



Nyangumarta News

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JULY, 2016

NEWS FROM THE
NYANGUMARTA
RANGER GROUP

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Welcome to our First Newsletter!

We are excited to present the first issue of the Nyangumarta Rangers newsletter to our community! We want this newsletter to be a regular publication (every 3-6 months) and use it to keep you in touch with the great work our rangers do to manage the Nyangumarta Warrarn Indigenous Protected Area.

Since its establishment in 2014, the Nyangumarta Rangers have come a long way.

Whilst the majority of this newsletter is dedicated to the activities of our Rangers, we are keen to respond to the interests of our readers. If you have a story to tell or have any questions for us, we would love to hear from you via email at tnorwell@ymac.org.au

A BIG THANK YOU!

We would like to say a big thank you to: Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC), the Karajarri Rangers, our visiting Tasmanian trainer, Volker Mischker, Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW), Rangelands NRM, Greening Australia, BHP Billiton, the Australian Government (IPA Program and Indigenous Land Corporation) and anyone else we may have forgotten. Your support and guidance have been invaluable to us in our early stages and we look forward to continuing our great relationships.



The Nyangumarta Rangers on Country at Nyangumarta Block, 80 Mile Beach.

Nyangumarta Has a New Base!

This year we have moved our operations to our new Ranger Base, one of the temporary



March, 2016

accommodation buildings opposite the Health Clinic in Bidyadanga. This was made possible by the Bidyadanga Council and we would like to thank them for their support!

We are very excited to have a central location to launch our IPA ranger activities from.

Please come and visit and say hello.



Now

Our Block at Eighty Mile is Now Fenced!



Rangers Ian Hunter & Aquinas Nardi installing star pickets.

In February this year, as part of a training activity, we fenced our block at Eighty Mile Beach.

Although the only cyclone for the year threatened to derail our plans, we managed to successfully finish the project in 3 days.

This fencing job was needed to prevent tourists from camping in restricted areas and to keep cattle from destroying vegetation and making a mess on our Block. It also

started the process of developing the area for future Nyangumarta activities.

This was a joint exercise with Shane Sercombe from Two-Mile Fencing and Volker



Mischker, one of our trainers.

The girls and boys worked separately and we all used large tools to put star pickets down, which keep the fence poles in place. After putting down a lot of fence poles, we learnt how to join the fence together. It was very hard work but we learnt a lot and enjoyed sitting around the camp together at night. A big thank you to the ILC, the main sponsor of this activity!

Purnululu Ranger Forum

Recently, some of our rangers attended a Ranger Forum run by KLC at Purnululu National Park. It was a gathering of many ranger groups where we could share and build our skills so that we can do our job better.

Lynette, Charmaine, Aquinas, Lindsay, and Martina all went for this experience, and endured the extremely long drive!

There were many training exercises available to choose from, such as how to tie knots, welding, first aid, and how to slice meat for cooking. Lynette and Charmaine did the first aid course, while Aquinas expanded his knowledge with welding. These skills will make it easier for future ranger trips to our land.

While we were there, we also met many new friends from other Ranger groups in the area, and got to sightsee at Purnululu. One of the best spots to visit was The Dome, a giant rock formation surrounded by sand, which reminded us of the beach.

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First Aid Training

Sheen Kitty, Ishmael Hunter & Aquinas Nardi being supervised by Andrew the trainer on proper bandage technique.



In April, the Nyangumarta Rangers met with the Karajarri Rangers to participate in First Aid Training at the Karajarri Base.

Our rangers were taught how to resuscitate unconscious patients, treat snake bites, stop people from choking and correctly bandage bleeding patients. Everyone had a good laugh as they each took turns to lie down and be the injured patient.

Having first aid training is important when you are out on country doing work so that you know what to do if one of your fellow rangers gets into trouble.

We would like to recommend first aid training to everyone in our community because this course can save lives.

Studying Fire on Nyangumarta Country



Ishmael, Martina and Rosie at Walyarta.

This year, our Ranger group teamed up with researchers from La Trobe University, Nick Smith & Steve Leonard to conduct a pilot fire ecology study. This took place over two trips, the first to Walyarta (Salt Creek) and the

second to the Kidson Track, Nyangumarta Highway.

Burning is important because it reduces the chance of big fires caused by lightning. Our rangers learnt about fire management and how to measure fire load.

Nyangumarta Elders attended both trips and high school students from the LaGrange Remote Community School attended the second trip for a few days to observe our activities and get out on

country.

Our rangers taught the school kids how to set up camera traps and our Elders shared their stories of our country and made us all beautiful fresh bread. It was fantastic to see our young kids and Elders out on country together and we hope it will happen again soon!



“When we go out on country it makes our minds and our stomachs feel free.”

~Lynette, Senior Ranger

Ranger Focus: Lynette Wilridge

We sat down with Lynette, our Senior Nyangumarta Ranger, to discuss the highlights of the Ranger Program.

Question 1. Why is the Ranger program important for Nyangumarta people?

Lynette: The Ranger program takes us out on country, which is important because we don't get to see our country every day. When we go out on country it makes



our minds and stomachs feel free.

Question 2. What have been the best moments in the Ranger program?

Lynette: When we are sitting down with the old ladies. When we're travelling to country and around the campfire, we just sit and tell stories and laugh.



Monitoring Turtles and Chasing Birds

For a while now, the Nyangumarta Rangers have been doing turtle monitoring at Eighty Mile Beach, with the help of DPAW, to monitor turtles and their hatchlings on our Country.

Camera traps were set to determine whether the turtles are being disturbed by feral animals. From these cameras we have caught sight of feral cats, as well as other

native animals such as monitor lizards!

Some turtles, especially older females, are also fitted with tracking devices to track their movements. We hope this data will help us with turtle conservation in the future.

As well as turtle monitoring, our rangers have also done some bird trapping on Anna Plains with

DPAW and leading experts.

This has helped us to determine what species of animals that live on our land.

We saw a lot of different species and learnt that bird trapping is hard work! It's difficult to run after birds and catch them in nets!



A tracking device is fitted to a baby turtle.



Nyangumarta Rangers

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Come visit us at our Ranger Base,
opposite the Health Clinic in Bidyadanga!



Ninu Festival at Kiwirrkurra

Two weeks ago, the Rangers made a trip to Kiwirrkurra for the 3-day Ninu Festival. The Festival was held to raise awareness of the bilby, and also to recognize the awesome contribution of indigenous rangers in Australia, who help to protect this endangered species and our amazing country.

More than 120 rangers from 20 different ranger groups attended the Festival and our Nyangumarta rangers got to meet many of them during their stay in Kiwirrkurra.

The local Kiwirrkurra Rangers

discussed with us what they did to protect bilbies on their country. This included setting up camera traps outside burrows, hunting feral cats, and burning the land so that lots of grass would grow when it rained. They were also kind enough to take us out on their country and show us how to recognize bilby tracks and show us some burrows.

Experts at the Festival gave talks on other trial strategies like using drones to survey bilbies and a new

cat trap system.

The festival made us excited to find out if we had bilbies living on our IPA and how we could help to protect them. If you want to read more about the Ninu Festival, please visit: www.countryneedspeople.org.au

Our own ranger, Aquinas Nardi and his cat tracking skills are mentioned in their article! Google search - Knowledge, Country & Respect: How the bilby brought them together).

