's Report



Fred Hunter

In this, the last of my three-year term as Chairman of Warddeken Land Management, I would like to take the opportunity to express my deep pride and gratitude to the members of our company, in particular my fellow board members, for electing me to this role.

Warddeken is a company that truly represents its membership base, made up of over 300 Nawarddeken from across the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area. The fact that more than 120 of these

members worked with our company in the previous year is testament to the commitment of our people to our land.

Nawarddeken care about country and they prove this year after year by looking after their clan estates and maintaining their connection to the Kuwarddewardde. It is this that makes me most proud to have been Chairman of Warddeken.

For me the highlights of this year were the launching of our 2016-2020 Plan of Management to guide the focus and work programs delivered by rangers on behalf of our members; the extraordinary effort by rangers to control a record number of wildfires in late 2015, which lead to receiving an NT Ranger of the Year award; and perhaps one of Warddeken's greatest achievements – the establishment of the Nawarddeken Academy at Kabulwarnamyo.

I would like to thank our CEO Shaun Ansell for his continued wisdom and leadership at the helm of Warddeken, and the team of support staff who work alongside Bininj, as our colleagues, friends and family. Warddeken is a true example of how Indigenous and non-Indigenous people can work together to achieve greatness.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow board members for their commitment over the last three years. It has been an honour to work alongside them to govern our company.

Fred Hunter  
CHAIRMAN

“The highlight of this year [was] the establishment of the Nawarddeken Academy at Kabulwarnamyo.”



Nawarddeken Academy student Mitchell Ngaboy during an art session conducted during a bush trip to Kurrukkurrdukk waterfall. A 'country as classroom' philosophy drives the Academy and students thrive as a result. Photo by Rowand Taylor

## Warddeken CEO's Report



Shaun Ansell

The past year has seen significant growth, change and achievement for Warddeken Land Management. In addition to continuing our award winning work in the management and care for the lands of the Warddeken IPA, this year saw the establishment of the Nawarddeken Academy.

For many years Nawarddeken families from Kabulwarnamyo have lobbied for education to be delivered on country so that families are not separated, and children can live in a safe and inspiring environment. This year saw the realisation of this dream. Warddeken partnered

with the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust and Gunbalanya School to found the Nawarddeken Academy, and children are now receiving a first rate education on country. Significantly, all of this has been achieved with private capital raised by the generous supporters of the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust and by Warddeken itself.

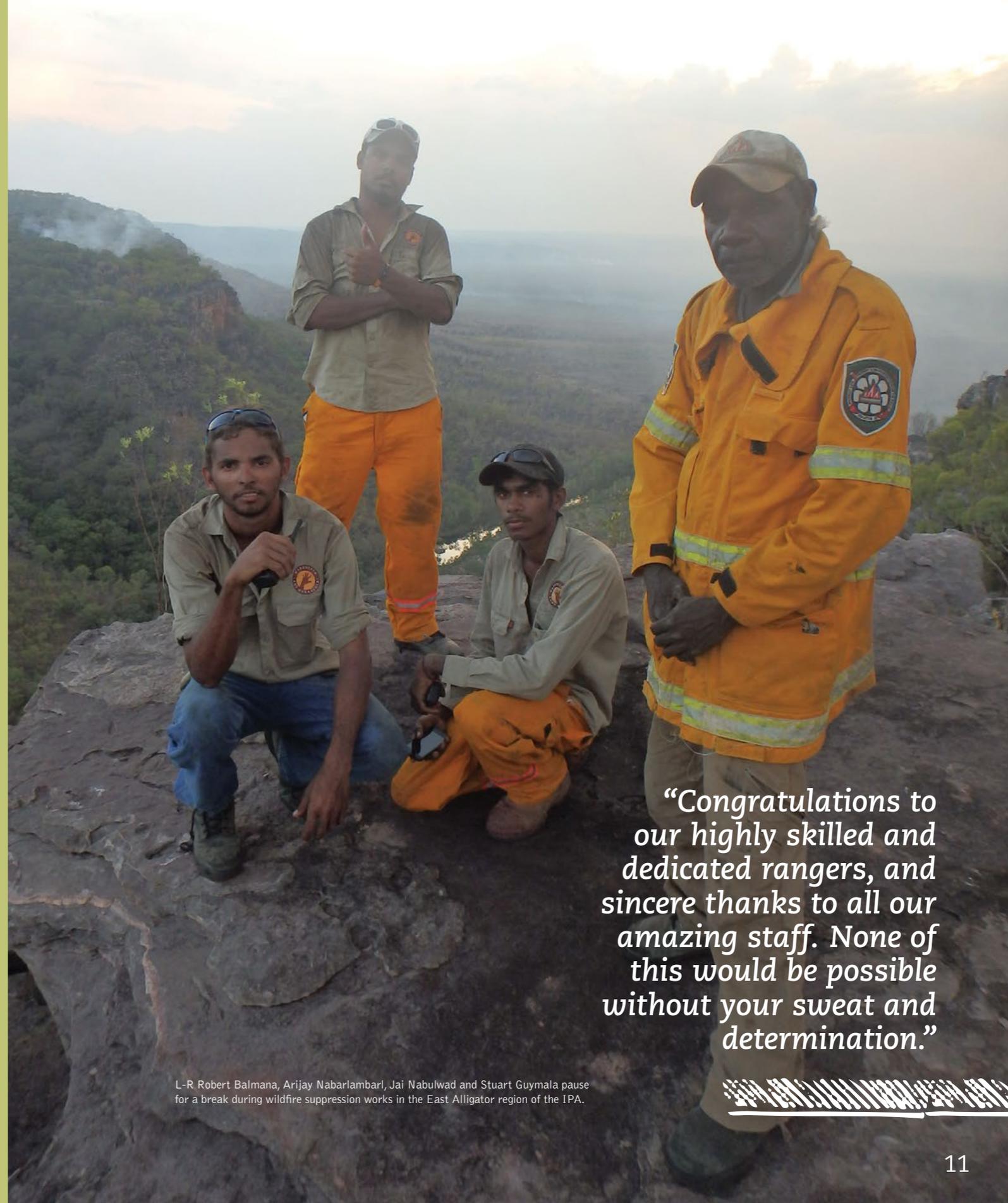
We also completed the Warddeken IPA Plan of Management, which documents the aspirations of hundreds of Nawarddeken consulted during the planning process. The 2016-2020 Warddeken IPA Plan of Management will guide the management of the IPA through the next five years.

The achievement of this vision would not be possible without the ongoing support of our many partners who provide much needed funding, advice and assistance to our company. In particular, I would like to extend our gratitude to the supporters of the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust. Your

selfless support of our projects enable Nawarddeken to realise their ambitions for this company and play a major role in securing the future of this most amazing landscape and its people.

Another great achievement in 2015/16 was winning the NT Ranger Award for Outstanding Team Effort. Congratulations to our highly skilled and dedicated rangers, and sincere thanks to all our amazing staff. None of this would be possible without your sweat and determination. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the vision provided by our professors in the company's establishment.

Shaun Ansell  
CEO



**“Congratulations to our highly skilled and dedicated rangers, and sincere thanks to all our amazing staff. None of this would be possible without your sweat and determination.”**

L-R Robert Balmana, Arijay Nabarlambarl, Jai Nabalwad and Stuart Guymala pause for a break during wildfire suppression works in the East Alligator region of the IPA.

# The Warddeken IPA

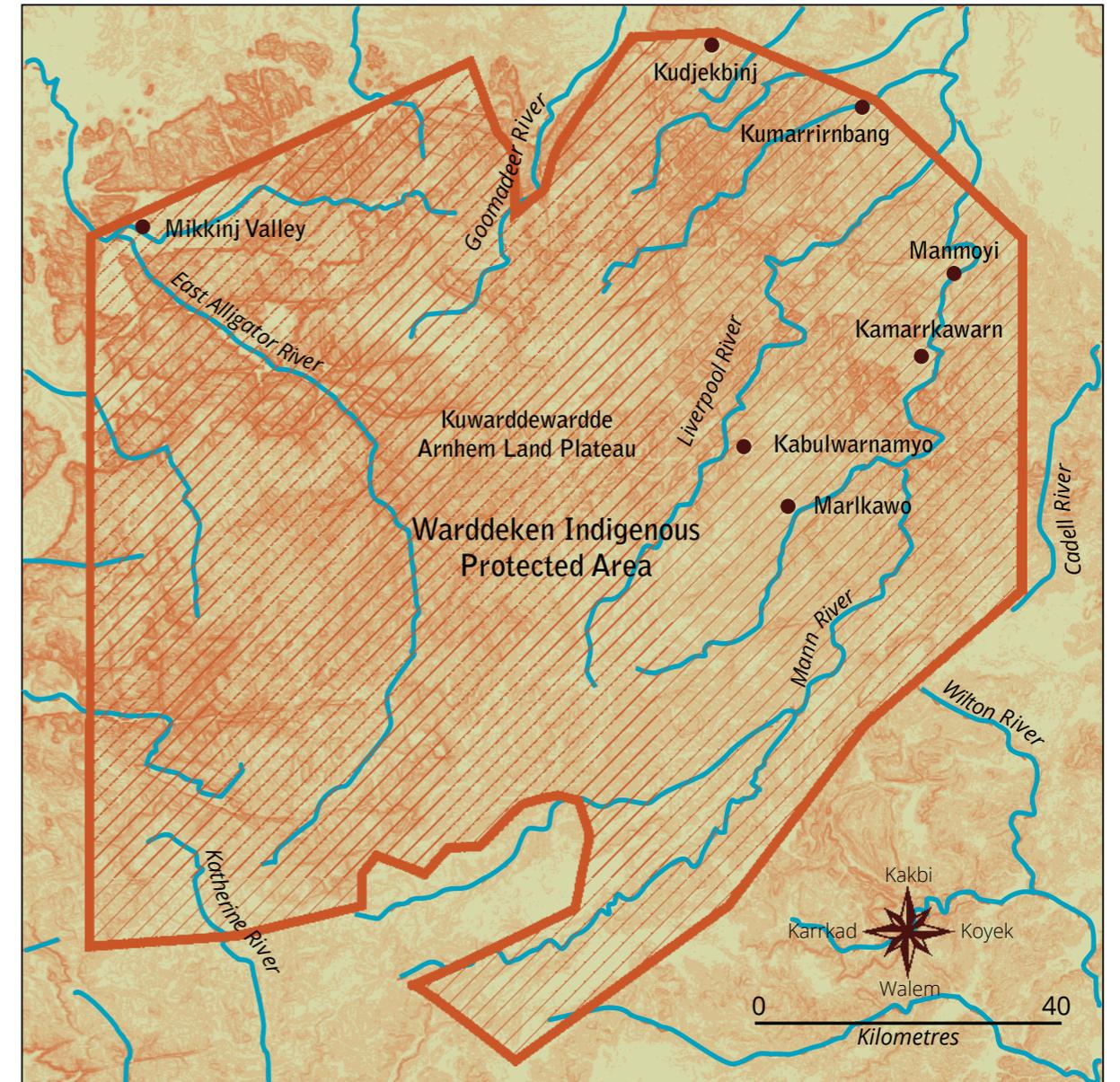
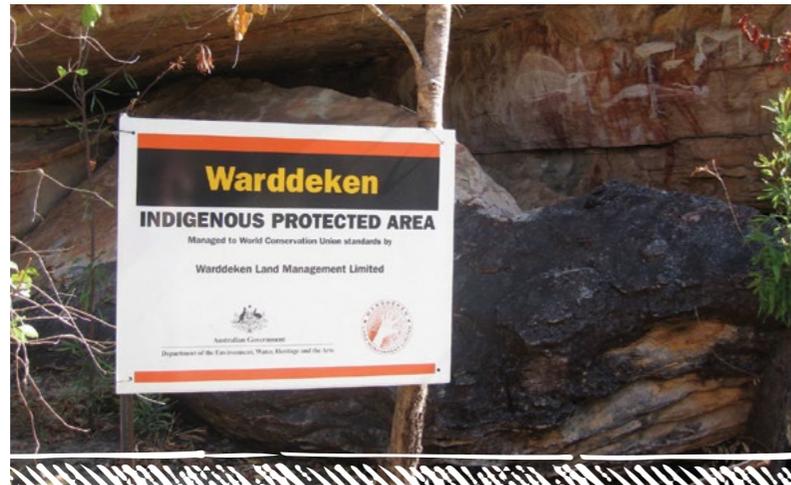
The Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) encompasses approximately 1.4 million hectares of the Kuwarddewardde, stone and gorge country in West Arnhem Land, and seven outstation communities: Kabulwarnamyo, Manmoyi, Mikkinj Valley, Kamarrkawarn, Marlkawo, Kumarrirnbang and Kudjekbinj.

It borders Kakadu National Park to the west and overlaps with the Djelk IPA in the north. Since its establishment in 2009, more than 250 Indigenous people have worked on the IPA, to manage and protect our unique and threatened biodiversity, significant sacred sites, rock art and archaeological sites.

The main activities conducted on the IPA are extensive fire management, feral animal and weed control, and monitoring threatened species. Cultural activities are also a strong focus, giving Nawarddeken opportunities to return to places of cultural and historical significance, and transfer knowledge to younger generations.



BOTTOM LEFT: Professors Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek and Josie Maralngurra work with Operations Manager Jake Weigl to plan early dry season prescribed burning activities in their respective clan estates.  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Warddeken IPA sign in front of a rock art panel at Kundjorlomdijorlom, the site of the 2009 declaration of the IPA.



# Highlights

## Living and working on country

Our Indigenous Board of Directors represent four wards, representing the 36 clan groups of the Kuwarddewardde

More than 300 Nawarddeken registered members

Over 120 Nawarddeken engaged and employed by Warddeken to manage country in 2015-16

More than 250 Indigenous people employed since 2009

## Management Plan

After two years of consultations and workshops, launched the Warddeken IPA Plan of Management 2016-2020

Hundreds of Nawarddeken were consulted, with the Plan outlining their goals and aspirations for managing the Kuwarddewardde

## Fire management

12 Warddeken rangers attended the pre-season meeting at Barrapunta

Over 3043 kilometres of on-ground early dry season burning

Over 10,302 kilometres of aerial prescribed burning was undertaken involving 24 landowners and djungkay

Controlled a record number of wildfires

Highest ever abatement credited for the WALFA project

NT Ranger of the Year Award for Outstanding Team Effort

## Social return on investment

\$1 invested in the Warddeken IPA = \$3.40 Social Return On Investment (SROI)

Warddeken has generated \$55.4M SROI since July 2008

For rangers and Narwarddeken the SROI includes: caring for country (valued at \$4.4M), increased pride and sense of self (\$1.7M), leveraging the IPA for additional funding (\$5.4M), and living on country (\$2.2M)

Governments benefit through low cost land management (\$25.4M) and skilled and trained rangers (\$2.9M)

Carbon emissions offsets SROI is valued at \$4.4M

## Anbinik

Established and managed fire breaks around 14 remnant *Allosyncarpia* rainforest sites covering more than 500 hectares

18 rangers spent more than four weeks renewing and back burning off firebreaks around managed sites

On ground management complemented by significant aerially applied fine scale burning around these sites

## Nawarddeken Academy

Established the Nawarddeken Academy at Kabulwarnamyo with private capital raised by the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust and Warddeken

Bilingual and bicultural curriculum under development valuing both Western learning and customary knowledge and practices

Core cohort of 12 children now going to school on their homeland, with over 25 students spending time at the Academy when on country with family

Average attendance of 87%

The vast rocky terrain of the Kuwarddewardde (Arnhem Land Plateau).

# Highlights

## Knowledge & Culture

24 people attended Dalabon Language and Culture Camp

Dow ceremony revived by elders

Regular kunborrk (dancing) involving children and adults from different clan groups

Ongoing work with professors to ensure intergenerational knowledge transfer

Place name 'sign boarding' project where over 100 cultural sites were named and rangers erected signs along the road

Information and culture presented at the Mahbilil Festival

22 people aged 2-65 walked Bininj manbolh (traditional walking route) from Kumarrirrbang to Bod

## Kudjekbinj biodiversity survey

30 people camped for 10 days, motion sensor cameras in place for 40 days

Students from Nawarddeken Academy camped for three days

Identified three feral animal species, eight native mammals, two native frogs and 23 reptile species

Found djorrrkun, or Rock ringtail possum, for the first time in a formal survey

Elders have shown what type of fires are most beneficial to small mammals in Ngalngbali clan estate

## Communities

Repairs to remote balabbala tents at Kurruwil and Makkalarl

Building commenced on a house for professor Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek at Kabulwarnamyo

Three new balabbala dwellings and bathrooms at Kabulwarnamyo ranger headquarters

Opened three river crossings after wet season rains to provide access to communities and undertook maintenance across 200 kilometers of roads and tracks

## Rock Art

Rock art complexes rediscovered on Bolmo (Dodokiyo) and Wornkomku (Nawoberr) estates

Rapid rock art surveys undertaken by landowners during the aerial prescribed burning program

Photographs and GPS coordinates of many new art sites in the most remote of the clan estates

Conservation works at 20 sites across all four wards of the IPA

Protective fences erected at large rock art galleries and burial sites at Dumebe, Djokay and Nakulbuy

## Freshwater places

Aerial culls destroyed 1579 buffalo, 393 pigs, 35 cattle and two cats

Opportunistic on ground culling destroyed a further 357 buffalo, 97 pigs and 54 cattle

Wetland monitoring program was expanded to Manmoyi ranger base, with rangers undertaking analysis of high resolution aerial photographs of feral animal impacts on perched wetland ecosystems, which are endemic to the Kuwarddewardde

Pig traps set up and operated at freshwater sites where special bush food species are decimated by feral pigs

## Weeds

Mission grass and rattlepod infestations treated along the main access road from Gunbalanya to Maningrida, near Marlwon outstation

Annual outstation grassy weed treatment completed at all communities within IPA

Gamba grass survey from Kakadu along Arnhem Highway completed with numerous infestations treated and data sent to NT Weeds Branch

Warddeken worked collaboratively with Kakadu National Park, Alligator Energy and Njanjma rangers to control mimosa in Mikkinj Valley

# Social Return On Investment Report

*In 2015/16 the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet commissioned SVA Consulting to measure and value the social return on investment (SROI) of the Warddeken IPA and associated ranger program. This analysis was part of a broader project that considered five IPAs across Australia.*

## Consultation

The Warddeken analysis involved 43 consultations with stakeholders, including 19 community members, 12 rangers, four government representatives, two Indigenous corporations, three non-government organisation (NGO) partners, one corporate partner and one research partner. The scope of the analysis was the seven-year period from July 2008 to June 2015. During this period, \$16.6m was invested in the programs, with most (62%) coming from government and carbon offset buyers (25%).

## Valuing what matters

The report contains a summary of the inputs (investment), outputs and material outcomes (changes) experienced by stakeholders as a result of the Warddeken IPA. Attention was paid to all possible consequences of the Warddeken IPA and associated ranger program, including intended and unintended, positive and negative outcomes.

As part of their methodology, SVA Consulting applied financial proxies to the value of social, economic, cultural and environmental outcomes,

which means that a dollar value is applied even if there is no existing market value. This is particularly important as it relates to the principle of 'valuing what matters'.

For the period July 2008 to June 2015, SVA Consulting valued the SROI associated with the Warddeken IPA at \$55.4M. This includes significant SROI for our top three stakeholder groups: rangers, community members and government.

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT FY09-15		
GOVERNMENT	Rangers are skilled and trained Reduction in income support payments Increase in income tax Effective governance of Indigenous corporations Less offending by rangers Improved engagement with communities Partnership model promoted Greater respect for TEK Low cost land management	\$29,414,691 (53%)
COMMUNITY MEMBERS	More role models for young people Rangers and their families live on country Less violence IPA leveraged for additional funding and economic opportunities Increased respect from non-Indigenous community Better cultural asset management Connection to country strengthened Culture and language conserved More burning using cultural practices Less noxious weeds Less feral animals	\$11,941,991 (22%)
RANGERS	Increased skills through training and experience Increased confidence Better health and wellbeing Increased pride and sense of self Better caring for country	\$7,159,039 (13%)
CARBON OFFSET BUYERS	Carbon emissions are offset	\$4,383,662 (8%)

“... the most significant outcomes relate to better caring for country, and increased pride and sense of self.”



Ray Nadjamerrek shows his son Richard and wife Eliza a sacred site at Djamarr (Havelock Falls) in Mok clan estate. Both Ray and Richard have lived their entire lives in the Kuwardde wardde. Photo by David Hancock

### Significant benefits

The SROI Report demonstrates that the Warddeken IPA has generated significant social, economic, cultural and environmental outcomes for Nawarddeken and stakeholders since 2008. The achievement of these outcomes is strongly influenced by the time rangers and community members spend living and working on country, and the remoteness of the IPA location.

For the rangers, the most significant outcomes relate to better caring for country (\$4.4M), and increased pride and sense of self (\$1.7M). The most important outcomes for community members include leveraging the IPA for additional funding (\$5.4M), and rangers and their families living on country (\$2.2M). The NT and Australian governments benefit through low cost land management (\$25.4M), and skilled and trained rangers (\$2.9M). Carbon offset buyers

benefit from carbon emissions offsets (\$4.4M). Indigenous corporations, corporate, NGO and research partners also benefit between \$0.4M-\$1M each from deeper relationships with community and being better able to meet their core objectives.

To read the full SROI Report go to: <https://www.dpmmc.gov.au/resource-centre/indigenous-affairs/warddeken-ipa-ranger>.

LEFT: Camaraderie between rangers is a large factor in Warddeken's success. Rangers (left to right) Keith Nadjamerrek, Bernard Garnarradj, Jonah Djumbirri, Zachariah Namarnyilk, Greg Lippo, Ray Nadjamerrek, Ted Maralngurra and Keenan Nayinggul pose for a group shot during on-ground prescribed burning. Photo by David Hancock  
RIGHT: Yawurrinj (young boys and men) performing kunborrk (traditional dance).



# Manwurrk (Fire management)

*Warddeken Land Management has played a central role in the development of the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement project (WALFA). This ‘two-toolbox’ approach addresses the significant issue of uncontrolled wild fire, combining traditional knowledge and Western science in the reintroduction of a more customary fire management regime.*

Through the WALFA project we have been able to increase early season burning, which keeps country healthy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the extent and severity of late season fires.

In 2006 the WALFA partners brokered the West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement (WAFMA) with ConocoPhillips to offset carbon emissions at Darwin LNG. This relationship matured further in 2015 as the Indigenous owned company ALFA (NT) Ltd began engaging other carbon offset buyers to purchase surplus abatements.

The continued reinvestment of carbon revenue into land management has paid significant dividends with 2015 calendar

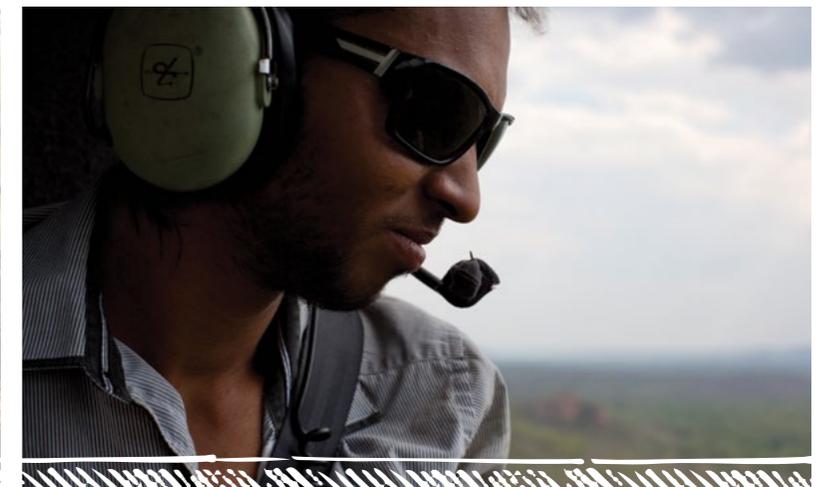
year being the WALFA project’s most successful to date with over 230,000 ACCUs credited and significant additional income generated.

## Early dry season burning 2016

The 2015/16 wet season was the driest on record, leading to advanced curing of the vegetation across the IPA and burning beginning much earlier than usual. In April, 12 Warddeken rangers attended the pre-season meeting at Barrapunta, along with over 100 rangers from nine ranger groups, and consultations were undertaken with landowners and djungkay for various clan estates across the IPA.

Building on the hard-won success of the 2015 fire season, Warddeken Rangers implemented an extensive early dry season burning program from April to July 2016. During this period over 3043.5 kilometres of on-ground burning was undertaken. This included bush walks, on-ground burning by foot and roadside, and track burning by quad bike or vehicle. Drip torches and matches were used for this component of the burning program. In addition, 10,302 kilometres of aerial prescribed burning was undertaken involving 24 landowners and djungkay directing the burning across their respective clan estates.

TOP: Warddeken’s youngest senior ranger Lindsay Whitehurst undertakes on-ground prescribed burning at dusk to ensure flames stay small and the fire will go out overnight. *Photo by Rowand Taylor*  
 BOTTOM LEFT: Faith Nadjamerrek and Suzannah Nabulwad participate in on-ground prescribed burning for the first time.  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Robert Balmana directs aerial prescribed burning over his mother’s clan estate. *Photo by Rowand Taylor*



# Anbinik (Allosyncarpia rainforests)

*Over millennia the careful management of fire by Nawarddeken protected small isolated patches of ecologically and culturally significant Anbinik (Allosyncarpia ternata) within the savannas of the Kuwarddewardde.*

These fire sensitive communities suffered extensive reductions in both their area, occurrence and health when Nawarddeken left the plateau leaving them vulnerable to late dry season wildfires.

Since 2012 Nawarddekn rangers have been working with scientists and senior traditional owners to measure these impacts and reinstate the tradition of protecting these valuable sites. We look forward to this work each year as it provides an opportunity to revisit and reconnect with some very far-flung estates

within the IPA including the significant Anbinik sites around Kunbambuk and Nakkarriken in the south of the IPA.

In the early dry season of 2016, 18 rangers spent more than four weeks renewing and back burning off firebreaks around the managed sites. Once the breaks and back burns were complete, this work was supplemented by a significant amount of aerially applied fine scale burning around these sites. To date we have established and managed fire breaks around 14 sites covering more than 500 hectares.

The late dry season of each year tests this work as the risk of intense fires ignited by lightning combines with hot, dry and windy conditions – perfect for wildfire. The late dry season of 2015 demonstrated the success of this project where significant Anbinik patches near Makkarlarl on the head waters of the Goomadeer river were comfortably protected by a combination of on ground fire breaks and the fine scale mosaic of early dry season burns surrounding them.

TOP: An aerial shot shows a mineral earth break rangers have installed around an entire stand of remnant Anbinik rainforest.  
 BOTTOM LEFT & RIGHT: Rangers Arijay Nabarlambarl (left), Lindsay Whitehurst and Terrah Djogiba (right) installing a mineral earth break around an Anbinik rainforest at Makkarlarl in Yurlhmanj clan estate. *Photos by Rowand Taylor*



# Kunmayali (Knowledge)

## Dalabon Language and Culture Camp at Mobarn

In June 2016, a group of 24 people travelled south through the IPA from Kabulwarnamyo to the Wakmarrinj clan estate to attend a language and culture camp at the tiny outstation of Mobarn facilitated by partners Mimal Land Management. The group included seven Bininj adults and 14 children (Nawarddeken Academy students and other children from Gunbalanya), our professor Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek (one of the last speakers of Dalabon, an endangered language), and two balanda Warddeken staff.

During the camp, students participated in Dalabon language lessons with senior Dalabon speakers and undertook school work in the form of keeping diaries of their experience. They also explored the country including visits to a number of important cultural and dreaming sites. For two Nawarddeken Academy students this was their first time visiting their father's country, which was a significant event for them culturally.

The highlight of the camp was a special ceremony or learning game called Dow, which was revived, after around 40 years, by elders Otto Bulmaniya, Robert Redford and Jack Nawilil. The

notion of bringing back Dow arose at an Indigenous rangers meeting at Bulman when Otto spoke of a special ceremony or "game" as he and Robert like to call it. Otto remembers Dow being performed in the mid-dry season as the time for traditional early burning ends. This is a time to take care, as fires in the windy mid-dry can travel many kilometres and for many days. Although they now live far apart (Robert near Bulman, Jack near Maningrida and Otto near Ramingining) the men came together at Mobarn to breathe life back into Dow.



## Dow ceremony

Dow ceremony is part of the cultural heritage shared by the clans of the Dalabon and Rembarnga language groups from central Arnhem Land. It is an Indigenous increase ceremony and means of teaching Indigenous ecological management, as well as good family entertainment. It teaches children look after fire so the flames of the dry season are kept low and the flowers, which mankung (sugarbag) bees feed upon, are not damaged.

The Dow begins with children walking and then running around a spectacular bonfire erupting sparks like a volcano in the early

darkness after sunset. These children are fish. From beyond the circle of firelight a figure wearing his owl mask hams it up as the debil debil, dashing out of the darkness to grab the children who are then laid down in lines. The children who are last to be caught are praised as winners.

When the fish are dealt with, the children stand and now represent trees where the native sugarbag bees have their nests. They make the sounds of the bees within the nests and sway like trees in the wind. The catcher now brings out a stone axe. As he swings it the trees all fall down. He then mimes cutting open the nests and taking

out the sugarbag to place it into a dilly bag. He is joined by a man carrying a spear and woomera.

When the honey has been harvested, the children stand and become birds; chattering family groups of grey crowned babblers. They rush and embrace the trees at each cardinal point before gathering near the fire. The performance concludes with burning sticks being pulled from the fire and thrown into the darkness beyond the performers, and the families watching from around the circle of firelight.

(RIGHT PAGE)

TOP LEFT & RIGHT: Dow ceremony at Mobarn Culture and Language Camp. Photos by Peter Cooke

# Kunmayali (Knowledge)

## Bininj manbolh - bushwalking

Helping children cultivate a strong feeling for country is central to Warddeken's vision and future. In July six families from Manmoyi walked from Kumarrirbang to Bod. The original plan was to repeat a previous walk from Manmoyi to Kumarrirbang but instead

the decision was made to walk from Kumarrirbang to Bod and burn on route.

Starting at Kumarrirbang, the group of 22 rangers and their families, ranging in age from two to 65, followed a Bininj manbolh (traditional walking route) directly south to the Liverpool River. The track may have been less spectacular but it was easier

country to walk, and evoked some special memories for our professor, Timothy Nadjowh.

Along the way older Bininj shared their memories of walking sections of the track. There was a natural transfer of knowledge as children dug up yams and learned about kundamen djang (frillnecked lizard dreaming).

BOTTOM LEFT: Dean Yibarbuk steals the show during kunborrk (dancing) at the 2015 Mahbilil Festival in Jabiru. Photo by Dominic O'Brien  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Walking bininj manbolh (customary walking routes) is a key feature of Warddeken's dry season work program and allows families to learn together whilst undertaking fine-scale burning.



## Mahbilil Festival

As Warddeken is based at remote homeland communities, it is important that we tell our stories and share our successes at large community events. This year, we once again set up a stall at the Mahbilil (wind) Festival in Jabiru, staffed by rangers who spent the day interacting with locals and tourists alike.

As well as running a successful information stall, a large team of Warddeken staff contributed significantly to the festival's cultural program. Senior Ranger Terrah Guymala ran a hugely popular spear throwing competition, which

was won by Warddeken Chairman, Fred Hunter.

Coordinators of the Material Culture Project, Berribob Dangbungala Watson and Elizabeth Nabarlambarl, also worked hard keeping up with demand for information about how to prepare and use items such as dilly bags, grass skirts, spears, fish nets, stone axes and other tools unique to the stone country.

A troupe of Warddeken dancers of all ages from Manmoyi and Kabulwarnamyo communities painted up in delek (white ochre) to perform three different kunborrk (dances).

The undeniable star was Senior Ranger Dean Yibarbuk. Dressed in a grass skirt with his stone axe, spear and spear thrower, Dean looked formidable and danced spectacularly. The Warddeken team's kunborrk finished with Terrah Guymala encouraging the crowd to join in. It was exciting to see over one hundred people dancing to stone country songs.

TOP LEFT: A group of happy bushwalkers. This bushwalk included rangers, landowners and their families. Walking bininj manbolh allows families to learn about and enjoy being on country together.  
 TOP RIGHT: Joel Naborlhborlh and Manoah Nawilil ready to begin day one of the walk. Walking bininj manbolh (traditional walking routes) is a key feature of Warddeken's dry season work program.

“Helping children cultivate a strong feeling for country is central to our vision.”



Tyson Maralngurra during a science and botany lesson, an example of how bush trips and cultural learning are incorporated into the Australian Curriculum Standards at Nawarddeken Academy. Photo by Rowand Taylor



# Nawarddeken Academy

*This year saw the realisation of a long-held dream for the community of Kabulwarnamyo when children returned to their homelands to receive an exceptional education at the newly established Nawarddeken Academy. Student numbers are expected to grow from a core cohort of 12 to 16 in the next year.*

The Nawarddeken Academy is owned and guided by the community of Kabulwarnamyo and administered by Warddeken Land Management Ltd. Valuing both Western learning and customary knowledge and practices, our aim is to help children grow up strong, equipped for bright futures, whilst helping to sustain one of the world’s oldest continuing cultures.

Children learn in Kunwinjku, their first language, alongside English, and a Bininj curriculum is being developed in collaboration with elders to be taught in tandem with the Australian Curriculum. Children are learning to be strong in both cultures by accessing the latest technology and undertaking

scientific enquiry in ways that are meaningful to their lives.

Nawarddeken Academy employs a ‘country as classroom’ philosophy, with teaching and learning experiences drawing on the natural and cultural landscape of the kuwarddewardde. The Academy operates from a large balabbala safari tent – a contemporary reimagining of customary kuwarddewardde dwellings – which was built by Warddeken rangers, and allows students to engage with the natural environment.

School days begin with literacy, numeracy, science and art in the mornings, consistent with the national curriculum. Lessons are

often scaffolded around cultural knowledge, bringing relevance and meaning for students and allowing the community and ranger program to play an active role in educating the next generation of landowners.

Three times a week, students pack the school troop carriers and head out to learn whilst spending time on country. The community and rangers play a vital role in these afternoons by delivering lessons designed to teach and build nuanced cultural knowledge amongst students. Learning on country lessons cover a range of different topics including seasonality, ancestral creation stories, clan ownership and kinship systems,



plant and animal identification, preparation of bush medicine and foods, and local Bininj history.

A core cohort of 12 primary-aged students attends the Academy, with numbers expected to grow to 16 in the coming year. This core group of students has an average attendance of 87% and the overall academic progress of the group is substantial in all subject areas, particularly literacy. Students also show significant advances in problem solving skills, resilience, social and emotional intelligence and perhaps most importantly, they are enthusiastic learners who love coming to school.

Additional to the core cohort, many children attend the Academy for shorter periods of time. In the first year of operation almost 30 children have spent meaningful periods of time with the Academy. Outcomes demonstrate the Academy has benefited Nawarddeken children outside the core cohort, including improved attendance and academic performance when students return to larger communities, and children being supported through traumatic periods in their lives through the provision of a safe and nurturing environment.

In a year filled with highlights, the following events have stood out:

- Camping and working alongside Warddeken rangers on a biodiversity survey at Kudjekbinj
- Regular kunborrk (dancing) with Manmoyi community
- Students placing their bidbimyo (hand stencil) on the rock face at Kundjorlomdjorlom

- A ceremony to repaint the last piece of rock art painted on the plateau; a black wallaroo by Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek left as a present to his grandchildren. We are proud to have this painting as the Nawarddeken Academy logo
- Extending the Nawarddeken Academy building and allowing students to be part of designing and establishing the classroom

- Attending a language and culture camp at Mobarn focusing on the endangered Dalabon language
- Nawarddeken Academy is currently entirely privately funded from generous contributions made through the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust and Warddeken Land Management Ltd. The Academy currently operates under a memorandum

of understanding with Gunbalanya School and shares a strong relationship with them, however in 2017 will begin the process of registering as an independent school, which will then be eligible for substantial federal and state funding.

(LEFT PAGE)

TOP RIGHT: Elica Djogiba and Natasha Yibarbuk on a bush trip, grinning at the sight of ripe mandudjmi (green plums), a favourite bush food of children and adults alike.  
 BOTTOM: Students, families and community members during a curriculum planning workshop looking at incorporating seasonal indicators into western and cultural learning.



# Mayh (Animals)

## Kudjekbinj Biodiversity Survey 2015

In August 2015 Warddeken undertook the Kudjekbinj biodiversity survey near Kudjekbinj homeland community. Led by senior Warddeken rangers and consulting ecologist Terry Mahney, six 50m x 50m survey sites were chosen to represent different types of habitats around Kudjekbinj.

For the first time, Kudjekbinj traditional owners were involved in the survey work. About 30 rangers and traditional owners, two ecologists and the Manmoyi ranger coordinator camped for 10 days. School

students and a teacher from the Nawarddeken Academy also camped for three days.

The survey included both standard trapping techniques and camera traps, with five camera traps set up at each site for around 40 days. We identified three feral animal species, eight native mammals, two native frogs and 23 reptile species. Importantly, we found djorrkun, or Rock ringtail possum (*Petroseudes dahli*) at sites that had only been burnt twice in the last 10 years, which meant the fruiting trees were healthy.

We found that the spring area at Kuybarre (Baby Dreaming) supports lots of animals.

We caught lots of Grassland melomys (native rodent) and a Planigale (small carnivorous marsupial) there. The other spring site at Bakbarre was very damaged by buffalo and too many fires, and therefore had very few animals.

The Kudjekbinj survey camp was a very successful camp with rangers, families and scientists working together to continue building up a bigger picture of what is happening with animals in Warddeken IPA.

TOP LEFT: The survey team included rangers, landowners of the Ngalngbali clan estate, Nawarddeken Academy students and their families.  
 TOP RIGHT: Lorina Maralngurra paints herself in delek (white ochre) collected from the creek.  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Elizabeth Nabarlambarl and Suzannah Nabulwad with a Common rock rat captured in a cage trap.  
 BOTTOM LEFT: The elusive and endemic djorrkun (Rock ringtail possum) was captured on an infrared camera trap for the first time within the Warddeken IPA. Rangers and Landowners were thrilled to find evidence of populations of this culturally and scientifically important animal. This image is particularly exciting as it shows a mother carrying a baby on her back.



# Kunred (Communities)

*Key to the success of Warddeken is the sustainability and vitality of outstation communities within the IPA. With our headquarters and entire operations managed from ranger bases at outstation communities, we are unique amongst ranger groups.*

Return to country and ongoing occupation of these communities has resulted in vastly improved management of the IPA. Research has consistently shown that Nawarddeken are healthier when living and spending time on the Kuwarddewardde, and Warddeken is committed to supporting this.

## Manmoyi Ranger Base

Over the previous four years Warddeken has been helping traditional owners and their families to set up Manmoyi as a ranger base. This means that Warddeken and the traditional owners now have a good base to work from, with additional infrastructure and equipment allowing the program at Manmoyi to gain momentum.

Development of Manmoyi Ranger Base is part of a plan to expand and help make Manmoyi more sustainable. We have built two additional balabbala (tent dwellings) at the visitor's camp, including accommodation for the Ecological Monitoring Officer who will be joining the team later in 2016.

## Kabulwarnamyo Ranger Base

With the establishment of the Nawarddeken Academy at Kabulwarnamyo, we have seen an increase in the number of families moving back to country. Four new balabbala (safari tent dwellings) have been constructed at Kabulwarnamyo to avoid overcrowding.

With the help of a building contractor, rangers have also commenced building a house at Kabulwarnamyo, partially made of local stone and timber, for our professor, Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek.

## Kurruwil and Makkalarl

Repairs to the remote balabbala camps at Kurruwil in the north of the IPA and Makkalarl in the east of the IPA have also been carried out. These balabbala are used by traditional owners who do not have communities on their clan estates, and rangers when carrying our remote works in these regions of the IPA.

TOP: Aerial shot of Kabulwarnamyo, headquarters of Warddeken Land Management Ltd. Kabulwarnamyo is a unique community built and maintained by rangers, largely without government funding.  
 BOTTOM LEFT: Eikanah Dullman, Matthew McClaren and Chris Bald work on construction of the first house at Kabulwarnamyo. The house is being built using funds generated by Warddeken through the sale of carbon credits.  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Rangers camp out and undertake maintenance at the remote Makkalarl balabbala safari tent. Photo by Rowand Taylor



# Kunwarddebim (Rock Art)

*Kunwarddebim in the Warddeken IPA is integral to the cultural identity of Nawarddeken, embodying a rich library of Bininj knowledge spanning tens of thousands of years. Stories of the artwork must be told in Bininj kunwok to younger generations of landowners. Kunwarddebim also has great significance to Australia and the rest of the world as the oldest form of human artistic expression.*

However, across the IPA thousands of galleries remain undocumented and unmanaged due to the ruggedness of stone country terrain and the huge expense associated with surveying, which is often only feasible by helicopter. In recent years Warddeken has tried to address this issue by including rapid rock art surveys with key landowners during the aerial prescribed burning program. This move has led to basic documentation (photographs and GPS coordinates) of many new art sites in the most remote of the clan estates.

This year two spectacular complexes were rediscovered on Bolmo (Dodokiyu) and Wornkomku (Nawoberr) estates with senior landowners

Fred Hunter and Johnny Reid. Although site assessment was rapid, photographs document paintings of great artistry and antiquity, covering a range of stylistic periods. Of particular note was a grotto complex, which when entered became a series of tunnels leading upwards to a lookout over the valley below and where remains of a campfire and a pair of clapsticks were found.

Rangers undertook annual conservation works at sites accessible by road, including vegetation removal and fine scale burning. Replicating customary burning by old people who camped at these sites for extended periods, this activity not only reduces the risk of damaging late season wildfire, but keeps these occupation

sites open and visible. This year we undertook conservation works at 20 sites across three wards of the IPA, including Kundjorlomdjorlom, Manamnam, Bulurr Berdno, Lindsay Gallery, Djokay, Djalbangurrk, Enamaraway, Marngekukbidji, Mirbik, three sites at Makkalarl and two sites within the Marrirn clan estate.

Kunwarddebim is also at risk from feral animals rubbing on the paintings and disturbing artefacts found in and around these shelters. Rangers erected protective fences at three large rock art galleries and burial sites at Dumebe, Djokay and Nakulbuy. This work will stop the irreparable damage caused by feral pig and buffalo to these significant sites.



*“Stories of the artwork must be told in Bininj kunwok to younger generations of landowners.”*

Elica Djogiba in front of a recent rock art depiction of modjdarri (freshwater crocodile) at an occupation site and gallery called Kundjorlomdjorlom. Photo by David Hancock

# Kukku (Freshwater places)

*Many freshwater places across the IPA are sacred sites. This includes rivers, creeks, springs, billabongs and the particularly fragile ecosystem of perched upland wetlands. Freshwater places are an important source of bush food, such as fish, turtles, water chestnuts and water lilies. We also rely on springs and rivers for drinking water for our ranger stations and remote ranger bases.*

## Feral animal culling

Many freshwater places are threatened by feral animals such as buffalo and pigs that pollute and erode culturally significant wetlands. Their wallowing causes erosion, decreases water quality and destroys bush food crops. Buffalo and pigs also threaten the habitat of native animals and pose a physical threat to landowners and rangers.

In October and November 2015, we conducted dedicated aerial culling of feral animals. During these culls 1579 buffalo, 393 pigs, 35 cattle and two cats were destroyed. Opportunistic on ground culling destroyed a further 357 buffalo, 97 pigs and 54 cattle.

Warddeken ensures landowners who have requested culling on their clan estates are supplied with large quantities of meat butchered during the cull. Rangers deliver this meat to communities within and beyond the IPA each year.

## Aerial monitoring

Our monitoring program at Manmoyi and Kabulwarnamyo has been expanded to include desktop data capture, with rangers using high resolution aerial photographs to assess the condition of freshwater places. Areas being monitored as part of this program are the springs, swamps, billabongs and marshlands associated with

the upper reaches of the East Alligator, Mann, Liverpool, Katherine and Goomadeer rivers, as well as part of the South Alligator River catchment.

While aerial monitoring began in 2011/12, the data has not yet been analysed. To test the reliability of this new methodology, the desktop aerial analysis will include a number of different stakeholders. Our new Ecological Monitoring Officer will be joining us later this year, and we expect to complete analysis and report on findings in the next financial year.

TOP: Asian water buffalo cause major damage to fragile perched wetland ecosystems and other freshwater places throughout the IPA.  
 BOTTOM LEFT & RIGHT: Meat distribution is a major part of feral animal control, with hundreds of kilograms of meat delivered to landowners from clan groups who have requested aerial culling.



# Weeds

*Although relatively weed free, gamba grass (Andropogon gayanus), mission grass (Pennisetum polystachion) and mimosa (Mimosa pigra) continue to be weeds of concern in the Kuwarddewardde.*

Weeds compete with native plants, reduce habitat for native animals and make it difficult for animals and people to move through country. They restrict access to traditional fishing and hunting grounds. Grassy weeds such as mission grass and gamba grass have a particularly devastating impact as they increase fuel loads, resulting in large, hot fires.

In April, we conducted a survey from Gunbalanya to Kabulwarnamyo, with three significant grassy weed species

identified along the highway. Mission grass and rattle pod infestations typically found along the highway appear to be spreading along the main access road from Gunbalanya to Maningrida in the vicinity of Marlwon outstation. Plants were bagged and removed, and the area was treated with new chemicals and techniques aimed at more persistent control.

In Mikkinj Valley, we continued our push to control mimosa, which is a Weed of National Significance. In a large

collaborative effort, Warddeken rangers worked with Kakadu National Park, Alligator Energy and Njanjma rangers to control spread of mimosa in the valley, the only known infestation in the IPA. This work will continue with the initial aim to control the spread and then to begin the process of eradication. It is recognised by all stakeholders that this will involve a long term collaborative response and all are committed to this goal.

# Wildfire suppression

*Warddeken staff and members wish to express extreme pride in our rangers for their ongoing commitment to protecting country from devastating wildfires. We have an elite team of firefighters, experienced in all aspects of wildfire suppression, who are specialists in fighting fires in the rugged sandstone escarpment environment.*

Firefighting in the Kuwarddewardde is grueling; physically and emotionally demanding. It is one of the most rugged terrains in Australia and often requires teams to be away from their families for long periods of time. Yet the Warddeken rangers never give up and remain positive at all times, always willing to give that little bit extra when necessary.

The wildfire season of 2015 was a truly remarkable effort. Rangers worked tirelessly and put in more hours than any other year to date. In all incidents they responded quickly to ensure no fires made it to the point of becoming unmanageable. During November favourable weather conditions, including rain, assisted rangers in containing fires.

This year, we invested significant effort into 'mopping up' after fires were initially contained, as re-ignitions are the most common way for teams to lose control of a fire. Mopping up involves staying on a fire for up to a week after initial containment to put out any re-ignitions, moving burning logs and trees back within burned country, and generally patrolling the boundary.



(RIGHT PAGE)  
 BOTTOM LEFT: Arijay Nabarlambarl's ash-covered face says it all - firefighting is hard, hot work.  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Jai Nadjamerrek and Casten Guymala work a fire front. Warddeken rangers pioneered the use of backpack leaf blowers to create firebreaks in harsh rocky terrain.



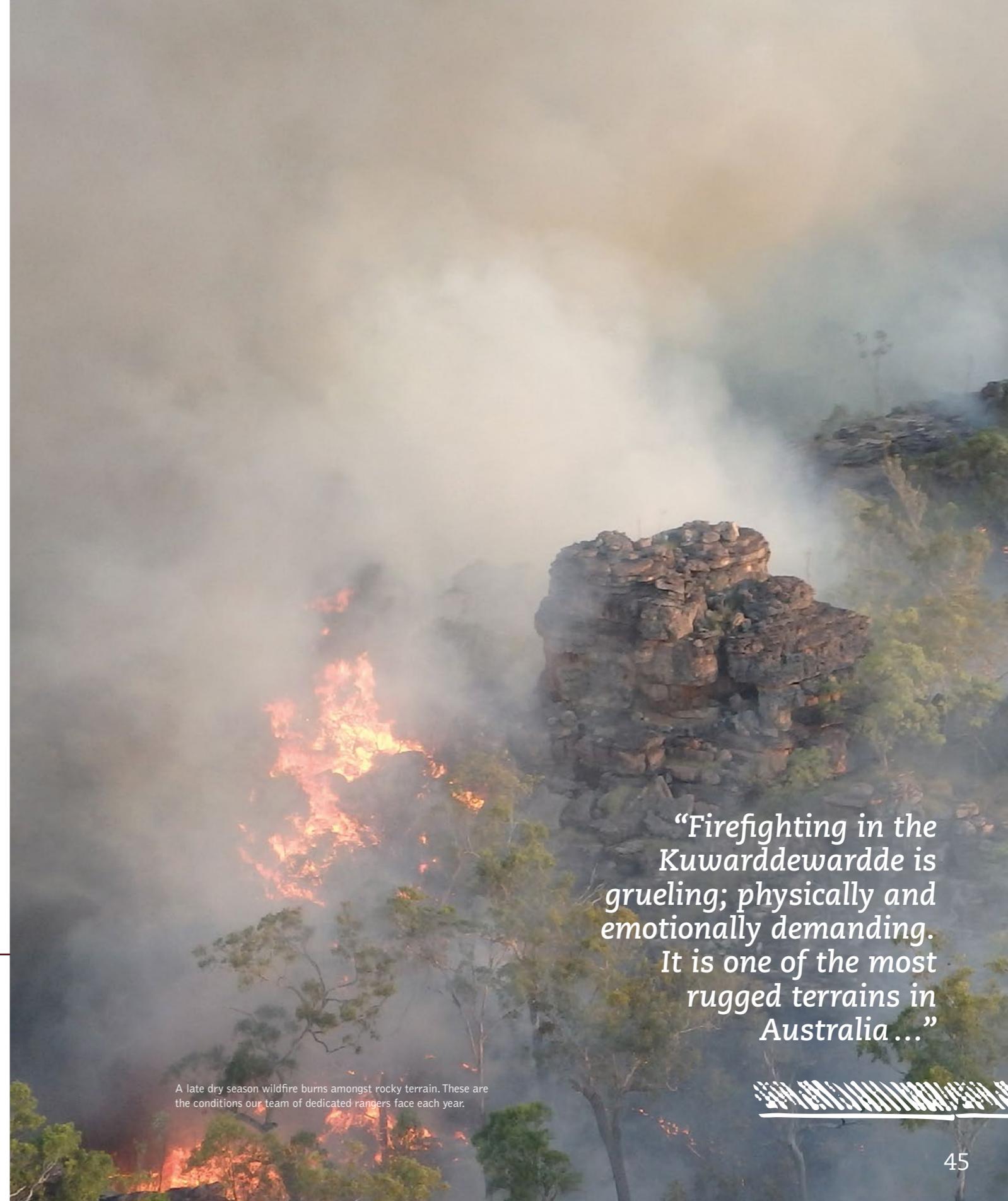
To ensure a positive greenhouse gas abatement within the Warddeken IPA, as well as the broader WALFA project area, significant effort was put in to supporting neighboring groups. Warddeken worked alongside ranger teams from the east (Djelk rangers), west (Kakadu National Park), and south (Mimal rangers). Over the years this ongoing collaboration between WALFA partner groups and Kakadu National Park has become a key feature in ensuring good fire management outcomes across the broader region.

Safety is paramount at all times. Rangers work in teams, using appropriate Personal Protection Equipment and staying in constant communication with the team coordinator. Daily check-ins with headquarters are protocol and Safety Assessment Reports are also lodged with field staff at Kabulwarnamyo.

In 2015/16 rangers augmented their on-ground skills with training, including Bushfires Level 1 (Bushfires NT), Provide First Aid (St John Ambulance), Operate and Maintain Chainsaws, 4WD Operation and Recovery, Workplace Health and Safety, and Maintain Small Engines.

Warddeken extends thanks to our supporters, neighbouring ranger groups and partner organisations for assisting us throughout 2015. The support of ALFA Limited, particularly on-ground support from project officer Jonas Klein, greatly improved the capacity of all ALFA groups to respond to wildfire incidents. Mark Desailly of Bushfires NT must also be thanked for his efforts in supporting groups in his region.

TOP LEFT: Robert Balmana patrols a mineral earth break to ensure flames stay within burned ground. *Photo by Jake Weigl*  
 TOP RIGHT: Stuart Guymala stands in front of a helicopter – an essential tool in fighting fires in the remote and rugged terrain of the Warddeken IPA.



*“Firefighting in the Kuwarddewardde is grueling; physically and emotionally demanding. It is one of the most rugged terrains in Australia...”*

A late dry season wildfire burns amongst rocky terrain. These are the conditions our team of dedicated rangers face each year.

# NT Ranger Awards

*The annual NT Ranger Awards celebrate the dedicated effort and outstanding achievements of all rangers across the Northern Territory. This year the Warddeken rangers won the NT Ranger Award for Outstanding Team Effort in recognition of their significant contribution and commitment to managing the natural and cultural assets of the Territory. Our team of 33 dedicated and professional rangers could not be more deserving of this award.*

The impenetrable nature of the Warddeken IPA more often than not precludes the use of vehicle based firefighting equipment as there are few tracks throughout much of the region. In response, the Warddeken rangers have developed and refined methods of dry firefighting that rely heavily on the use of backpack leaf blowers to remove fuel from the fire line, either extinguishing the flames directly or installing cleared breaks to back burn from. Small teams of three rangers each are dropped by helicopter along the fire line at strategic points where they then rely on

their knowledge of country and fire behavior to intelligently and carefully bring the blaze under control. This way, even large fires with fronts tens of kilometers long can be suppressed.

In 2015 alone, our rangers attended and successfully suppressed 21 wildfires across the Warddeken IPA. Working in outrageously hot and humid weather amongst the baking sandstone of the West Arnhem Land escarpment Warddeken rangers worked a combined total of 4766 firefighting hours. It was a truly outstanding team effort.

The team also put significant effort toward supporting neighboring ranger groups and protected areas with their wildfire suppression, including ranger teams from the east (Djelk rangers), west (Kakadu National Park) and south (Mimal rangers). This collaborative approach ensures good fire management outcomes across the broader region and provides mentoring and inspiration for ranger groups less experienced in firefighting.

TOP LEFT: Stuart Guymala during wildfire suppression efforts in the hottest season of the year.  
TOP RIGHT: Warddeken rangers in Alice Springs with other recipients of NT Ranger Awards.



Combined with the excellent prescribed burning undertaken earlier in the season, Warddeken rangers ensured that the IPA was protected from devastating late dry season fires and that the WALFA project (of which Warddeken is a central member) abated a record 230,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

Warddeken staff and members wish to express our extreme pride in our rangers for their ongoing commitment to protecting the Kuwarddewardde. We know it would make our old people proud too.

# Karrkad Kanjdji Trust

*The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust provides support by acting as the philanthropic arm of the Warddeken and Djelk IPAs. The Trust is led by a Board of Directors, including Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts in natural and cultural resource management, finance, fundraising and economic development.*



Our short term goal is to connect traditional owners of the Kuwarddewardde (West Arnhem Land) with passionate supporters and organisations to help raise funds for meaningful projects. Our long-term goal is to build an endowment designed to secure this valuable work in perpetuity.

Thanks to our dedicated supporters and the hard work of Warddeken Land Management Limited, this year saw four important projects come to fruition. The first of these was three-year operational funding for the Nawarddeken Academy, a unique Indigenous primary school in the community of Kabulwarnamyo. This funding will support the Academy

through the process of becoming an independently registered, financially sustainable school.

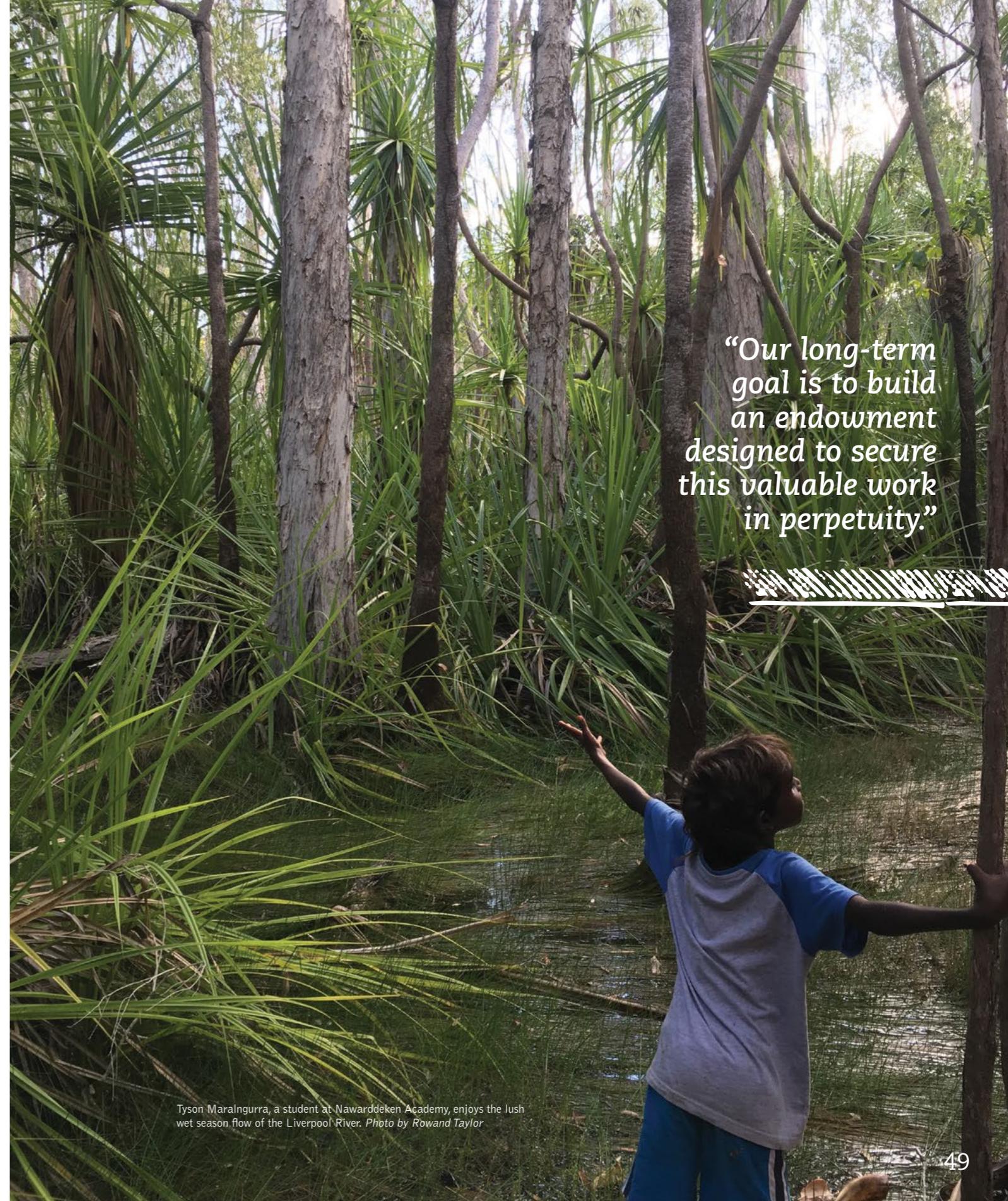
We also raised substantial funding that will enable Warddeken to employ a dedicated women's ranger coordinator. This new position will enable more equitable access to employment across the Warddeken IPA, increase land management and cultural heritage outcomes, and add valuable cultural knowledge to the Warddeken ranger program.

Thanks to the support of the Nature Conservancy, the Trust has also been able to raise seed funding to establish a long term ecological monitoring program across the Warddeken

IPA, including the employment of a full time ecologist. The ecologist will be based in Manmoyi working closely with Warddeken rangers to monitor and evaluate their work. This will ensure effective long-term management practices and health of the Kuwarddewardde.

Lastly, the Karrkad-Kanjddji Trust has funded a charter plane service that brings vital fortnightly supplies to the remote ranger bases at Manmoyi and Kabulwarnamyo. Thanks to the generosity of Karrkad Kanjdji Trust supporters, Warddeken has been able to redirect operational funding to vital land management and cultural heritage outcomes.

*“Our long-term goal is to build an endowment designed to secure this valuable work in perpetuity.”*



Tyson Maralngurra, a student at Nawarddeken Academy, enjoys the lush wet season flow of the Liverpool River. Photo by Rowand Taylor

## Our people

### Senior cultural advisors



Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek



Josie Maralngurra



Berribob Dangbungala Watson



Elizabeth Nabarlambarl



Deborah Nabarlambarl



Wurdib Nabulwad



Timothy Nadjowh



Lillian Guymala

## Our people

### Management and staff



CEO  
Shaun Ansell



FINANCIAL OFFICER  
John O'Brien



SENIOR RANGER COORDINATOR  
Nigel Gellar



FIRE ECOLOGIST & MENTOR  
Dean Yibarbuk



IPA OPERATIONS MANAGER  
Jake Weigl



ADMINISTRATION, RESEARCH & TRAINING MANAGER  
Georgia Vallance



REMOTE RANGER COORDINATOR  
Alex Debono



SENIOR RANGER  
Stuart Guymala



SENIOR RANGER  
Keith Nadjamerrek

## Our people

### Management and staff



**SENIOR RANGER**  
Terrah Guymala



**SENIOR RANGER**  
Freddy Nadjamerrek



**MECHANICAL SERVICES OFFICER**  
Matthew McClaren



**NAWARDDKEN ACADEMY TEACHER**  
Alana Potter



**NAWARDDKEN ACADEMY TEACHER'S ASSISTANT**  
Rhonda Nadjamerrek



**CONTRACT BUILDING OFFICER**  
Chris Bald

**NOT PICTURED:**  
**ADMINISTRATION OFFICER**  
Garreth Allely

#### WARDDEKEN RANGERS

Adeline Guymala, Alexandria Namarnyilk, Alio Guymala, Allan Nadjamerrek, Andrew Maralngurra, Antonia Djangjomerr, Arijay Camp, Ashon Ngabuy, Barnabus Naborlhborlh, Bernard Garnarradj, Berribob Watson, Cammie Wood, Carol Pamkal, Casten Guymala, Charlton Namundja, Christella Namundja, Clifton Nagurrurrba, Conrad Maralngurra, Darius Maralngurra, Deborah Nabarlambarl, Delvina Guymala, Deon Koimala, Deonus Djangjomerr, Dillon Brennan, Drusilla Nadjamerrek, Edna Midjarda, Eliza Nawirridj, Elizabeth Nabarlambarl, Elkanah Dullman, Emmanuel Namarnyilk, Faith Nadjamerrek, Fred Hunter, Frederick Nadjamerrek, Gareth Pamkal, Gavin Namarnyilk, Gavin Phillips, Gina Yulidjirri, Graham Namarnyilk, Greg Lippo, Hagar Nadjamerrek, Heather Naborlhborlh, Helena Malanga, Ian Djangjomerr, Jai Nadjamerrek, Jake Burrunali, Jalisa Koimala, Jamie

Billess, Jamie Yibarbuk, Jarris Wurrkidj, Jean Burrunali, Jenkin Guymala, Jenny Nadjamerrek, Jeshua Djangjomerr, Joe Guymala, Joel Naborlhborlh, John Mitchell, Josh Cameron, Josie Maralngurra, Joyce Marwal, Joylene Cameron, Justin Nayilibidj, Kamahl Hunter, Karl Makin, Keenan Nayinggul, Kenneth Mangiru, Kevin Bulliwana, Kormel Nawilil, Kyrin Bulliwana, Lachlan Djumberri, Leanne Guymala, Len Naborlhborlh, Lester Guymala, Lewis Naborlhborlh, Lillian Guymala, Lindsay Whitehurst, Lois Nadjamerrek, Lorina Maralngurra, Lorna Nabalwad, Lorraine Namarnyilk, Maacka Pascoe, Manoah Nawilil, Marcus Cameron, Margaret Naborlhborlh, Mario Guymala, Mark Djangjomerr, Marlene Cameron, Marshall Bangarr, Martha Cameron, Mary Nadjamerrek, Mel Maralngurra, Mica Garnaradj, Nick Maralngurra, Nicodemus Nayilibidj, Ray Nadjamerrek, Rhona Pamkal, Ricky Nabarlambarl, Robbie Maralngurra,

Robert Balmana, Rodney Naborlhborlh, Rosemary Nabalwad, Ross Guymala, Ruth Nabarlambarl, Sandra Dudanga, Sarah Billis, Sebastian Wesley, Selone Djangjomerr, Serina Namarnyilk, Sharna Dakgalawuy, Suzannah Nabalwad, Ted Naborlhborlh, Terrah Djogiba, Terrance Koimala, Tinnasha Narorrnga, Victor Garlingarr, Vietta Bangarr, Wayne McCartney, Wendy Namarnyilk, Willie Nabarlambarl, Willie Nabalwad, Winston Naborlhborlh, Zachariah Namarnyilk and Zario Guymala

#### OTHER VALUABLE HELP FROM:

Alys Stevens, Bjorn Events, Calvin Murakami, David Bond, David Hancock, the Djelk rangers, Emma Ignjic, Ian Munro, Jabiru NLC, Ken and Jenny at Jabiru Foodland, Luke O'Donnel, Dr Murray Garde, Paul Josif, and Simon Owen.

An early dry season burn lights up the night sky.



Alyssa Djogiba's parents are both Warddeken rangers. They made the choice to move to Kabulwarnamyo permanently so their two daughters could attend the Nawarddeken Academy, giving them an opportunity to grow up healthy and strong living on country. In this photo seven-year old Alyssa joyously shows off bush food she has collected. *Photo by Rowand Taylor*

# Financials

## Warddeken Land Management Limited

ABN 12 128 878 142

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 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 2016.

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.

#### Report of the independent auditor on the summary financial statements to the members of Warddeken Land Management Limited

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, 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 2016. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report.

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.

#### Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

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

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

#### Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial report of Warddeken Land Management Limited for the year ended 30 June 2016 are consistent, in all material respects, with that audited financial report, on the basis described in Note 1.

*Perks Audit*  
PERKS AUDIT PTY LTD

180 Greenhill Road

Parkside SA 5063

*P Hill*  
PETER J HILL

Director

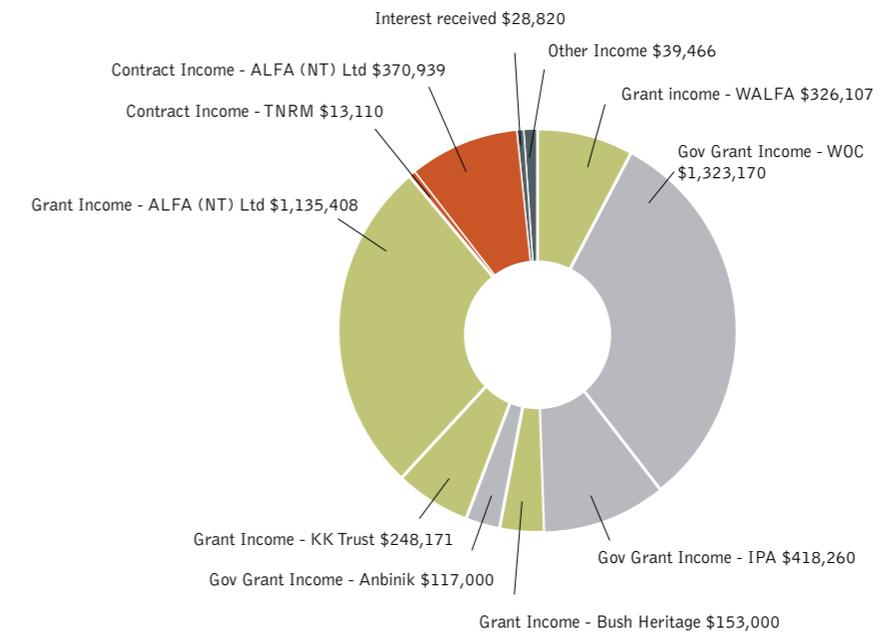
Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

INCOME STATEMENT	NOTE	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
Grant revenue		3,721,116	4,035,432
Other income		452,335	92,221
Employee benefits expense		(1,716,584)	(1,334,414)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments		(143,592)	(126,519)
Hire of plant and equipment		(419,192)	(364,573)
Repairs and maintenance		(193,854)	(204,871)
Other expenses		(1,022,453)	(850,678)
<b>INCOME / (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES</b>		<b>677,776</b>	<b>1,246,598</b>
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	NOTE	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		1,981,587	1,658,879
Trade and other receivables		50,005	38,850
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>2,031,592</b>	<b>1,697,729</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment		960,566	719,137
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>960,566</b>	<b>719,137</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>2,992,158</b>	<b>2,416,866</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables		287,792	375,776
Borrowings		-	10,622
Employee provisions		28,980	32,858
Other Liabilities		-	
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>316,772</b>	<b>419,256</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>316,772</b>	<b>419,256</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>2,675,386</b>	<b>1,997,610</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		2,675,386	1,997,610
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>2,675,386</b>	<b>1,997,610</b>

## Warddeken Land Management

### Income received by Warddeken



### Number of Indigenous Rangers employed by Warddeken



# Warddeken Land Management thanks our many supporters and partners:



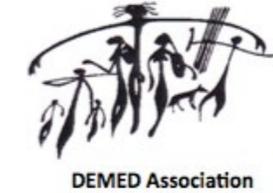
Australian Government  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment



Australian Government



# KELA NAMOK

1986 - 2015



Warddeken staff and members pay tribute to Kela Namok, and send our deepest sympathy to his family, wife and children. Kela was a loving husband and father, a skilled ranger and a talented artist. We will miss him deeply and keep him in our hearts.

May his spirit be at peace in the Kuwarddewardde.



*A Kela Namok painting of a Wakkewakken, a sugarbag spirit associated with his country Mankungdjang. Painting courtesy of Injalak Arts with the permission of the Nadjamerrek family.*

# DEDICATION TO OUR LEADER

Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek, 1926 - 2009



Yakkake Wamud Na-mok, djorrhbayeng, ngundi-manjbun rowk bu kan-bukkabukkang ngadberre an-garre na-warddeken, kan-kangemang 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.

Munguyh-munguyh arri-djalbengkan ngudda.

We shall forever think about you.

Kun-malng ke ka-rrurndeng kore An-kung 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

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ABN 12 128 878 142  
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Phone: 08 8979 0772 (Kabalwarnamyo)  
Email: [operations@warddeken.org.au](mailto:operations@warddeken.org.au)