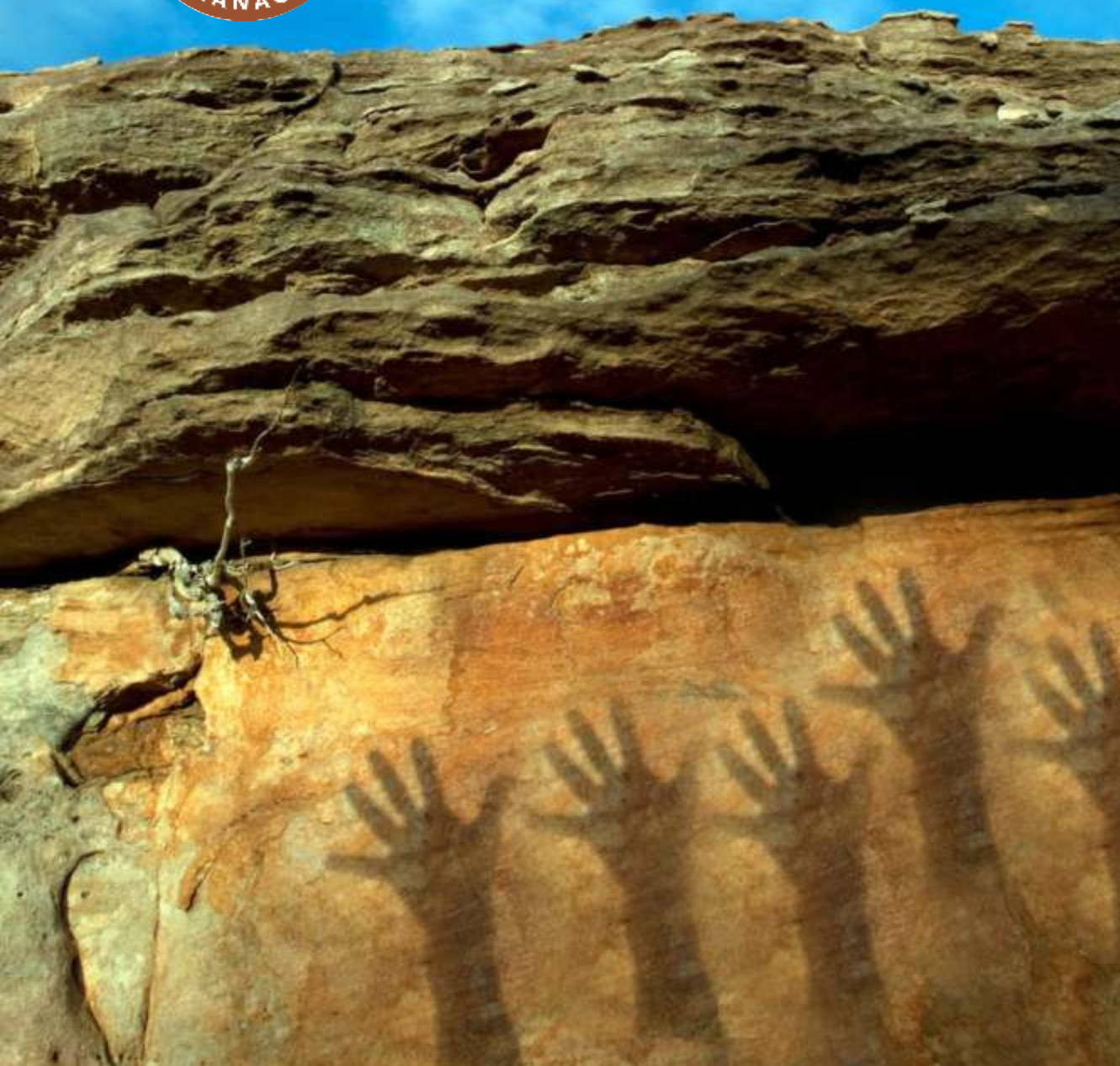


# WARDDEKEN

## LAND MANAGEMENT LIMITED



### ANNUAL REPORT 2013–2014



Warddeken Land Management Limited Annual Report 2013–2014.

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This annual report was compiled for Warddeken Land Management Limited by Jennifer Ansell and Georgia Vallance. Layout and Design by Jennifer Ansell and Georgia Vallance.

Unless otherwise stated, all photographs are copyright Warddeken Land Management Limited. Special thanks to the Nadjamerrek family for permission to use images of Wamud Namok and his country.

Warddeken wishes to thank Alys Stevens , Murray Garde and Jon Altman for their contribution to this Annual Report.



The sprayed hand stencil symbol at the centre of the Warddeken logo is known as *bidbimyo*, in *Bininj Kunwok*. It was created in 2007 with the incorporation of Warddeken as a not for profit company limited by guarantee and replaced an earlier logo for the unincorporated, fire-focused Manwurrk Rangers. The *bidbimyo* design 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.

*Photos:*

*Facing Page: Rangers and young men from Manmoyi and Kabulwarnamyo come together for kunborrk at Kulnguki. Photo source Cathryn Vasselev.*

*Cover page: Despite looking like bidbimyo, these are the shadows of five Landowner’s hands during a bush walk on country. Photo source David Hancock.*



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

*We want to work with partners to achieve mutually agreed objectives using Indigenous and Western science-based systems.*

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



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*Photos:*

*This page: Warddeken IPA sign at Kundjorlomdjorlom.*

*Facing page (top to bottom): Road sign to the Warddeken IPA, Fred Nadjamerrek, a Balabbala at Makkalarl, Kabulwarnamyo outstation sign. Photo source David Hancock.*

# Warddeken Story

Warddeken Land Management is a company established by Nawarddeken, people of the western Arnhem Land plateau in Australia's Northern Territory, to manage their land and its natural and cultural resources.

Guided by visionary elder Bardayal 'Lofty' Nadjamerrek, the foundations for Warddeken were established over a number of years as landowners actively sought to reoccupy their ancestral country on the Plateau. Like landowners in other parts of northern Australia, Nawarddeken had gradually moved off their lands during the twentieth century into the rapidly growing larger regional settlements.

However, soon after the last people left the plateau, a new movement of return began. Formal cultural site surveys in the 1990s were followed by the creation of a small outstation, Kabulwarnamyo, early in the new millennium. Initially focused on re-establishing traditional fire management practices in the Arnhem Plateau, the community-based indigenous land management group based out of Kabulwarnamyo was involved in pioneering a number of innovative projects including the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) project.

In 2008 Warddeken Land Management Ltd was formally registered as a not for profit public company, limited by guarantee. Shortly after, in 2009 the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area was declared. The Warddeken IPA covers 1,394,951 hectares of spectacular stone and gorge country on the Western Arnhem Land Plateau. Including the estates of 40 clan groups, the Warddeken IPA is globally significant for its natural and cultural values and is home to dozens of endemic plants, threatened species and a unique ecological community – the Arnhem Plateau Sandstone Shrubland Complex.

Today, Warddeken is an innovative Indigenous Land Management organisation tasked with coordinating the management of the IPA and building Indigenous management capacity. Warddeken assists landowners to make decisions about their country by increasing their understanding and knowledge of conservation issues and providing the resources needed to implement those decisions.



# Looking back at my time in the Warddewardde

Peter Cooke, Outgoing Warddeken CEO



This year I am retiring from the position of CEO Warddeken and I am very happy to be passing that responsibility to Shaun Ansell.

Sometimes letting go of a passionate attachment and commitment is quite hard but in this case handing over is so much easier because of my faith in Shaun as the Board's choice to help Warddeken along the next stage of its journey.

I am also filled with confidence because in a short space of time the Board has grown strong in governance expertise and has a firm grasp on where the company is going.

I have many precious memories from my time on the plateau and I want to share just a few.

I first saw Kabulwarnamyo from a helicopter in 1991 while undertaking a Northern Land Council land mapping survey with Wamud Namok (Bardayal 'Lofty' Nadjarmerrek). As usual kakkak Lofty was right on target as he guided our pilot until we were over the spring. As we circled, he pointed out the None Djang tree and where he had lived with his family as a boy.

His affection for this place filled the helicopter and he expressed his deep hope that he would return to live again on his father's country.

In 1997 I was working closely again with kakkak Lofty as we started a Natural Heritage Trust Project to understand the problems caused by the movement of people off the Plateau and the break in the web of customary fire management by the Nawarddeken.

Kakkak Lofty was a leader in this project, drawing other senior men and women into the project as well as middle-aged folk like Bulanj Yibarbuk and welcoming collaboration with people from the science community like Jeremy Russell-Smith, Gary Cook, Andrew Edwards and many others.



In the year 2000, Wamud guided 12 of us balanda and bininj on a walk from Kamarrkawarn to the East Alligator River in which we could see plainly the problems of wildfire and also of damage from feral buffalo.

In 2002 kakkak Lofty's dream of coming home to Kabulwarnamyo took an important step when he marked out the site for his outstation, we erected a small garden shed and bulldozed away acacia scrub with an NLC Landcruiser to make a rough helicopter pad. Next dry season we were back and from there Kabulwarnamyo grew and grew — not with big money from Government but with the sweat and passion of bininj whose hearts had been touched by experience of kakkak Lofty's feeling for country.

I looked back today at a personal reflection I wrote in 2003 and I share a little of that here:

“First light is beginning to show and the temperature is seven degrees. Bardayal is the first awake in camp and has already stoked the fire and has a billy on. While he waits for it to boil he is singing quietly to himself about his country. Since before daylight djobbo the grey butcher bird has also been singing about his country. ... A sulphur-crested cockatoo comes up from the direction of the sacred andjarduk red apple tree to perch in a stringybark close to camp. He sings out a few times, eyeing those who have joined Bardayal around the fire.

“Not really cockatoo,” says Bardayal. “That one old people. Might be Kela, my father”

Now a new generation listens to country and to the birds and animals and remembers that kakkak Lofty and the other ancestors are there with them.

Good luck Nawarddeken mob.

Peter Cooke

*Photos:*

*This page: Wamud Namok's last rock painting - a barrk at Ankung Kangeyh.*

*Previous page: Wamud Namok and Peter Cooke.*



## Incoming Warddeken CEO Shaun Ansell

The year 2014 marks the ending of the foundational era of Warddeken Land Management Limited. Since the beginning Warddeken has grown with the inspiring vision, hard work and tenacity of our founding CEO Peter Cooke, who guided by the wisdom and foresight of our departed professors and supported by the sweat and passion of our rangers and coordinators has established Warddeken as a company without parallel. This company, 100% Bininj owned, daily uses world class Bininj and Balanda knowledge systems to manage the awe-inspiring natural and cultural heritage of the Warddeken IPA.

I am immensely honoured to have been asked to accept the challenge of growing Warddeken Land Management from such a strong base. Our company is in great financial shape and has a legacy of professionalism and integrity. In particular I look forward to working with our Board of Directors and Chair – Fred Hunter. The governance of this company is first rate and I intend that it remains so.

The year just gone has seen Warddeken excel at what we do best – innovating in the face of challenges, seizing opportunities and succeeding no matter what. Our ranger bases at both Kabulwarnamyo and Manmoyi are testament to this; built with Bininj sweat they daily overcome and thrive in the face of the challenges posed by operating in such a remote environment.

Warddeken owes a great debt of thanks to our many members, supporters, partners and colleagues - we have not gotten to where we are today on our own and look forward to your continued support and friendship into the future.

*Photos:*

*This page: Nigel Gellar, Shaun Ansell and Dean Yibarbuk in Namibia at an international fire knowledge exchange.*

*Facing page: Fred Hunter at a rock art site on his country.*





## Chairman's Report Fred Hunter

As a founding board member for the karrikad ward of the Warddeken IPA I have watched our company grow and it is with no small amount of pride that I write this report in my first term as Chairman of Warddeken.

I want to use this opportunity to thank the founding CEO of Warddeken Peter Cooke who retires this year. If it weren't for kamarrang Cookie and the vision he shared with our leader Bardayal Nadjamerrek, our people and our company wouldn't be where we are now. Their friendship and combined effort led first to the establishment of Kabulwarnamy community, our ranger headquarters, and then to the establishment of our stone country company, Warddeken Land Management.

I would also like to welcome Shaun Ansell as the incoming CEO. He too has been a friend of Nawarddeken for a long time and is highly regarded by our members. His proven success as a leader for other groups such as the Djelk Rangers and Fish River Station make him the right man for the job. Shaun grew up with Bininj and he has the heart and mind to oversee our company.

WLML is still growing into the company our Old People dreamed of. There are more young people back on country, working to manage their country. With each year that passes we move from strength to strength and our program expands.

Members should be proud of what we have achieved. Warddeken are at the forefront of Indigenous conservation and lead the way in so many regards.

Our name and our reputation continue to grow – people from right across the country and overseas know about Warddeken and look to us an example of how things can be done the right way.



## Board of Directors

Warddeken Land Management Limited is governed by 12 Indigenous directors elected every three years. Three members are elected for each of four 'wards' or membership classes, defined by geographical groupings of clans—kakbi (north), karrikad (west), walem (south) and koyek (east). At 30 June 2014 representatives were:

**Kakbi:** Kevin Bulliwana, Victor GarlNgarr, Conrad MarlNgurra  
 Warddjak (Maburrinj), Danek (Kudjumarndi), Ngalingbali (Kudjekbinj), Yurlhmanj (Djalbangurrk), Madjuwarr (Kunukdi), Marrirn (Kumarrirnbang), Wurrik (Mandedjkadjang), Mayirrkulidj (Djurlka), Durlmangkarr (Kudjaborrng/Kunburray), Djok (Ngolwarr), Barrbinj (Kumarrirnbang/ Kudjaldordo).

**Karrikad:** Jessie Alderson, Fred Hunter, Kenneth Mangiru  
 Manilakarr Urningangk (Mikkinj), Maddalk (Kumalabukka), Warddjak/Worrkorl (Balmana from Kundjikurdubuk), Bolmo (Dedjrungi and Dordokiyu), Badmardi (Balawurru, [succession/caretaking]), Wurnkomku (Nawoberr).

**Walem:** Christopher Ngabuy, Isaiah Nagurrurrba, Lachlan Jumbirri  
 Djorrorlom (Bamo), Murruba (Morre), Karnbirr (Djohmi), Mimbilawuy (KarlNgarr), Barabba (Mimbrung), Mandjuwarlwarl (Bobbolinjmarr), Barradj (Yanjkobarnem), Bulumo (Makkebowan).

**Koyek:** Terrah Guymala, Sarah Nabarlambarl Billis, Lois Nadjamerrek,  
 Bordoh (Ngorlkwarre), Mok/Berdberd (Ankung Djang/ Ngalkombarli), Yamarr (Kidbulmaniyimarra), Kulmarru (Kubumi), Bolmo (Marlkawo), Rol (Bolkgok), Djordi/Djorrorlom (Kodwalewale), Buluwunwun (Walangandjang), Wurrbbarn (Nabrang), Warridjngu (Boburrk), Yamarr (Kidbulmanyamarra).



## Membership Drive and Mobile Polling

Membership to Warddeken Land Management Limited is open to all Aboriginal people over 18 years of age who have customary responsibilities for land within the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area under Aboriginal traditional law and custom. There are four membership classes, defined by a geographical groupings of clans – kakbi (north), karrikad (west), walem (south) and koyek (east).

In September 2013, Warddeken prepared for the upcoming director elections by reviewing membership lists and undertaking a recruitment drive. The membership drive was conducted during two visits to communities within and around the IPA. This included Kunbalanya, Maningrida and its surrounding outstations, Jabiru, Pine Creek, Katherine, Manyallaluk, Barunga and Wugularr. The initial visits were to promote the triennial Board elections and seek nominations for election. The second visit was to conduct mobile polling for those elections. This financial year, 61 new members joined Warddeken Land Management Limited, an increase of 25 %.

Mobile polling took place in November and December 2013 across Western Arnhem Land and other areas where Warddeken members reside. Consultant Nina Brown worked with local residents in each region to coordinate a mobile polling booth. Members voted in three towns, seven communities and 16 outstations. Election ballot papers included images of each candidate and Aboriginal polling assistants ensured members understood the voting process. Cast votes were placed in a locked ballot box which was opened before members at the AGM in Kunbalanya. Over 50 % of Warddeken's members voted in the AGM and four directors were replaced.

*Photos:*

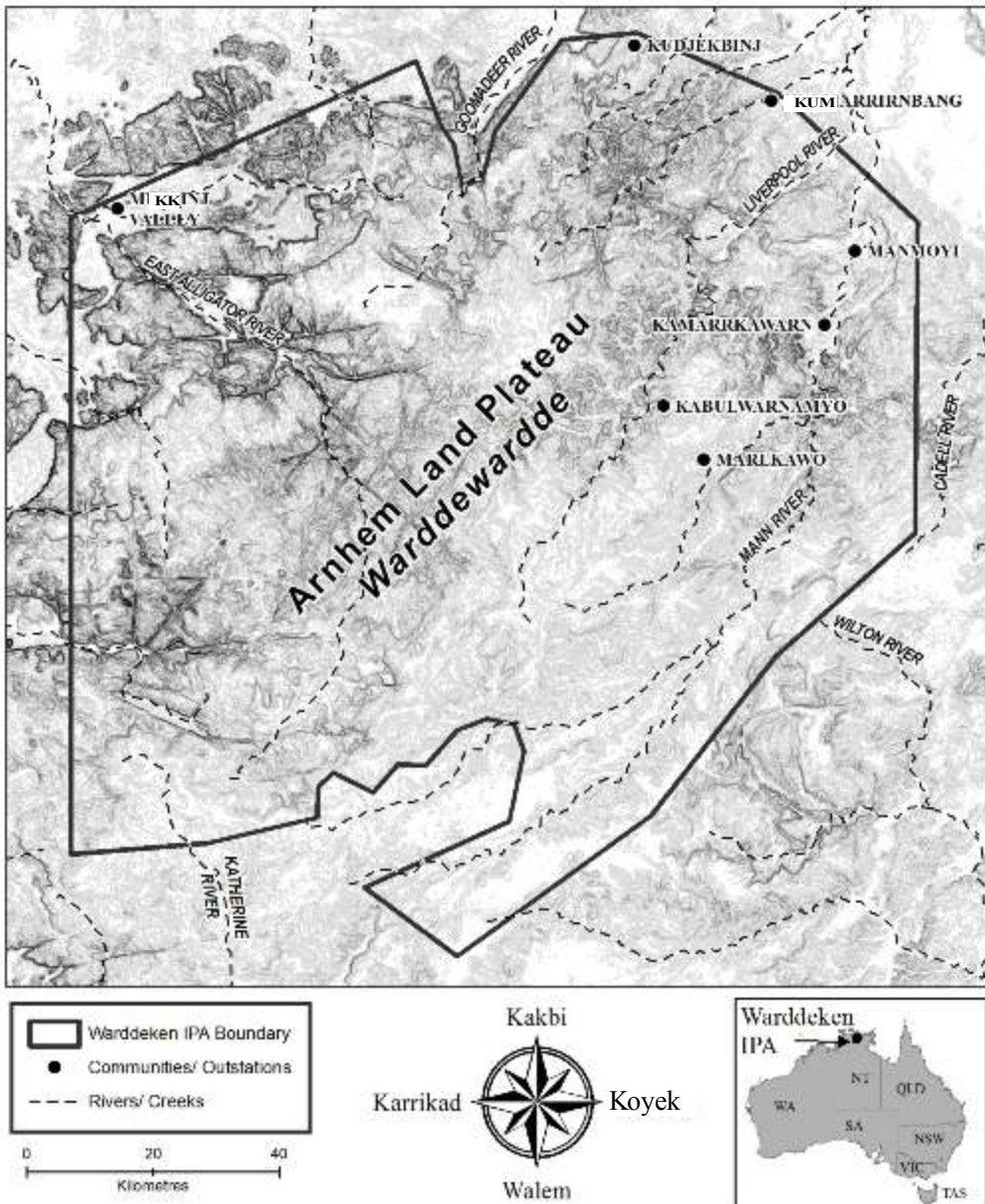
*This page (left to right): Graham Namarnyilk places a vote in the ballot at Maningrida, Wurdib Nabalwad casts his vote at Mamadawerre.*

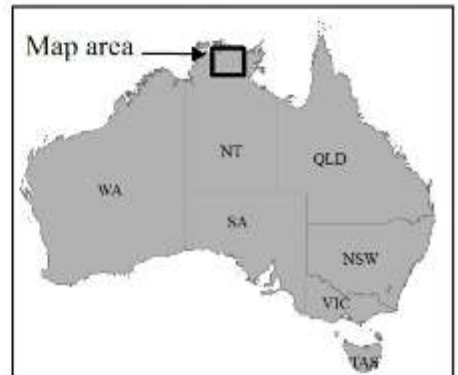
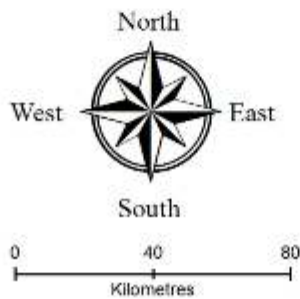
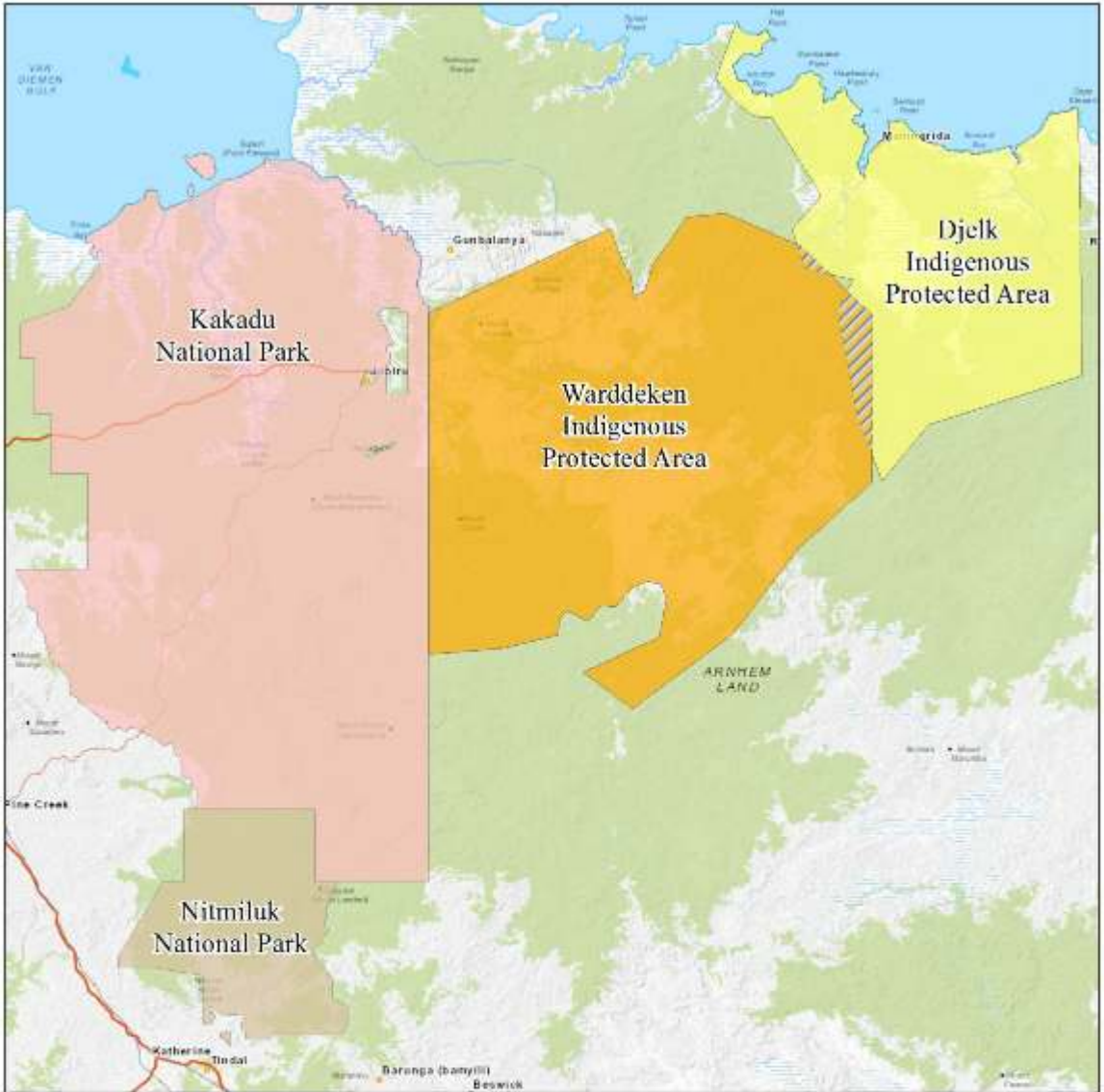
*Previous page: Board of Directors at July 2013 (absent from photo Fred Hunter, Jessie Alderson and new Directors Victor Garlngarr, Conrad Marlngurra, Isaiah Nagurrqurba and Lachlan Jumbirri. Photo source Peter Cooke.*

# The Warddeken IPA

The Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area is located in western Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory of Australia. The IPA covers 1,394,951 hectares of spectacular sandstone and gorge country and encompasses six outstation communities: Kabulwarnamyo, Manmoyi, Kamarrkawarn, Markawo, Kumarrirrbang and Kudjekbinj.

The Warddeken IPA borders Kakadu National Park to the west and the Djelk IPA to the north east. The area is home to dozens of endemic plants, a host of threatened species and a new and unique threatened ecological community—the Arnhem Plateau Sandstone Shrublands complex.







## Fire Management

Fire management within the Warddeken IPA presents an ongoing opportunity for landowners to connect with country. As in previous years, the fire management program encompasses pre-season fire consultations and planning, aerial prescribed burning, on-ground burning activities as well as late dry season fire suppression. The fire season is based on a calendar year; here we report upon the late dry season fire suppression undertaken from August-November 2013 and the early dry season fire activities in 2014. During this period, over 50 rangers were engaged in the fire management program in varying capacities.

As a result of successful early dry season burning in 2013, rangers were able to fight and contain four wildfires in the Warddeken IPA during the late dry season. Containment of the largest wildfire of the season was the result of a combined effort between Warddeken and the neighbouring Mimal ranger group, preventing further spread into the Warddeken IPA.

Good early dry season burning and the successful suppression of these late dry season fires contributes not only to the cultural and ecological health of the IPA but also has positive economic outcomes. Since 2006, Warddeken have been key partners in the WALFA (West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement) project. A contractual arrangement between Darwin Liquefied Natural Gas Pty Ltd (DLNG) and the Northern Territory Government, WALFA aims to offset the emissions from the DLNG plant by implementing strategic early dry season fire management in western Arnhem Land. Warddeken are one of five Indigenous ranger groups who receive funding through WALFA to implement strategic early dry season fire combined with active suppression of late dry season fire. The 2013 calendar year was the most successful year to date with WALFA partners delivering a greenhouse gas abatement of 180,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e.

*Photos:*

*This page: Ted Maralngurra using a drip torch to light fires. Photo source David Hancock.*



In early 2014, pre-fire season consultations were undertaken with landowners from each of the Warddeken IPA wards. These meetings discuss and allocate who will be responsible for undertaking aerial burning and on-ground activities within particular clan estates. Landowners also highlight areas for protective burning around cultural and environmental assets such as rock art or sensitive vegetation like Anbinik forests. These activities are described in more detail in the Rock Art and Anbinik sections of this Annual Report.

Over 14,500 km of aerial prescribed burning was undertaken within the Warddeken IPA within the early dry season of 2014. Warddeken record data associated with aerial burning and this is used by partners at Charles Darwin University and the North Australia Fire Information (NAFI) website to increase the accuracy of fire history maps.

The Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund provided Warddeken with a grant to transition the WALFA project to the Federal Government's Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI). This money has supported a carbon farming project manager, Ian Munro, to work with Indigenous organisations across the region to develop corporate and governance arrangements for CFI projects. Ian has been working closely with the Northern Land Council to undertake extensive consultations with landowners in the project area. As a direct result of this work, an important milestone this financial year was the formal establishment of Arnhem Land Fire Abatement - ALFA (NT) Limited (formerly WALFA Ltd). This Indigenous company, limited by guarantee, has been established to manage the 'business end' of fire-related carbon abatement activities. Specifically, to turn the abatement created through savanna burning into Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), to sell the ACCUs and to distribute the revenue back to the ranger groups undertaking the project. A number of Warddeken staff, past and present, have been instrumental in the conception and execution of ALFA (NT) Ltd, in particular Peter Cooke, Shaun Ansell and Dean Yibarbuk. This considerable contribution by Warddeken personnel has been provided as in-kind support to ALFA (NT) Ltd.

*Photos:*

*This page: The fire team. Photo source David Hancock.*



## Biodiversity Surveys

Biodiversity surveys provide an opportunity for rangers, families and scientists to camp together to learn more about the unique biodiversity of the Warddeken IPA. Since 2010, Warddeken have been involved in a partnership with the NT Government hosting an ecologist, Alys Stevens, to work within the Warddeken IPA as well as in the neighbouring Djelk IPA. This year Warddeken undertook three formal fauna surveys as part of this partnership.



In August 2013, Warddeken conducted a wildlife survey at Milerreleerle near Kamarrkawarn outstation. Two NT Government ecologists, Alys Stevens and Terry Mahney, camped for 10 days with over 30 rangers and landowners to revisit the sites that were first surveyed in 2011. As well as the standard suite of Elliot, cage, funnel and pitfall traps, this time they used a new camera trap setup to try and increase the number of mammal species observed. In the past only one or two cameras were used at each site, however this time five camera traps were deployed at each site. The cameras were put around the site where rangers saw signs of animals or looked like good habitat for animals like under rock ledges or near hollow logs. A bait station, filled with peanut butter, oats and honey was placed near the camera to help attract animals.



In total, the survey team found 10 native mammal species, five frog species, 19 reptile species and five feral animal species. The highlight of the camera trap survey was finding *badbong* – the short eared rock wallaby. Whilst not listed as a threatened species, landowners and rangers have been concerned numbers have declined in recent times. This was the first time this species had been observed in the Warddeken IPA since the project began in 2010. Additionally, five mammals were seen on camera traps that were not observed during the standard trapping surveys. These were *ngarrbek* (Echidna), *kalkberd* (male Euro), *badbong* (Short-eared rock wallaby), *yirrkbadj* (water rat) and the Arnhem Rock Rat.







Fauna surveys at Ngangkan and Kabowakbun were also undertaken this financial year and further trialled the use of five camera traps at each site. Important captures on these surveys included the Arnhem Rock Rat, danngital (frilled neck lizard), Sandstone Pseudantechinus, and the spiny tailed monitor. For the rangers, a highlight of the Ngangkan survey in July 2014 was the filming of 'How to set up a Camera Trap' in collaboration with videographer Michael Lawrence-Taylor. This video has since been used extensively to demonstrate the technique to students and colleagues.

Excitingly, based on results from the Warddeken IPA and other areas in the Top End of the Northern Territory, researchers think that they may have identified a new species of tree-dwelling glider. Known to people of the Warddeken as *lambalk*, DNA analysis suggests that it is more closely related to squirrel and mahogany gliders than to sugar gliders as previously thought. Further research will continue this work to establish this glider as a new species.

*Photos:*

*This page (top to bottom): Ngangkan survey team, Milerrlerre survey team. Photo sources Michael Lawrence-Taylor and Alys Stevens.*

*Facing Page (top to bottom): White-throated grass wren, Karl Makin setting a cage trap, small skink on biodiversity surveys, badpong (short eared rock wallaby). Photo sources respectively Peter Cooke, Alys Stevens and Graham Gillespie.*



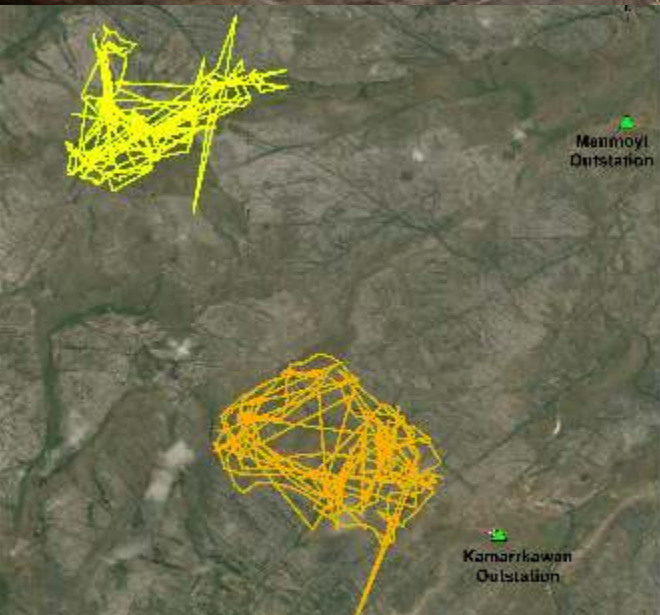


## Feral Cats

Over the last few years, Warddeken has been working collaboratively with the NT Department of Land Resource Management to monitor the impact of feral cats on native fauna within the IPA. Feral cats are considered a major threat to culture as Sarah Billis Warddeken Director explains: “Native animals are important in our culture because they have a connection with us and we have a connection with them and to the land. We want our native animals to come back to maintain our cultural knowledge and pass it on to our children. But feral cats are threatening our culture by killing our native animals. They have no cultural connection to us or the land”

In the rugged stone country of the Arnhem Plateau, catching and shooting cats is very difficult. An intensive feral cat cull was trialled over four weeks in October and November 2013 and whilst many cats were seen no cats were able to be killed, despite many hours of patrolling in a specially equipped vehicle. In September 2013, an expert from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Hugh McGregor, brought two specially trained feral cat detector dogs to the Warddeken IPA. Using these dogs, the team were able to capture and then radio-collar two feral cats. Over the next 12 weeks, the movements of these two cats was tracked by scientists with some surprising results. The cats exhibited the largest recorded home range for feral cats in Australia, at between 1.5 and 2.5 square km. Radio-tracking revealed that they traveled an average of 5 km per night but can travel as far as 12 km in a single night.

In late 2013, a video documenting the impact of feral cats and ranger control efforts was produced and filmed in language by the Warddeken Rangers. Developed by NERP videographer, Michael Lawrence-Taylor, and narrated by Landowner Sarah Billis, the video had its national Premiere at Darwin’s Deckchair Cinema and was screened nationally on NITV. The video can be viewed online at: <http://www.nerp.northern.edu.au/news/2014/feral-cats-warddeken-country>.





## Culture Camps

The culture camps conducted annually within the Warddeken IPA are a highlight of the year for landowners and their families. Whilst various camps with a specific land management focus (e.g. biodiversity surveys) are facilitated by Warddeken throughout the year, the culture camps are planned and conducted entirely by landowners. Held in the school holidays, a particular focus of these camps is getting children on country with their elders. Through camping on country, sharing stories, going on bushwalks and learning cultural skills, important knowledge is passed to the next generation of Nawarddeken. This financial year three large culture camps were conducted within the Warddeken IPA.

At Makkalarl, children and adults associated with Yurlhmanj clan spent more than a week reconnecting with country. Makkalarl is a region within the IPA where landowners have successfully been reconnected with country. Many landowners for this region now live and work at Kabulwarnamyo as rangers and others are regularly engaged in conservation work around Anbinik, rock art and fire management. The construction of a balabbala tent at the clan estate has assisted the back to country movement.

### *Photos:*

*This page: Warddeken Professor Mary Kalkiwarra Nadjamerrek facilitates a bush classroom session during Kulnguki culture camp. Photo source Cathryn Vasselev.*

*Facing Page: Jemimah Djogiba gives her cousin Richard Nadjamerrek a cuddle (above). Photo source Cathryn Vasselev. Culture Camp (below).*

*Previous Pages: Feral cat, Sequence of photos capturing and collaring a feral cat in the Warddeken IPA to be fitted with a radio-transmitter, Radio-tracked feral cat tracks. Photo source Alys Stevens.*



The third annual camp at Ngangkan provided further opportunity for members of the Bordoh and Djordi clans to participate in wildlife surveys and gain Indigenous ecological knowledge in tandem with western scientific knowledge. In June 2014, more than 100 people camped at Ngangkan including a team of women from the neighbouring Djelk Rangers. Cultural activities including yam harvesting were run by cultural experts. Ecologists, Alys and Terry worked with an increasingly skilled team of rangers to set up and check traps, deploy cameras, undertake flora and bird surveys as well as spotlighting for native animals and feral cats at night.

In June 2014, Nawarddeken from Mok, Bolmo, Ngalngbarli, Madjuwarr and other clan groups camped together at Kulnguki to focus on intergenerational cultural knowledge exchange. Highlights of this week included a number of trips to rock art sites, with an emphasis on sites with thylacine paintings, as part of work with a documentary film crew. Although the thylacine went extinct more than 5,000 years ago on the mainland, numerous rock art depictions exist across the IPA.



*Photos:*

*Following Pages: Selection on photos from this years cultural camps in the Warddeken IPA. Photo sources Cathryn Vasselev and WLML.*







## Fragile First Impressions

This year the extensive rock art recording of contact art sites undertaken by Warddeken culminated in an exciting photography exhibition, *Fragile First Impressions*. The paintings in the exhibition depict early contact with non-Aboriginal people in the Plateau and are believed to cover a period from the mid nineteenth century through to around World War II. During this time, Nawarddeken travelled to European frontiers in northern Australia where some worked in tin mines and buffalo camps. They returned to the Arnhem Plateau with stories to tell family who stayed at home. As Warddeken Director, Terrah Guymala, explains “People painted these pictures to go with stories they were telling...now we have only the pictures— the voices are gone — and understanding the story behind them is a puzzle ... like detective work.”

There are a small number of pictures where the Indigenous visual account lines up perfectly with written European history. When the surveyor David Lindsay and his party crossed the Arnhem Plateau from North to South in 1883, Lindsay recorded how they threw away saddle packs, a fishing net, clothes and ammunition to lighten their horses load. About 2005, a well preserved art site was found about 4km from where Lindsay’s maps show his party rested and discarded gear. The cave art includes not only paintings of the members of the party hunting with guns and smoking pipes it also has clear depictions of the saddle packs and fishing net.

Photographs for the exhibition were created throughout 2013–2014 by Northern Territory photojournalist David Hancock in collaboration with landowners in Western Arnhem Land. *Fragile First Impressions* was curated by Peter Cooke and hosted by Trinity Grammar School from the 28th May until the 3rd June 2014.

*Photos:*

*This page: Johnny Reid at a contact art site on his clan estate. Photo source David Hancock.*

*Facing Page: Photos taken for the Fragile First Impressions art exhibition catalogue. Photo source David Hancock.*







## Ngarridurndeng Djokay - Going back to Djokay

In 1993, linguist and longtime friend of Nawarddeken, Dr. Murray Garde traveled by helicopter to a rock shelter at Djokay in the Kodwalewale estate with two Warddeken Professors, both of whom are now deceased, Jimmy Kalarriya (Kodjok Nawurrbbarn) and Bardayal Nadjamerrek (Wamud Namok). Murray made recordings of their commentary on the history of Djokay, their experience of its continued use and occupation and the meaning of the many paintings on the walls and ceilings of the shelter.

In 2012, there was much excitement as Warddeken Rangers “rediscovered” Djokay while recording known sites in the Mann River district of the Warddeken IPA. Some of the rangers remembered going there as children, accompanied by their parents or grandparents. However, the name of the site and the cultural associations behind the painted figures had been “misplaced” when elders became too frail to take younger people on visits.

When CEO, Peter Cooke, showed Murray Garde some photographs from the site he was immediately able to identify it as the place he had visited and made recordings with the two professors 20 years earlier.

With the assistance of the Indigenous Heritage Program a large groups of landowners went back to Djokay in October 2013 and took the 1993 recordings with them. When they located the shelter, they played the recordings of those two old men telling them about this important place. The rangers observed: “it’s just like these old people are here with us” and a new generation were able to renew their cultural connection to Djokay.

*Photos:*

*This page: Dillon Guymala at Djokay. Photo source Murray Garde.*

*Facing Page: Emmanuel Namarnyilk, Graham Namarnyilk, Joel Naborlhborlh, Nigel Gellar and Stuart Guymala at Djokay. Photo source Murray Garde.*





## Rock Art Preservation

The Indigenous Heritage Fund project, “Protecting the Past, Ensuring the Future”, has delivered many important milestones for landowners of the Warddeken IPA. With a focus on cultural site recording, preservation and knowledge transmission, we highlight some of the work that was undertaken in 2013-2014.

This year, Warddeken Rangers surveyed art sites at Makkalarl, Kunbambuk, Djokya, Kumarrabuledjurie and around the ‘horse site’. Survey data was subsequently entered into Bidwern, Warddeken’s Information Management System.

These (and previous) rock art surveys noted the urgent need for feral animal exclusion. Buffalo and pigs sheltering at art sites have been responsible for the irreversible loss of pigments on a number of images. In September 2013, Warddeken Rangers erected cattle panels to create buffalo and pig proof exclusion fences at Kunberken and Enamaraway. Similarly, in early 2014, senior landowners were flown to the ‘horse site’ west of the Liverpool River and enthusiastically supported the plan to erect exclusion fencing which was then installed by rangers.

In 2008 Warddeken Rangers and Yurlhmanj family members discovered an important occupation site and art complex some 20 km North West of Makkalarl. However, ground access to the site was virtually impossible and prevented rangers from undertaking preservation and cultural knowledge activities. Over several days in July and September 2013, rangers were able to navigate a track, clear fallen logs and find their way to the complex at Kurrbandjurle. The marking of this track is an exciting milestone for the Yurhmanj clan who will now be able to access this important site with greater ease. The trip from Makkalarl to Kurrbandjurle should now take hours instead of days!

*Photos:*

*This page: Feral animal exclusion fence around rock art.*



## Anbinik Protection

Anbinik, *Allosyncarpia ternata*, is a large, endemic tree which grows in fire protected forests within the rugged terrain of the Arnhem Plateau. The protection and conservation of Anbinik forest within the IPA is a high priority for both its cultural and ecological values.

Five year funding from the Federal Government's Biodiversity Fund has enabled Warddeken to implement a fire management project based on the protection of 50 'at risk' Anbinik sites. In 2014 (the third year of the project), 14 stands of Anbinik were protected through the manual installation of mineral earth and back burn fire breaks. This included the four largest Anbinik patches within the IPA assessed as 'at risk'. In total, just under 20,000 lineal metres of firebreak was constructed and importantly, no damaging wildfire activity was recorded at any of those patches.

This year Warddeken Rangers also trialled wide-scale strategic aerial burning around Anbinik isolate forests in areas inaccessible by ground vehicles. Results from GIS analysis showed that 49 % of 'at risk' Anbinik had some level of aerial burning nearby. Warddeken will continue to trial the use of aerial prescribed burning for Anbinik in 2015.

For the monitoring component of the project, six Warddeken Rangers learnt how to analyse and classify high definition aerial photographs in order to establish a 'health report' and baseline condition report for 20 Anbinik patches. This photo analysis will continue in 2014–2015 for the rest of the 'at risk' Anbinik patches. As part of the documentation process, six rangers worked with a consultant to develop short videos on the Anbinik patches which highlight customary management practices, the cultural importance of the sites and the need for contemporary management.

*Photos:*

*This page: Anbinik protected by a mineral earth fire break.*

# Weed Management

The Arnhem Land Plateau, including the Warddeken IPA, is one of the most weed free areas of Northern Australia given its remote location and rocky terrain. Each year Warddeken run an extensive weed awareness campaign with landowners as well as a targeted weed control program to ensure that the country remains as weed free as possible. The weed control program focuses on infestations of key threatening weed species as well as weed control in high traffic areas such as around outstation communities and the road network within the IPA.

Throughout the wet season of 2013–2014, Warddeken Rangers conducted their annual outstation weed program at 10 outstations within the IPA: Kabulwarnamyo, Manmoyi, Kamarrkawarn, Kurrkurkkurrh, Marlwon, Kudjekbinj, Mamadawerre plus Marlkawo, Kumarrirbang and Kuborlomborlom. As in other years, a particular focus of this work is the control of mission grass, *Cenchrus polystachios*, infestations.

Warddeken Rangers at Manmoyi and Kamarrkawarn outstations undertook a trial of the effects of hand pulling Rattlepod (*Senna obtusifolia*) in the dry season around the outstation communities. The women rangers from Manmoyi performed a significant portion of this work. This year, Warddeken Rangers also conducted a weed survey along the track from Manmoyi to Marlkawa – the most trafficked stretch of road in the IPA. The results of this survey saw intensive control of Hyptis (*Hyptis suaveolens*) and Rattlepod particularly in the Mokmek region.

In August 2013, Warddeken Rangers worked collaboratively with Kakadu National Park staff to conduct control work on *Mimosa pigra*, a listed Weed of National Significance (WoNS) around the junction of Tin Camp Creek within the East Alligator River.





## Feral Animal Management

Warddeken landowners are very concerned about the damage being done to fragile upland springs by high concentrations of feral buffalo (*Bubalis bubalus*). Indeed, these feral animals are the single biggest threat to the ecological and cultural integrity of the headwater wetlands of the Arnhem Plateau. The total eradication of buffalo and other feral animals is not feasible and Warddeken's strategy is to undertake strategic feral animal control across the IPA targeting areas observed to be suffering badly from buffalo impact.

This year two six-day aerial culls were undertaken in August and November 2013 and resulted in the removal of 1836 buffalo and 158 pigs from the Warddeken IPA. A further 427 buffalo and 62 pigs were also removed through on ground culling efforts. The removal of these animals from the landscape is also a major contributor to food security at the Warddeken IPA outstations as buffalo meat is distributed to landowners. The distribution of buffalo meat in this way mirrors customary practise and also creates strong support for feral animal control in the region.

Given the impacts of buffalo on the upland springs and marshes in the IPA, Warddeken have been working with scientists to establish methods by which changes in the health of spring country can be monitored. This year the rangers have continued their work with PhD candidate Jeremy Freeman to develop and test a method of measuring change primarily using High Definition Photography of target areas. Six Warddeken Rangers have been trained in the use of specifically developed software to record changes from these High Definition Photos and work on this project is continuing into 2014-2015. In addition, rangers have been conducting water sampling at select wetland locations to test water quality.

*Photos:*

*This page: Feral buffalo in the IPA. Photo source David Hancock.*

*Facing Page: Arijay Camp and Robert Balmana weed spraying in the IPA.*

# Healthy Country Planning

Over a number of years, Warddeken staff have been undertaking and then subsequently coaching training with partners at The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Bush Heritage in Healthy Country Planning (HCP) – or Conservation Action Planning (CAP) as it is known outside northern Australia. Healthy Country Planning is an internationally recognised methodology to guide conservation groups to develop focussed strategies and measures of success. In November 2013, Georgia Vallance travelled to Melbourne to contribute to the HCP Next Steps Workshop – Implement, Learn and Adapt. In March 2014, Georgia and Terrah Guymala also coached at the HCP workshop at Mary River.

A significant milestone at the end of 2013, was the completion of the first Healthy Country Plan within the Warddeken IPA. Landowners from Manmoyi and Kamarrkawarn signed off on the final version of the Dolkebulbul-Nabelan Healthy Country Plan in November 2013.

Following the success of the Dolkebulbul-Nabelan Healthy Country Plan, work has now commenced on a Healthy Country Plan for the Warddeken IPA in its entirety. Following a review of the 2009-2014 Warddeken IPA Plan of Management, HCP trained staff have been conducting the first round of consultations with landowners across the IPA including at Gunbalanya, Jabiru, Pine Creek, Katherine and Manyallaluk. Over the next year, a HCP planning team led by Georgia Vallance and consultant, Heather Moorcroft, will work closely with landowners and rangers to develop the new plan.

*Photos:*

*This page (top to bottom): Richard Miller and Gregory Koimala at Barunga, Cynthia Williri and Sharon Williri at Manyallaluk, Carol Pamkal at Katherine, Josie Maralngurra, Silvia Badari and Georgia Vallance at Kunbalanya.*







## Brazilian Ranger Exchange

In 2014, a team of delegates from the Instituto Chico Mendes De Conservacao da Biodiversidade (ICMBio) in Brazil visited the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area to learn more about Indigenous Protected Area management in Australia, with a particular focus on fire management.

The two groups have been fostering a knowledge sharing relationship since meeting at the World Indigenous Network (WIN) Conference in Darwin in 2012. After the WIN Conference, the United Nations University, through their Savanna Fire Management Initiative, coordinated a visit by delegates from South America and Africa to Kabulwarnamyo and Fish River Station. In his previous role at Fish River Station, Warddeken CEO Shaun Ansell subsequently attended fire management workshops in Sorocaba, Brazil. This trip has further cemented the relationship and there are plans for future on country learning in both countries.

*Photos:*

*This page: Exchanging gifts with Brazilian Protected Area Managers at Kabulwarnamyo (above) and talking about the Warddeken IPA (below).*







## Karrkad-Kanjdji Trust

The landowners of the Warddeken and Djelk IPAs initiated the Karrkad-Kanjdji Trust, a conservation trust fund in 2009. The Trust was established to bring in support from private sources of funding – people who appreciate the work of Warddeken and Djelk and want to help secure, diversify and increase the resources available for natural and cultural resource management within the two IPAs.

The Karrkad-Kanjdji Trust operates independently from locally based Indigenous organisations. It is led by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Directors, including experts in natural and cultural resource management, finance and economic development. The Directors maintain a strong focus on succession planning and they are supported by advisory committees with special expertise in ecological knowledge and finance and investments.

This year the trust changed their modus operandi from donations to the overall endowment to encouraging funding targeted to specific projects. Nawarddeken landowners have been working closely this year with KKT staff and interested donors to develop potential projects within the IPA. To this end, Warddeken hosted a number of donor trips to the IPA to facilitate meetings on country.

The trust welcomes gifts to the trust fund, project funding, gifts in-kind and gifts in support of operations. Further information about the Karrkad-Kanjdji Trust can be found on their website at <http://www.karrkad-kandji.org.au>

*Photos:*

*This page: Lois Nadjamerrek and Margie Maroney at Kabulwarnamyo. Photo source Keith Tuffley.*

*Previous Page: Richard Nadjamerrek, the youngest Mok Landowner at the Kabulwarnamyo spring. Photo source Keith Tuffley.*

# Warddeken Staff

**Expert Consultants:** Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek, Mary Naborlhborlh, Ruby Bilidja, Deborah Nabarlambarl, Laura Runggawanga, Josie Maralngurra, Jack Djandjomerr, Timothy Nadjowh, Wurdib Nabulwad, Leonie Guymala, Leanne Guymala, Lillian Guymala

**CEO:** Peter Cooke and Shaun Ansell

**Financial Controller:** John O'Brien

**Operations Manager:** Jake Weigl

**Administration, Research and Training Manager:** Georgia Vallance

**Senior Ranger Coordinator:** Nigel Gellar

**Senior Ranger:** Freddy Nadjamerrek

**Senior Ranger:** Dean Yibarbuk

**Senior Ranger:** Terrah Guymala

**Fulltime and permanent part time 'Working on Country' Rangers:** Berribob Dangbungala Watson, Joeline Miller, Jenny Nadjamerrek, Sylvia Ragurk, Elizabeth Nabarlambarl, Margaret Guymala, Joel Naborlhborlh, Stuart Guymala, Keith Nadjamerrek, Lindsay Whitehurst, Jamie Billis.

**Casual Rangers:** Manoah Nawilil, Mitchell Nabarlambarl, Bobby Maralngurra, Gavin Namarnyilk, Darius Maralngurra, Ray Nadjamerrek, Greg Lippo, Jeshua Djandjomerr, Len Naborlhborlh, Rodney Naborlhborlh, Ross Guymala, Casten Guymala, Regan Gellar, Ricky Nabarlambarl, Lewis Naborlhborlh, Joe Guymala, Lester Guymala, Casten Guymala, Winston Naborlhborlh, Maxie Dululuma, Marshall Bangarr, Deon Koimala, Elkanah Dullman, Emmanuel Namarnyilk, Graham Namarnyilk, Zacaria Namarnyilk, Christopher Ngabuy, Zebedee Ngabuy, Leslie Ngabuy, Nicodemus Nayilibidj, Willie Nabulwad, Justin Nayilibidj, Serina Namarnyilk, Rhonda Nadjamerrek, Sharna Dakgalawuy, Antonia Djandjomerr, Vietta Bangarr, Elizabeth Bangarr, Helena Malanga, Ruth Guymala, Ruth Nabarlambarl, Sarah Billis, Edna Midjarda, Jeraiah Guymala, Jean Burrunali, Jalisa Koimala, Martha Cameron, Cecily Murrukula, Justina Namarnyilk, Lorna Nabulwad, Karl Makin, Marlene Cameron, Rosemary Nabulwad, Suzannah Nabulwad, Serina Namarnyilk.

**Other valuable help from:** Alys Stevens, Chris Bald, Jeremy Freeman, Mike Mewett, Murray Garde, Paul Josif, Calvin Murakami, the Djelk Rangers, Stuart Cowell and KKT, Alex "Batman" Ernst, Simon Owen, David Bond, Ian Munro, Jabiru NLC, Ken and Jenny at Jabiru Foodland, Emma Ignjic and David Hancock.

## Warddeken Land Management Limited

ABN 12 128 878 142

### Income Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Grants revenue	2,823,441	2,275,679
Other income	100,196	67,231
Employee benefits expense	(1,284,633)	(1,027,222)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments	(116,411)	(111,330)
Hire of plant and equipment	(301,521)	(297,510)
Repairs and maintenance	(271,639)	(166,154)
Other expenses	(1,033,824)	(614,564)
<b>(Loss) / profit before income taxes</b>	<b>(84,391)</b>	<b>126,130</b>
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>Net (loss) / profit attributable to members</b>	<b>(84,391)</b>	<b>126,130</b>

## Warddeken Land Management Limited

ABN 12 128 878 142

### Statement of Financial Position

30 June 2014

	Note	2014	2013
		\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	453,249	433,189
Trade and other receivables	4	82,579	11,389
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>535,828</b>	<b>444,578</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	703,142	680,484
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>703,142</b>	<b>680,484</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,238,970</b>	<b>1,125,062</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	431,469	207,346
Borrowings	7	-	46,008
Employee provisions	8	36,791	31,101
Other Liabilities	9	19,698	5,204
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>487,958</b>	<b>289,659</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>487,958</b>	<b>289,659</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>751,012</b>	<b>835,403</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		751,012	835,403
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>751,012</b>	<b>835,403</b>

# Warddeken Land Management Limited

ABN 12 128 878 142

## Independent Audit Report to the members of Warddeken Land Management Limited

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Warddeken Land Management Limited, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, the income statement and statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

### Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

### Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the directors of Warddeken Land Management Limited, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

# Warddeken Land Management Limited

ABN 12 128 878 142

Independent Audit Report to the members of Warddeken Land Management Limited

## Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of Warddeken Land Management Limited is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2014 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in note 1 and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

## Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the *Corporations Act 2001*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

  
PERKS AUDIT PTY LTD

180 Greenhill Road

Parkside

South Australia 5063

  
PETER J HILL

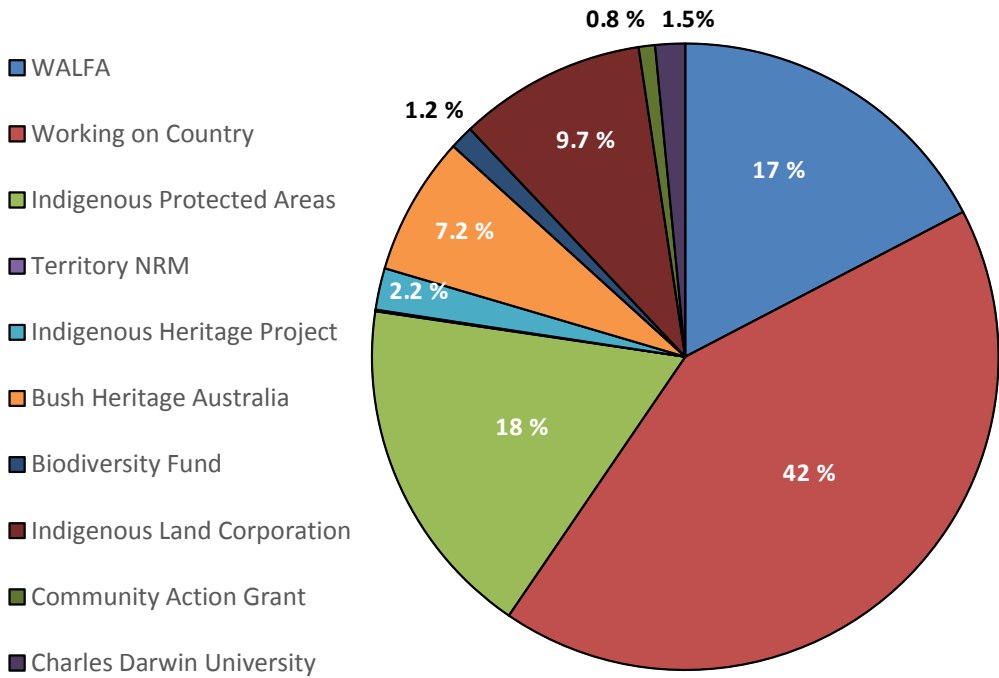
Director

Registered Company Auditor

Dated this 10th day of November 2014



## Our Funding Sources in 2013 - 2014



Photos:  
This page: The Kabulwarnamyo spring at sunset.



Warddeken Land Management is supported by the Australian Government through funding from Caring for Our Country, the Biodiversity Fund of the Clean Energy Future Initiative and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Warddeken also acknowledges and thanks many other organisations, supporters and project partners who have helped in 2013–2014 in addition to those whose logos appear below:



**Australian Government**



**Northern Territory Government**



**PEW**  
ENVIRONMENT GROUP



**Northern Land Council**



**BUSH HERITAGE AUSTRALIA**



**Australian Government  
Indigenous Land Corporation**



*Our heart & soul*



**KARRKADKANJDJI TRUST**



**kakadu**  
NATIONAL PARK



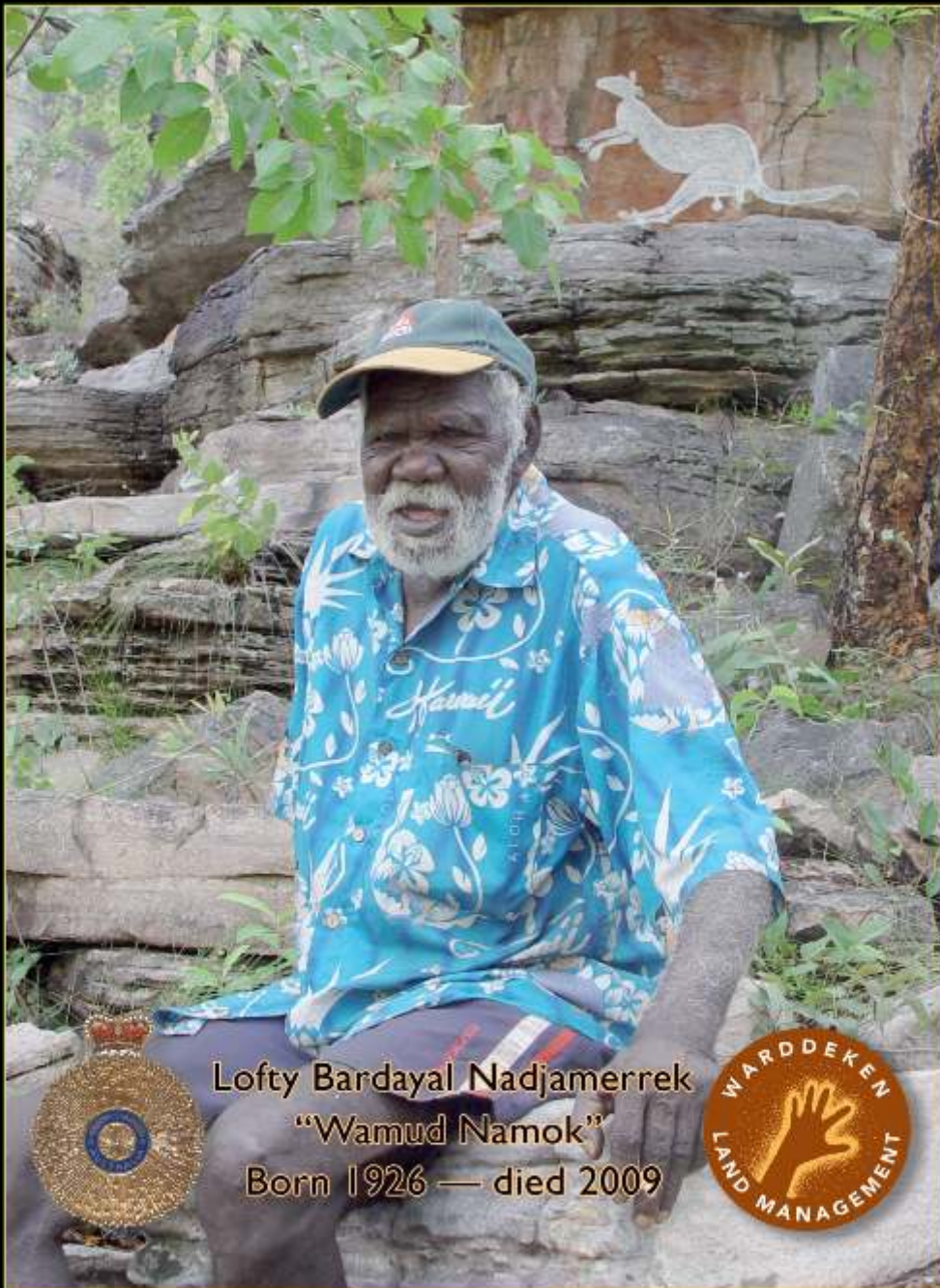
*Photos:*

*This page: Fibre art detail.*

*Facing Page: Wamud Namok.*

*Back Cover: Rion Nabarlambarl at Rarrekaldeng. Photo source Michael Lawrence-Taylor.*

## HIS SPIRIT LIVES WITH THOSE WHO CARE FOR COUNTRY



Lofty Bardayal Nadjamerrek  
"Wamud Namok"  
Born 1926 — died 2009

*Yakkake Wamud Na-mok, djorrhbayeng, ngundi-manjbun rowk bu kan-bukkabukkang ngadberre an-garre na-warddeken, kan-kangemang ngadberre Wamud. Munguyh-munguyh arri-djalbengan ngudda. Kun-malng ke ka-rrundeng kore An-kung Djang, kore Djabidj Bakoluy, kore Kundjorlomdjorlom, Nabiwo Kadjangdi, Ankung Kangeyh, Kabulwarnamyo, kore "the dear one", you Wamud will always be our "dear one".*

**WARDDEKEN LAND MANAGEMENT LIMITED**

**An Indigenous not-for-profit conservation company  
from the western Arnhem Land Plateau.**

**ABN: 12 128 878 142**

**PO Box 785**

**Nightcliff NT 0814**

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**Email: [operations@warddeken.org.au](mailto:operations@warddeken.org.au)**



***Ngarri-bolknahnan kun-red***  
**Looking after country together**