



Warddeken
Land Management Ltd
Annual Report 2017-18

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

FRONT COVER: Lindsay Whitehurst pushes back a wildfire front with a leaf blower.
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.



*Royce Maralngurra enjoys a swim at Ngaldadubbe.
Photo by: Steven Bird.*



Rodney Naborlhborlh looks out over Djamarr on the Liverpool River during the 2018 bush walk.
Photo by: Dan McLaren



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The Warddeken Story

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

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

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

With the arrival of balanda (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.

In the early 1970s, our visionary elder, Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek AO, began bringing Nawarddeken back to their homeland communities. Finally, in 2002, Lofty moved back permanently to his childhood home at Kabulwarnamyo and established the Manwurrk rangers.

The Manwurrk ranger program was the predecessor to the Warddeken rangers – an early ranger program that allowed



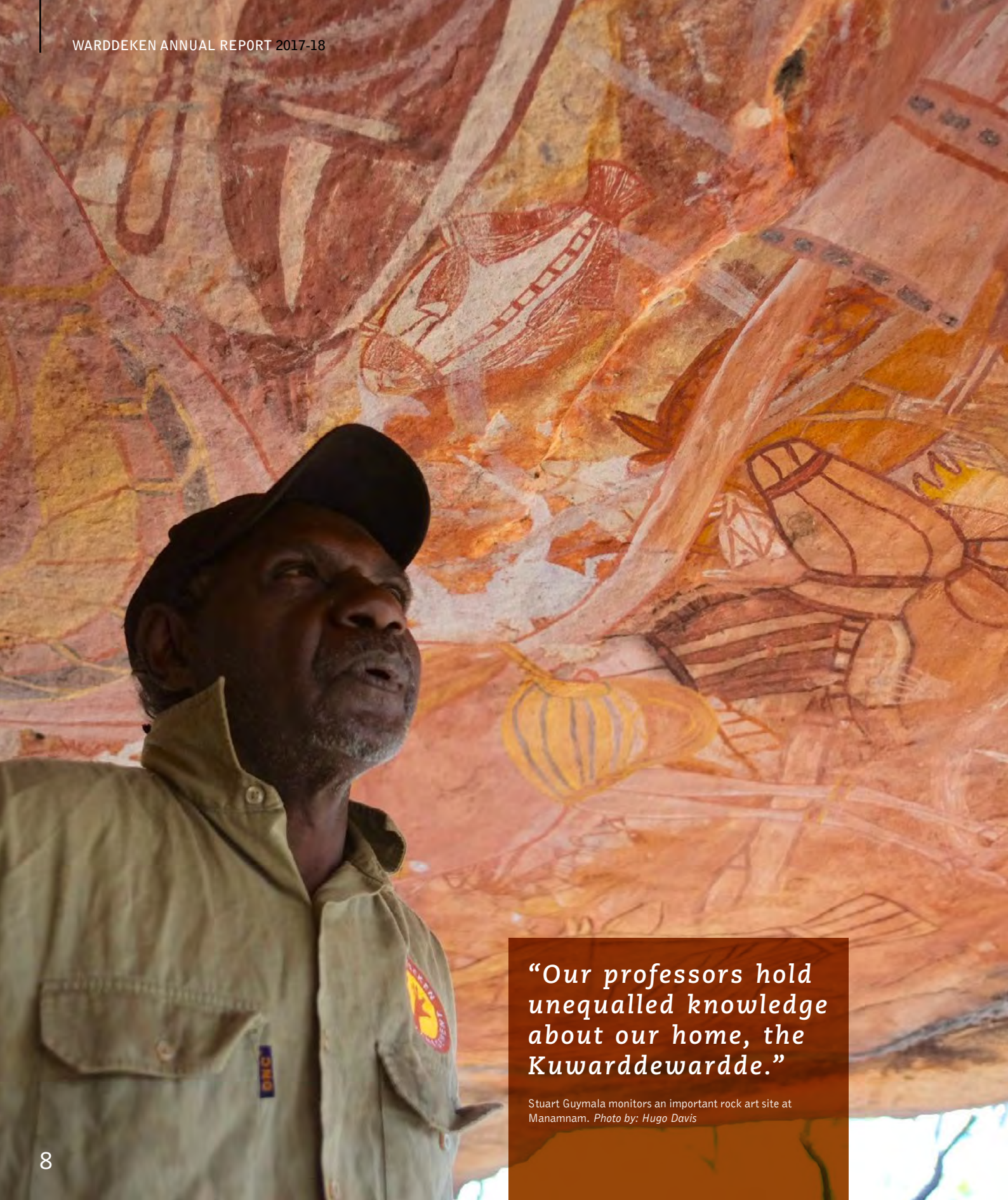
landowners to make a living on country. Manwurrk rangers pioneered a number of innovative fire management programs, including Australia’s first carbon project, the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Project (WALFA). Since then, carbon projects have become one of the biggest indigenous industries and economies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

In 2007, Warddeken Land Management was established as a company. 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.

Our Board of Directors is comprised of representatives drawn from more than 36 clan groups

ABOVE: Asheena Guymala installs a motion sensor camera trap. *Photo by: David Hancock*

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



“Our professors hold unequalled knowledge about our home, the Kuwarddewardde.”

Stuart Guymala monitors an important rock art site at Manamnam. *Photo by: Hugo Davis*

Our Professors

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



Jimmy Kalariya Namarnyilk



Peter Nabarlambarl Billis



Jack Djandjomerr



Ruby Bilidja



Mary Naborlhborlh



Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek AO



Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek



Djawida Nadjongorle



Josie Maralngurra



Jacob Nayinggul



Lillian Guymala



Timothy Nadjowh OA



Leonie Guymala



Leanne Guymala



Wurdib Nabalwad

Indigenous Protected Area

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

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

Outstation communities of the IPA are:

Koyek (east) - Kabulwarnamyo, Manmoyi and Kamarrkawarn

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

Karrikad (west) - Kudjumarndi and Mikkinj

Walem (south) - Marlkawo

There are four permanently populated outstations in the IPA, Manmoyi, Kabulwarnamyo, Marlkawo and Mamardawerre, just outside our northern boundary.

New ranger base at Mamardawerre

Although Warddeken operates across 14,000 square kilometres of the Kuwarddewardde, we work from only two ranger bases, both in the koyek (eastern) ward of the IPA. Additional ranger bases are vital to expanding our management programs to address issues right across the IPA.

For many years, at the request of Traditional Owners, we have attempted to secure funding to develop a new ranger base in the kakbi (northern) ward. This year, we were successful in obtaining funding for this purpose and entered into a contract with the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) to develop a base at Mamardawerre community in 2018-19.

This new ranger base will address major threats to country including feral animals, wildfires and illegal access to country. With the support of the ILC there is an amazing opportunity to continue to provide growth and development for our rangers, increasing their skill levels and excellence whilst managing this incredible part of the IPA.



LEGEND

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

2017/18 Board of Directors

More than 359 Nawarddeken are registered members of our company, Warddeken Land Management Limited. Warddeken is governed by an indigenous Board of Directors. Every three years, three board members are elected for each ward of the Warddeken IPA: Kakbi (north), Karrikad (west), Walem (south) and Koyek (east). The next election will be held in 2019.

Kakbi



Kevin Buliwana



Victor Garlingarr



Conrad Marlangurra

Representing clan groups: Warddjak (Maburrinj), Ngalngbali (Kudjekbinj), Yurlhmanj (Djalbangurrk), Madjuwarr (Kunukdi), Marrirn (Kumarrirnbang), Wurrik (Mandedjkadjang), Mayirrkulidj (Djurlka), 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



Dean Yibarbuk



Joelene Miller



Lachlan Jumbirri

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

Koyek



Terrah Guymala



Stuart Guymala



Lois Nadjamerrek

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

Chairman's Report



Dean Yibarbuk

We Bininj have been burning right across Australia for tens of thousands of years. Fire is the primary tool we have always used to manage country. These ancient practices have brought us to a place where, this year, the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Project (WALFA) is the number one carbon project in Australia.

This is a huge source of pride and honour for Bininj and me personally. Not only are Warddeken and our neighbouring ranger groups earning money to improve our capacity to care for country, we are actively working to tackle the biggest environmental threat to the planet – climate change.

I get emotional when I think about the beginning of our fire journey, remembering our old people coming together worrying about the impact of fire on country. Now seeing successful indigenous carbon projects right across WA, NT and Queensland, I feel personally fulfilled.

This year the Wakadjaka Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee was established to track the work we do in the IPA. For example, we are concerned about the loss of biodiversity and the threats associated with empty country. We want to know how the work our rangers are doing is helping improve the health of our country. Bininj experts are working with non-indigenous experts to critically evaluate the impact of our work on country.

For me, the highlight of every year is seeing people return to country, even for short periods of time. You can see the effect it has on them to be away from bigger communities and peaceful in the bush. I am proud

that through our work, Warddeken offers this opportunity to many Nawarddeken.

Sadly, this year there has been more uncertainty around ongoing government funding for indigenous rangers. The importance of our work needs to be recognised by politicians and non-indigenous Australians so that our future is secure.

I am passionate about seeing new generations become engaged in the work of Warddeken. I want to see more young people stepping up into leadership roles, and in the coming years we will find new ways to mentor and support young people to do this.

The future of Warddeken is growth. Slowly, steadily and surely we are broadening our reach with ranger bases and infrastructure across the IPA. We will continue to make the IPA accessible to Traditional Owners and look for new ways to support Nawarddeken.



Dean Yibarbuk
CHAIRMAN

“We’re proud that we could play a big role in building and creating indigenous industry. Our fire message stick has now been passed around the country and the world.”

Warddeken is operating and thriving in one of the most rugged and remote environments in Australia.
Photo by: David Hancock

Warddeken CEO's Report



Shaun Ansell

2017-18 was a year of bedding down the strong foundations of our company and setting the scene for major future projects and development. The 2017 fire season saw our best result ever, with men and women working together to deliver exceptional fire management work. The WALFA program is now currently the most successful registered carbon abatement project in Australia.

With work being delivered to a consistently high standard, it was time to take stock. Over a period of 12-24 months, we conducted a major governance review looking at what the company does, what we are contracted to do, and what our objectives are. We found a misalignment between how the company's objectives were articulated back in 2007 and the work we are doing today.

Our work has changed subtly over time, particularly in the last three years. We needed to realign the constitution and objectives of the company to better reflect the work we are doing caring for people, as well as caring for country. People are the bedrock of caring for country; we need people living on country to manage it. As a result, we determined to change our charity sub-type from Environmental to Public Benevolent Institution.

Another major achievement was the establishment of the Wakadjaka Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-committee. Wakadjaka sets us on the road to understanding and responding to the impact that our work is having, and relating that back to our Plan of Management. We want to make sure we are on the right track. How are we managing the country? Is it working? Are we doing it the right way?

We also established the Nawarddeken Academy Limited and independent operations for the school. We worked towards independent school registration, which is expected to be approved in 2018-19. Other projects initiated in 2017-18 include: the new ranger

base at Mamardawerre, air strip widening for 24 hour access, new rock art project, and planning for major staff changes ahead.

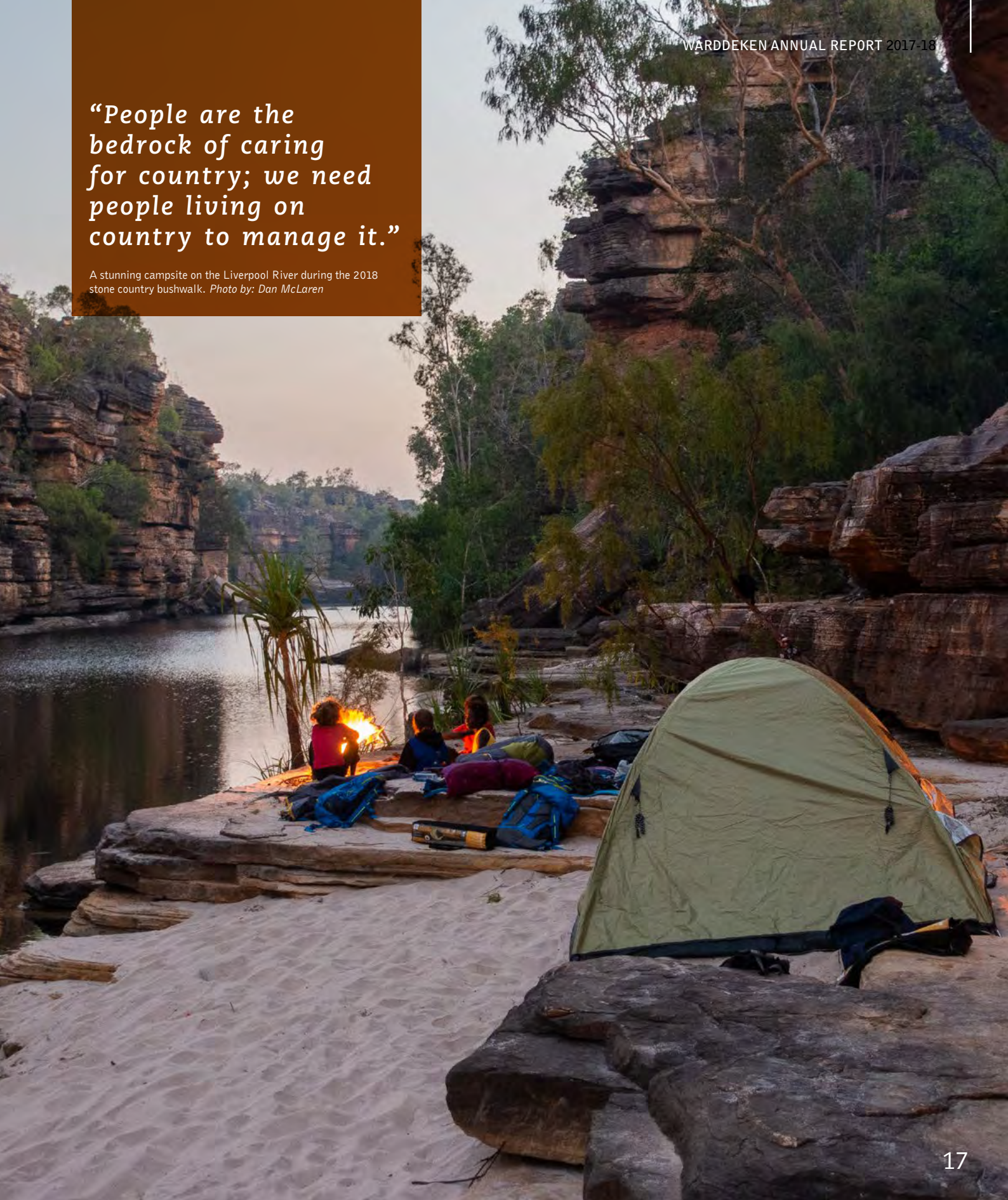
The Daluk Ranger Program continued strongly, with the women employed in fire management, biodiversity monitoring and rock art surveys. This year, we recognised the importance of having a women's engagement officer on site, working with people and helping them.

We need to have more Bininj working in management roles in our company, and we are committed to developing the capacity of indigenous people in the bush to step into responsible positions. This is a long-term goal and the establishment of the Nawarddeken Academy is a step in the right direction. We need to provide a solid education base that equips our students for their future whilst also empowering them to be strong in both Bininj and balanda culture.

Shaun Ansell
CEO

*“People are the
bedrock of caring
for country; we need
people living on
country to manage it.”*

A stunning campsite on the Liverpool River during the 2018
stone country bushwalk. *Photo by: Dan McLaren*



Highlights 2017-18

CARING FOR COUNTRY



1.4 million hectares
359 Nawarddeken members
250 Bininj employed



AERIAL PRESCRIBED BURNING (APB)

Early dry season (April-July)



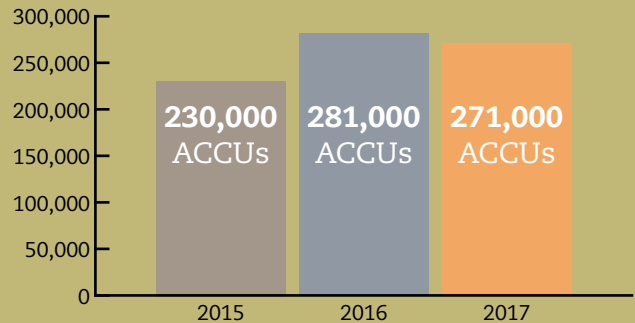
WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION

Late dry season (Aug-Dec)

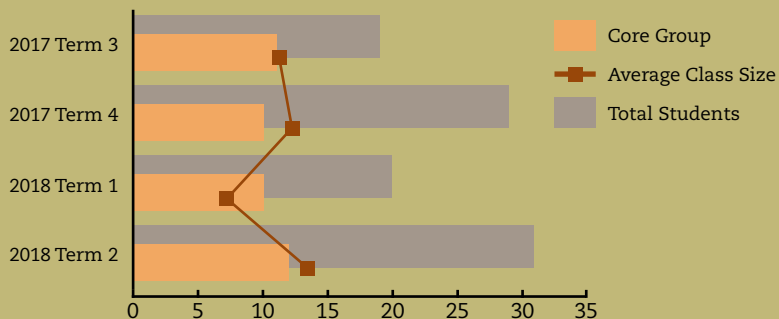
18 Fires controlled
29 Rangers
83.3 Chopper hours

WALFA

Carbon credits earned

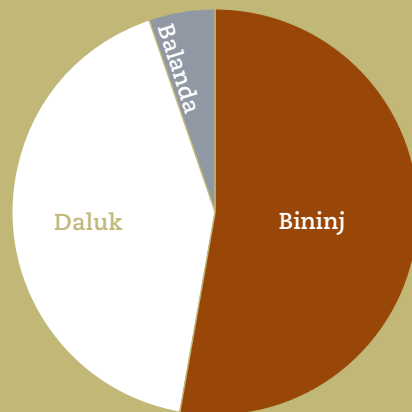


NAWARDDEKEN ACADEMY



EMPLOYMENT

2017-18 Total = 153 people



ANBINIK

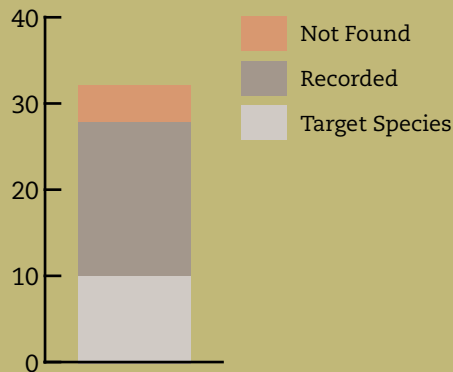
15
At risk forests protected

500
Hectares



MAYH

Mammals we expect to see



KUKKU

Aerial culling to preserve freshwater places



ROCK ART

2017-18

30,000+
Sites in the IPA

40
Sites re-conserved

48
Sites re-discovered





“We are empowering Bininj to lead strong and healthy lives on their own country, and to be in charge of its management.”

Young landowners enjoy a walk and a swim on their first visit to Marrkukbidji. *Photo by: Georgia Vallance*

Governance

Our Board of Directors has an impressive level of knowledge, making high level decisions and developing organisational relationships. As representatives of our 359 Nawarddeken registered members, landowners and clan groups of the Kuwarddewardde, the Board provides direction for the company and is responsible for strategic planning and review, financial management, policy development, and recruitment.

Our company aims to:

- Conserve indigenous knowledge;
- Protect the environmental values of the land;
- Increase capacity in land management through education;
- Participate in natural and cultural resource management projects;
- Participate in fire, weed, feral animal and threatened species management; and
- Manage the IPA as part of the Australian National Reserves System in accordance with the Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Protected Area Category VI.

Public Benevolent Institution

In 2018, as a result of a major governance review, we determined to change our charitable status from Environmental to Public Benevolent Institution (PBI). PBI registration recognises our growing emphasis on caring for people and addressing intergenerational poverty, disempowerment and suffering.

In the past, the benefit to people was largely seen as knock-on effect of land management, but with the advent of the school, Simplot tucker plane service and growing

community participation, the social aspect of our work has become a more central focus. Our PBI registration acknowledges that a large part of what we do is about empowering Bininj to lead strong and healthy lives on their own country, and to be in charge of its management.

A secondary benefit to the change is that we can now offer salary sacrifice or salary packaging to new staff. This enables us to be more competitive in the job market.

Wakadjaka sub-committee

The Nawarddeken vision is to have healthy people living and working on our healthy country in the Kuwarddewardde. The 2016-2020 Warddeken Plan of Management directs us towards our vision. To understand if we are headed in the right direction, it is essential to regularly monitor and evaluate the socio-cultural and ecological assets, and associated threats, outlined in the Plan of Management.

In February 2018, the Warddeken Kanahnan dja mak Karrmorokme (Wakadjaka) Sub-committee of the WLML Board was established to oversee this requirement. As stated in the Wakadjaka Terms of Reference, the Sub-committee will report and make recommendations to the WLML Board as follows:

1. Is the Plan of Management is being used in the management of the Warddeken IPA?
2. Is the Plan of Management is working?
3. Is the two-toolbox approach being used?
4. How to report on the above 1-3 so that the Board, Warddeken members and other parties understand what has been achieved?
5. Priorities for action to address issues that arise from 1-3.

There are four directors from the four wards of Kakbi, Koyek, Karrikad and Walem, and four Bininj experts on the sub-committee. Support staff include the Monitoring Officer who is the Sub-committee secretariat, the CEO, an independent facilitator and other Warddeken staff as required. External advisers with particular

knowledge sets will be brought in as required.

As a requirement of the Sub-committee, monitoring and evaluation will become a standard part of the Warddeken work program, facilitated by the Monitoring Officer. The Warddeken Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Implementation (MERI) Plan is currently in development.

The MERI journey will be faithful to the two-toolbox approach and value set. Monitoring and evaluation has technical connotations of scientists, ecological data and graphs. While these things are part of the mix, they will be included because Bininj have understood and decided they are important. At our core will be the rich and multifaceted knowledge gained through Bininj interaction with country and their living cultural landscape.



PHOTO: Wakadjaka Monitoring & Evaluation Committee. Photo by: Jake Weigl

Sub-committee roles and affiliations

Terah Guymala
Koyek Ward, Chairman

Conrad Maralngurra
Kakbi Ward

Lisa Miller
Walem Ward

Fred Hunter
Karrikad Ward

Berribob Dangbuala
Bininj expert

Elizabeth Nabarlambarl
Bininj expert

Dean Yibarbuk
Bininj expert

Rosemary Nabalwad
Bininj expert

Nawarddeken Academy Limited

In August 2017, Nawarddeken Academy Limited was registered with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC). The Academy is now a public company, limited by guarantee and a wholly owned subsidiary of Warddeken.

In 2017, the Nawarddeken Academy Board met twice. Since registration, the Nawarddeken Academy Limited has listed all directors with ASIC, opened bank accounts, and begun trading and employing staff. The Academy has independent insurance and is no longer insured under Warddeken Land Management Limited, and the transfer of assets from Warddeken to Nawarddeken Academy Limited is complete.

Since registration, the Nawarddeken Academy has attained Charitable Status as a Public Benevolent Institution and registered with the Australian

Charities and Not-for-profit Commission. With the establishment of the appropriate administrative and financial arrangements complete, the Academy is now a fully functioning company in its own right.

Under the Education Act, Nawarddeken was required to form a committee to ensure that parents and local community members have a voice in the operations of the school. The Advisory Committee Nawarddeken Academy (ACNA) was formed.

The ACNA held its inaugural meeting in September, during which one of the parent directors was elected to sit on the Nawarddeken Board. At the December meeting, the final Nawarddeken Board member was elected. Parents or guardians of students attending the Academy and residents of the Kabulwarnamyo community can join the committee.

Nawarddeken Academy has also established the Indigenous Language and Culture (ILC) Committee consisting of six community members. The ILC Committee will guide the Academy on the content and implementation of our Indigenous Language and Culture program. Committee members are: Emma Namarnyilk, Lorraine Namarnyilk, Serina Namarnyilk, Naomi Nadamerrek, Drusilla Nadjamerrek and Dean Yibarbuk.

In 2017, senior Traditional Owners, leaders and parents from Kabulwarnamyo, Gunbalanya, Manmoyi, Mamadwere, Maningrida, Jabiru, and Mudginberri were involved in developing the school's 2018 Operational Plan and 2018-2020 Strategic Improvement Plan. This includes school-wide goals and a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan.



ABOVE: Chelsea Matasia visits a rock art complex for the first time. *Photo by: Georgia Vallance*

Nawarddeken Academy Board of Directors

Dean Yibarbuk
Chair

Kyrin Bulliwana
Director

Leonie Jones
Director

Kenneth Mangiru
Director

Conrad Maralngurra
Director

Margie Moroney
Director

Lois Nadjamerrek
Director

Serena Namarnyilk
Director

Richard Tudor
Director

David Arthur
Director

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

Zacharia Namarnyilk lights cool fires amongst rocky outcrops at Bulurr in Djorrorlam clan estate.
Photo by: David Hancock



Manwurrk (Fire management)

For thousands of years, Nawarddeken used fire in a way that benefited them and the whole ecosystem has adapted to it. From the 1960s to 2002, the Kuwarddewardde was largely depopulated and large wildfires devastated the region. In 2002, Bardayal established the Manwurrk Rangers, who reintroduced customary fire management practices to the region. The Manwurrk Rangers played a central role in the development of the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Project (WALFA).

WALFA

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

Through the WALFA project, we are able to increase strategic early dry season (EDS) burning in order to reduce the extent and severity of late season fires.

In 2017 we had another successful year with over 271,000 Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs) generated (compared to 281,000 in 2016) and significant income.

Early dry season burning 2017-18

We thought we'd seen everything, but a combination of factors led to country being ready earlier than in any year since the WALFA project started. A sudden end to the wet, extremely dry country and high fuel loads saw EDS fires travel further before going out, creating wider breaks and burning more country than aimed for under typical conditions.

The sudden onset of strong winds and high temperatures in May caused the whole IPA to dry out in a very short space of time. Despite an above average wet season in terms of rainfall, savannah woodlands, riparian zones, sandstone heaths, Anbinik

rainforests and rocky escarpments all dried out simultaneously.

In addition, the dramatic reduction in late dry season wildfires had caused fuel build up across the IPA. Any fires, regardless of the time of year, will burn more intensely when there is more fuel to burn.

As a result, the majority of our aerial prescribed burning (APB) was undertaken over an intense fortnight of operations in May-June. Despite the logistical challenges of completing all APB operations in such a limited window, we had strong landowner participation and achieved good coverage and fire breaks across the IPA.



As part of the annual work program, rangers also undertook ground burning operations along all roads and tracks within the IPA, ensuring popular fishing spots and hunting areas were burned to prevent

late dry hunting fires. Rangers also undertook asset protection burns at outstation communities and culturally significant sites including Djang (sacred sites) and Kunwarddebim (rock art galleries).

TOP: Greg Lippo does some roadside burning along an IPA access track. *Photo by: David Hancock*

BOTTOM LEFT: Stuart Guymala ready to undertake APB on his clan estate. *Photo by: Jake Weigl*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Dean Yibarbuk cleaning up country with a cool EDS burn. *Photo by: Georgia Vallance*

“An intense fortnight of operations in May-June achieved good coverage and firebreaks across the IPA.”

Lindsay Whitehurst conducting early dry season burning with a drop-torch. *Photo by: Kristy O'Brien*



Anbinik *(Allosyncarpia rainforests)*

Anbinik (Allosyncarpia ternata) was the dominant tree species of the Kuwarddewardde as far back as the last Ice Age. These large, shady trees are ancient relatives of the Eucalyptus and they are of strong cultural significance to Nawarddeken.

Anbinik are slow growing and fire sensitive. Sadly, when Nawarddeken left the plateau, Anbinik forests were left vulnerable to late dry season wildfires, and entire stands were destroyed by large, hot fires. Many small, isolated patches of Anbinik, once actively protected by traditional burning regimes, were also negatively impacted by fire.

Today, Anbinik-dominated closed forests are concentrated in the north-west of the IPA, typically along gorges and gullies and in areas of rugged, rocky terrain where they have been protected from fire. Across the rest of the IPA, only a handful of isolate forests remain, their dark green dense canopies easily distinguishable from the air.

Anbinik have irregular flowering events (every 4-5 years) but when they do flower a large amount of fruit is produced and entire forests are covered with fruit and flowers. Seedlings do best in the shade beneath the adult canopy and, ideally, adult trees have lots of juvenile trees growing under them.

The lush forest ecosystem supports exotic vines and orchids, and many unique animal species. We find Chesnut-quilled Rock-pigeon, Oenpelli Python, Rock Possum, Banded Fruit-dove, Rough Knob-tailed Gecko, Black Wallaroo and Short-eared Rock Wallaby.

For Nawarddeken, Anbinik forests are an excellent shade tree,

providing welcome respite from the hot tropical sun as well as a source of bush tucker. The late Warddeken Professor Mary Naborlhborlh described Anbinik as “the tree from the very beginning”, indicating that the species has long held a place in the oral history of Nawarddeken.

Since 2012, Warddeken rangers have been actively protecting 15 of 22 isolated Anbinik patches through on-ground management activities. The remaining sites are managed through the annual aerial prescribed burning program. These conservation works have seen regeneration and slow expansion of the forests.



“Anbinik is the tree from the very beginning.”

In 2017-18, significant improvement to the road from Kabulwarnamyo to Kunbambuk has provided vastly improved access to a number of managed sites previously accessible only by helicopter. This development allows rangers to travel overland to undertake conservation work, which significantly reduces Anbinik management costs.

Although we reached the end of our federal funding for this project, we remain committed to this essential work, as without active management there is a distinct possibility Anbinik isolate forests will be destroyed forever. We are now seeking philanthropic partnerships to maintain and expand this important project.

Kunmayali (Knowledge)

Each clan estate of the Warddeken IPA contains hundreds of unique places with names and stories that represent an essential body of knowledge to be handed down through generations. Some place names describe dreamtime events and others simply describe the locale, such as a campsite, bend in the river, rocky outcrop, waterfall, stone quarry or hunting ground.

Place Names Project

There are big place names, akin to western suburbs or towns and many more small place names that can be likened to street names or landmarks. There are also yikurumu (ritualistic names) that are only used in a ceremonial context.

In one of the earliest projects undertaken at Kabulwarnamyo, Mok landowners worked under the guidance of Bardayal Nadjamerrek and other elders to document the names of sites across their own and neighbouring clan estates. Rangers then painted signs displaying these place names and installed them along tracks and roads, to assist and encourage younger generations to learn this important body of knowledge about their country.

Over the last three years, inspired by earlier work on Mok estate and led by senior ranger, Terrah Guymala, rangers from Manmoyi began their own signboarding project, working across Bordoh, Djordi and Rol estates. The project allows younger generations of rangers to work with elders to reaffirm the names of familiar places, garner information the about boundaries, cultural associations and land features of individual sites and, importantly, record new place names that have never before been documented on maps.

Terrah and the Manmoyi rangers have established a systematic approach to the project, beginning by ground truthing each place with elders. If this is not possible, they have used electronic maps

to pinpoint the location in collaboration with elders. A GPS coordinate of the site is taken and once the correct spelling confirmed with a linguist, the place is added to an online database. Rangers then produce and paint a sign, which is installed along the roadside. If necessary, the distance from the nearest road is measured. Sites that are off-road must include information about the distance and direction to the site.

In 2017, daluk rangers from Kabulwarnamyo began a process of repainting existing signs and installing new signs. This project has involved young people and will continue into the coming years, expanding to include Yurlmanj, Durlmangkarr and Djorrrolom clan estates.



Over the last year, an additional 40 place name signs have been installed in the koyek (eastern) ward, spanning five clan estates and bringing the total number of signs to almost 200. Rangers and elders have observed that since

commencement of the project, children are increasingly familiar with the names of sites. The project has also allowed non-indigenous staff to better incorporate the correct place names into work planning activities.

TOP LEFT: Lorina Maralngurra repaints a sign at Karramiyo. *Photo by: Georgia Vallance*

BOTTOM LEFT: A place name sign installed at Kundjorlomdjorlom. *Photo by: Georgia Vallance*

RIGHT: Terrah Guymala, project coordinator, installs a sign to a rock art complex and occupation site called Miyene. *Photo by: Alys Stevens*

Mahbilil Festival

The Mahbilil Festival is an annual community festival showcasing cultural diversity and community in the Kakadu and West Arnhem region. Hosted in Jabiru township, Mahbilil incorporates music, arts, bushfoods, performance and dance in a celebration of Bininj culture.

Our involvement at Mahbilil is a great way to share the work and culture of Warddeken with the wider community. Since 2013 Warddeken rangers and landowners have been increasingly involved in facilitating and participating in various cultural activities. This year, we were involved in the following activities:

- Hosted an information booth to share materials and stories about the work of our company with Jabiru locals and tourists;
- Natural fibre weaving demonstrations and workshops, which involved significant preparation to collect and colour large quantities of pandanus;
- Spear throwing competition for non-indigenous participants, including instruction on using a borndok (spear thrower) and spear; and
- Kunborrk (public dances) involving 24 male and female rangers and children, all of whom travelled to the festival for this purpose.

Warddeken dancers performed a range of customary kunborrk, including djorrkun (rock possum), mankung (sugar bag), and djukerre (black wallaroo). It was the first kunborrk since senior rangers from Kabulwarnamyo and Manmoyi decided to form a dance troupe and hold practice sessions in the lead up to the event.

Feedback from Jabiru community members and tourists was overwhelmingly positive. Many commented that Warddeken rangers are exceptional role models for young Bininj living in Jabiru and complimented the professionalism and impressiveness of the dance troupe.

TOP: Warddeken dancers were again a festival highlight for locals and tourists alike.
Photo by: Courtesy of Gundjeihmi Association

BOTTOM LEFT: Lorraine Namarnyilk talks with an interested tourist about Warddeken's work. *Photo by: Gundjeihmi Association*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Berribob Dangbungala Watson records a segment for NITV. *Photo by: Courtesy of Gundjeihmi Association*



Bininj manbolh *(Bush walk)*

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

Warddeken's annual Bininj manbolh provides opportunities for Bininj to visit and reconnect with country. The rugged geography of the Kuwarddewardde means that access is challenging. Annual walks are planned to help landowners overcome barriers and reconnect with the land.

Planning for the 2018 walk began early in the year, when Warddeken board members and elders decided they wanted to hold a bushwalk on Mok estate, involving rangers and families from Kabulwarnamyo and Manmoyi, as well as Traditional Owners from the larger township of Gunbalanya.

Under the guidance of Professor Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek, younger rangers plotted a route that would include significant occupation sites and rock art galleries as well as Djamarr, a sacred site and dwelling place of Ngalyod (the rainbow serpent). During these planning workshops, Mary was able





to provide names for three new sites. This information has been added to our database.

As the dates of the walk drew closer, excitement grew and interest exceeded our expectations. Warddeken rangers picked up landowners from Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Manmoyi and Mamadawerre to come together at Kabulwarnamyo and begin the walk.

In total, 72 Bininj walked all or part of the route from Kurrukkurdduk to Nawarlbini. More than half the

participants were children and young people, many of whom were walking the country for the first time, making the event a tremendous success.

Highlights of the walk included locating numerous new rock art galleries, visiting Djamarr waterfall and holding a large kunborrk (ceremonial dance) at Marrkukbidji. Elders Mary Kolkiwarra and Jessie Alderson were helicoptered in for the night to share stories with younger people.

OPPOSITE: Ricki Nabarlambarl, Garrett Pamkal and Stuart Guymala prepare for evening kunborrk (dancing). *Photo by: Dan McLaren*

TOP: Young walkers push themselves to walk up to 8km per day in rugged conditions, carrying their supplies in backpacks. *Photo by: Georgia Vallance*

BOTTOM LEFT: Estella Nadjamerrek at Bibbidboy billabong on day one of the walk. *Photo by: Georgia Vallance*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Senior Mok landowner Lois Nadjamerrek, and Mok djungkay Kyrin Bulliwana and Maath Maralngurra take a group of young walkers visit an important rock art gallery at Marrkukbidji. *Photo by: Georgia Vallance*

Daluk Rangers

In 2016, based on feedback from landowners who strongly expressed a desire to see greater gender equality, Warddeken partnered with the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust to establish the Daluk (Women) Engagement Project. The project offers increased employment and training opportunities, and improved daluk engagement in Warddeken work programs.

The Daluk Engagement Project has been built around strong female elders and community leaders and is structured to ensure Warddeken provides a gender inclusive workplace with equal opportunities for men and women.

Intergenerational learning activities are a key feature of the project, ensuring the next generation of Nawarddeken daluk grow up with exposure to strong female role models.

With the employment of a dedicated daluk ranger coordinator and team supervisors at Manmoyi and Kabulwarnamyo bases, the growth and success of the project has exceeded expectations. The program achieved its third year target in the



first year of operations and will soon be extended to a third outstation community at Mamardawere.

A dedicated team of daluk now form an integral part of Warddeken’s workforce. Daluk ranging from teenagers to elders are regularly engaged in environmental and cultural management activities that contribute to the overall health of the Warddeken IPA.

Major work programs undertaken in 2017-18 include:

- Extensive ecological monitoring, focused on establishing baseline data on native mammal and threatened species populations;
- Rock Art Pilot Project, which has involved cultural heritage management training, site surveys and conservation management techniques; and

- Providing cultural learning about bush food, medicine plants, kinship, family trees and customary dancing at Nawarddeken Academy and with senior secondary students from the Manmoyi Homeland Learning Centre.

OPPOSITE: Preeminent stone country elder Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek worked with younger daluk rangers Penelope Yibarbuk, Gillian Galaminda, Amelia Gumurdul and Margaret Naborlhborlh to educate them about how old people lived on the plateau and how to document rock art on Mok estate. Photo by: Steven Bird

BELOW: Emma Namarnyilk, Margaret Naborlhborlh, Amelia Gumurdul and Gillian Galaminda during the first major rock art survey on Mok estate. Photo by: Georgia Vallance



Nawarddeken Academy

Established in 2015, the Nawarddeken Academy is a very important piece of social infrastructure that supports the strong, vibrant and growing community of Kabulwarnamyo. We are giving West Arnhem families, who very deliberately choose to live here, greater choice in terms of what's best for their children.

Since 2015, we have grown from a one-teacher school with eight students to a school with two permanent, full-time teachers, one part-time teacher and two casual Aboriginal teaching assistants, with the capacity to teach 20 primary students and 10 early learners.

At the Academy, education is developed hand in hand with the community and remote teaching professionals, and delivered on country. Our parents are closely involved in, and in control of, their children's education.

The school currently operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with Gunbalanya School with whom it shares a strong relationship. The curriculum is also informed by other regional initiatives that aim to increase student participation by applying a vigorous two-toolbox system that includes Bininj and balanda knowledge and approaches.

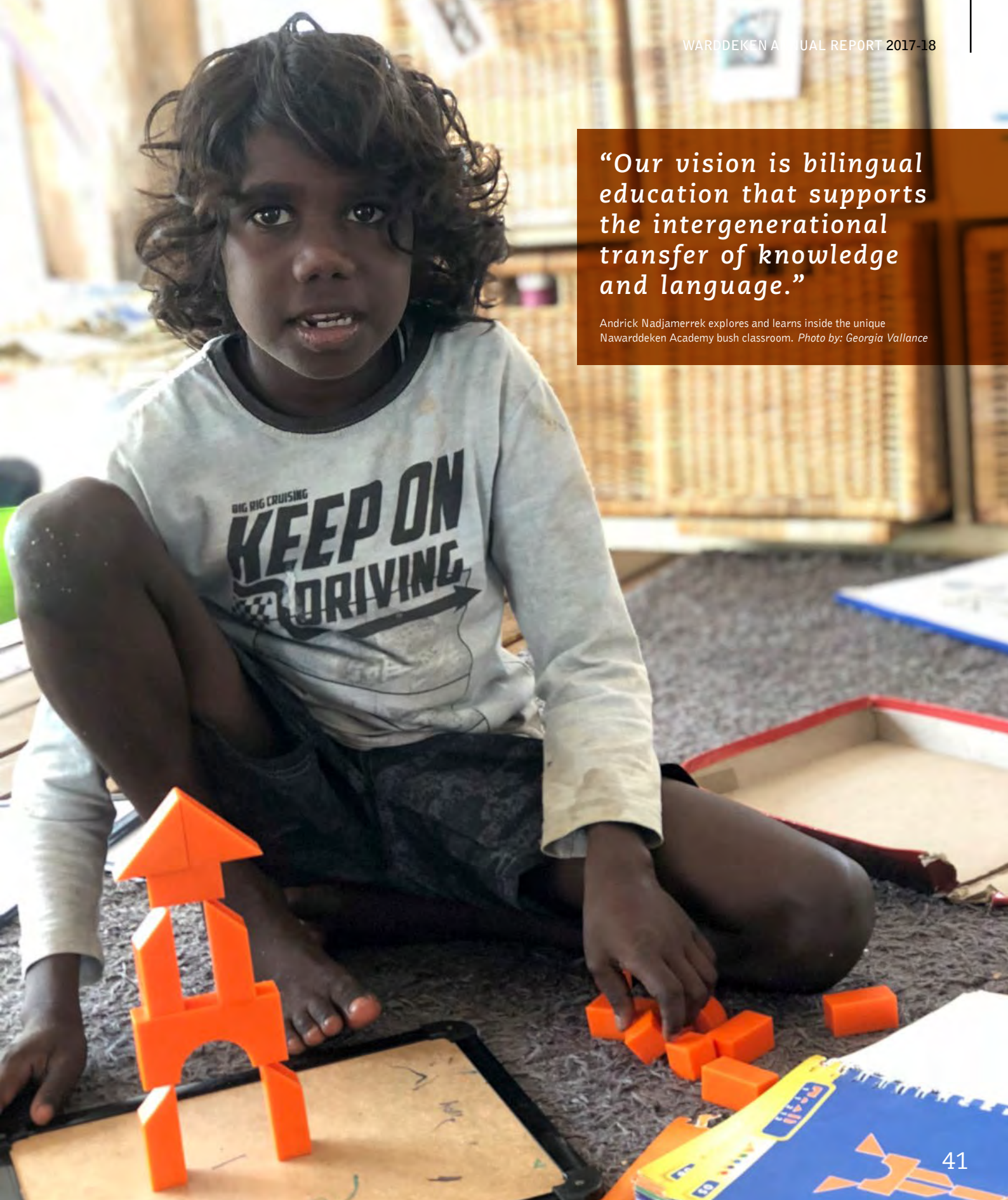
It was both exciting and reassuring to see a consistent growth in attendance in 2017-18. This year, we had a total of 46 students at the Academy, including 11 core students. This is indicative the

increased awareness of the school and the opportunities it provides for people wanting to live and work on country.

Student number projections suggest we will have 20 primary and secondary students regularly attending the Academy by 2020. Currently, the maximum capacity of the school balabbala is 20 students. However, as we experience spikes in attendance during the dry season, we will need to expand facilities to accommodate 20-plus students at any one time.

“Our vision is bilingual education that supports the intergenerational transfer of knowledge and language.”

Andrick Nadjamerrek explores and learns inside the unique Nawarddeken Academy bush classroom. *Photo by: Georgia Vallance*



In 2017-18, we improved our information and communication technologies, including phone and classroom internet access. We now have a functioning VoIP phone which has made communications with parents, other schools, businesses and service providers much easier for staff at Kabulwarnamyo.

Very few Nawarddeken students have access to a computer at home. To augment our classroom set of 15 iPads, we purchased two new laptops and in late September

our 65-inch BenQ interactive whiteboard arrived. It was a challenge to find a charter plane large enough to fit the whiteboard, but small enough to land on our airstrip – but we did it. The interactive whiteboard gives our students immediate, whole-class access the online resources they need to succeed in today's world.

We also embarked on developing an application for Independent School Registration. We planned for the future and implemented many new policies and procedures. The Nawarddeken Academy Limited company was registered, and our Board and independent operations were established.

In Kabulwarnamyo, Kunwinjku is spoken at home, which means that students only speak English in the classroom. The Academy's vision and community aspiration is to provide bilingual education that supports the intergenerational transfer of knowledge and language. To this end, we are committed to building a strong Indigenous Language and Culture (ILC) program. We recognise that this will require a long-term commitment and local capacity building.

Every week (usually on Thursdays) we head out bush to learn on country. The wonderful Warddeken rangers support these trips, both on country and afterwards in class.

LEFT: Tabitha Nadjamerrek shows off her drawing of a wakkewakken sugarbag spirit.
Photo by: Georgia Vallance

RIGHT: Sisters Naomi and Faith Nadjamerrek assist young Delsanto to adjust his grass skirt before performing kunborrk (dancing).
Photo by: Steven Bird





Early Learning Program

At the request of community elders and mothers of young children, the Nawarddeken Early Learning Program commenced in November 2016. The program is well supported by local women, who share responsibility for planning and delivery of early learning activities. It also provides valuable training and part-time employment opportunities for young mothers.

The Early Learning Program targets 0-5 year olds living in Kabulwarnamyo and is delivered between 9:00am and 12:00pm on weekdays during school terms. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend daily with their children.

The Early Learning Program is staffed at a ratio of at least 1 educator per 3 children.

Throughout 2017-18 we have had 16 participants, including children and adults accessing the program.

LEFT: Richard Nadjamerrek painted up and ready to perform with Nawarddeken dancers at the Mahbilil Festival. *Photo courtesy of Gundjeihmi Association.*

RIGHT: Dean Yibarbuk, Serina Namarnyilk and other Bininj teachers facilitate on country learning during a trip to Kundjorlomdjorlom occupation and rock art site. *Photo by: Steven Bird*

“This is what can be achieved when Aboriginal land management groups have the freedom and resourcing to pursue their own imperatives.”

*Tinnesha Narorrnga and Alexandria Namarnyilk setting cameras on Ngalgnbali clan estate.
Photo by: Alys Stevens*



Mayh (Animals)

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

Species Recovery Project

The Mayh Recovery Project facilitates genuine Bininj participation. The monitoring network occurs across 20 clan estates, and all sites were approved by senior landowners and djunkay. The deployment of cameras, collection of habitat data and image processing engages 40-50 rangers and contributes a minimum of 1700 hours to the work program every year.

Baseline sampling of 120 sites was completed in June 2018. Five motion sensing cameras at each site resulted in just under 1.3 million images. The 815,126 photographs collected from 60 sites sampled during 2018 are being processed.

The daluk rangers have taken responsibility for processing images in a database that enables species entry in Bininj Kunwok. This work is particularly suitable for older

women who hold a great bulk of the natural history knowledge required to accurately identify species. We are not aware of other programs where remote Aboriginal rangers are key participants in identification and data entry processes.

Eighty-four species (including 28 of the 32 mammal species we would expect to see) have been recorded in the IPA to date, including all ten target species for Warddeken.

BELOW: Djorrkun (Rock Ring-tail Possum) an iconic species of the Kuwarddewardde.



Our aim is to understand which management regimes produce the most beneficial fine-scale conditions for different species. While this requires long-term monitoring, baseline data has already given rise to three worthy investigations:

- Feral cats – the monitoring network reveals feral cat occupancy. Different sampling is needed to understand feral cat density, as required for targeted control measures.
- Djabbo (Northern Quoll) – two populations of nationally Endangered djabbo were found in the IPA. Further sampling will define the extent of those populations and allow us to trial precision feral cat control to protect djabbo during their most vulnerable life stages.
- Yirlinkirrkirr (White-throated Grasswren) – over 50% of nationally vulnerable yirlinkirrkirr distribution occurs in the IPA. Presently there is no consensus on how best to monitor

this fire sensitive species. We propose trialling three methods to then monitor yirlinkirrkirr ongoingly.

The Mayh Recovery Project is a leading example of the conservation potential of Aboriginal land management groups with the freedom and resourcing to pursue their own imperatives. This important work contributes to a great body of ongoing research and regional efforts mitigate the decline of small and medium mammal populations in northern Australia.



TOP ROW: L-R Bakkadji (Black-footed Tree-Rat), Barrk and Djukerre (male and female Black Wallaroo).

MIDDLE ROW: L-R Dalkken (Dingo), Djabbo (Northern Quoll), Djebuyh (Brush-tailed Possum).

BOTTOM ROW: L-R Yok (Northern Brown Bandicoot), Black Rat, Cat, Buffalo.

Kunred (Communities)

Balabbalas serve as remote ranger bases and on country accommodation for landowners to camp and spend time on their clan estates. For Warddeken members who do not have a homeland community, these balabbalas are an important form of infrastructure that allows them to connect with country.

Kudjumarndi and Kunbambuk

In June and July, rangers worked alongside builder, Andy Skewes, to construct new balabbalas at Kudjumarndi and Kunbambuk.

Kudjumarndi is on Danek estate in the kakbi (northern) ward of the IPA. At Kudjumarndi, rangers undertook extensive renovations of an existing balabbala built in 2008. Over the years this balabbala has been used regularly by landowners, who travel from Gunbalanya to enjoy time on country with their families.

Due to frequent use of this camp by large groups of people, Danek landowners requested an additional balabbala at Kudjumarndi and this year rangers were able to deliver on

the request. The new balabbala was finished, complete with decking, and immediately put to use by grateful landowners.

Kunbambuk is on Barraidj estate in the walem (south) of the IPA. The new balabbala constructed at Kunbambuk represents the most remote infrastructure in the IPA to date. This balabbala will be strategically important for Warddeken during wildfire suppression activities and rock art surveys in the south of the IPA. It also makes it possible for members with connections Barraidj to spend time in a previously inaccessible region of the IPA.

Both new balabbalas have been built using a new design that eliminates the large centre posts in favour of

three steel trusses. This opens up the space and provides more room on the decking.

Early Learning Balabbala

In 2017, Kabulwarnamyo community requested the construction of a purpose built balabbala for the Nawarddeken Early Learning (EL) Program. This year, EL staff and families moved into their new space. The new balabbala accommodates all EL resources and is well-furnished thanks to funding received from the Adjumarllarl Aboriginal Corporation. Plumbing, sinks and preparation bench will be completed later in 2018.

LEFT: Robert Balmana, Enosh Nadjamerrek, Cecil Galaminda, Arijay Camp and Joshua Garnarradj are proud of their work on the newly constructed remote balabbala at Kunbambuk. *Photo by: Andy Skewes*

RIGHT: Working under the mentorship of Andy Skewes, Enosh Nadjamerrek proved to be a skilled and committed builder. He was involved in completing all major infrastructure works. *Photo by: Georgia Vallance*



Access tracks

Warddeken received funding from the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) to purchase a much-needed front end loader to maintain the main access road into the IPA. This machinery will significantly improve Warddeken's ability to undertake road works throughout the IPA, in particular opening up river crossings and washed out sections of the road after the wet season.

Planning has begun around construction of the first access track into the karrikad (western) ward of the IPA. During APB operations this year, Jake Weigl and landowner for Bolmo Dordokiyu estate, Fred Hunter, took advantage of the helicopter access to map a route for the road. Next year, rangers will construct the 36km track using these coordinates, with plans to also build a remote balabbala safari tent on Bolmo Dordokiyu estate.

In terms of management, the new track represents access to a previously inaccessible region of the IPA. With future plans to construct a remote ranger base, the track will allow for improved fire management, feral animal control and base for rock art surveys in karrikad clan estates.



**“Warddeken puts
Bininj landowners
at the forefront of
modern archaeology
and cultural heritage
management.”**

Serina Namarnyilk tells the story of a painting of two crows fighting over a dillybag. Photo by: Georgia Vallance

Kunwarddebim (Rock art)

Kunwarddebim is at the heart of the cultural identity of Nawarddeken. There are tens of thousands of rock art sites spread across the vast expanse of the Warddeken IPA, most of which have never been documented. Paintings in red, yellow and white ochres depict life in the Kuwarddewardde over thousands of years, telling stories of food resources, creation ancestors, daily life and ceremonial and religious rituals.

Kunwarddebim of the IPA represents one of the most significant collections of cultural heritage anywhere in the world. It is the oldest form of human artistic expression and a treasure for all humankind, and Warddeken rangers are its curators. We are committed to addressing the physical and environmental threats, such as feral animals, fire and overgrowth, and maintaining vital customary knowledge and connection to place.

Pilot Project

In 2017, based on the ambitions of Nawarddeken for the future of their cultural heritage, the Rock Art Pilot Project was initiated. The project seeks to put indigenous landowners at the forefront of modern

archaeology and cultural heritage management.

Documentation of elders' knowledge has been identified by landowners as the project's top priority. With a sense of great urgency, they will work with old people who remain connected to the stories of the sites and the knowledge behind the art. When these old people pass on, so too does their intimate and irreplaceable knowledge.

The project is conservation-oriented, seeking not only to document but also conserve rock art sites of the Kuwarddewardde. It is the first major attempt to gather comprehensive landscape-scale data about the condition of, and threats to, rock art assemblages

in West Arnhem. This will allow both fine-scale and landscape-scale management conservation activities to be undertaken.

As a result of initial field surveys, 48 new art sites have been documented within an area of less than 1.5 square kilometers. These sites were recorded during a week's fieldwork that also involved training rangers in the use of tablets and DSLR cameras to record sites.

This initial survey data indicates that in extremely rocky country, the density of art sites may be greater than initially thought. As the project progresses and more data is collected, it will become possible to make such forecasts with increasing accuracy.

Kukku *(Freshwater places)*

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

Following their introduction to Australia in 1824, buffalo have made their way into the impenetrable escarpments of the Kuwarddewardde, where they impacted heavily on the fragile wetland ecosystems of the plateau and water quality of freshwater systems.

Over the last nine years, Warddeken rangers have performed annual culls targeting feral populations of buffalo, pigs and cattle. On ground culls are also carried out on a weekly basis throughout the year.

Feral animal culls

Annual aerial culls are an important part of our land management program. The consistency with which Warddeken performs aerial

culling represents one of longest ongoing efforts to reduce feral animal impact in any protected area in Australia, and the positive impacts this has on country are increasingly apparent.

In late 2017, with the consent of the relevant landowners, we conducted three aerial culls over a total of 17 days, resulting in the highest number of beasts culled per annum. Utilising 122.8 chopper hours, aerial culling was conducted at Makkalarl, Nakarriken, Kunbambuk, Maburrinj, Djorlok, Kurruwil, Marlkawo Creek, and at the top of the Caddell, Katherine and East Alligator rivers. In total, 2253 buffalo, 241 pigs and 66 cattle were culled at an average cost of \$41.85 per beast.

On ground culls were also carried out. Sometimes this work was undertaken as targeted feral animal control, or beasts were culled opportunistically during the course of other ranger duties. This year, 425 buffalo, 48 cattle and 71 pigs were culled as a result of on ground shooting.

Buffalo are an important source of fresh meat and vital to food security on the Kuwarddewardde. A large portion of buffalo and cattle culled was butchered and distributed to rangers and landowners at neighbouring outstations and communities, including Mamardawerre, Manmoyi, Marlkawo, Jabiru, Gunbalanya and Maningrida. Special effort was also made to deliver meat to landowners based in Barunga and Darwin.

“Our aerial culling program represents one of longest ongoing efforts to reduce feral animal impact in any protected area in Australia.”

*Asian water buffalo cause severe damage to freshwater systems with their hooves and propensity for wallowing.
Photo by: David Hancock*



Weeds

*Although relatively free of invasive weeds, species of significance within the Warddeken IPA are rattlepod (*Crotalaria lanceolata*), hyptis (*Hyptis suaveolens*) and one large mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*) infestation in Mikkinj Valley. However, rangers are always on the lookout for other species posing a threat to biodiversity.*

Vectors for the spread of invasive weeds tend to be feral animals such as buffalo, pigs and cattle. Native animals can also contribute to spread. Wet season flooding washes seed stock to other areas, and vehicles contribute to the spread along access tracks and river crossings. For these reasons, maintaining a consistent and vigilant weed management and control program is imperative.

Rangers primarily carry out weed control during the wet season, targeting outstations within and surrounding the IPA. Typically, rangers will travel by helicopter as

wet season access prohibits travel via road. At the end of the dry season, vehicles with dual spray units, quad bikes with spray units, herbicides, PPE and camping supplies are shuttled out to shipping containers strategically placed throughout the IPA, allowing access to outstations and areas with the worst infestations.

This year, rangers from Manmoyi undertook a comprehensive program of weed control across nine outstation communities. In addition to the control work in and around the communities, rangers focused on infestations along the Maningrida

Road and other access tracks in an attempt to prevent the spread of weeds via vehicle.

In Mikkinj Valley, collaborative works between Warddeken and Njanjma Rangers in November 2017 focused on an ongoing effort to contain the spread of mimosa throughout the region using graslan granules. Control of mimosa, which is a Weed of National Significance, remains a huge job however the work of Warddeken, Njanjma and Kakadu rangers over the years is definitely paying off.



We also worked collaboratively with Alligator Energy staff for a week at Myra Camp to tackle all known mission grass infestations in the lease area. This is the fifth year we have worked together and a strong partnership between the organisations has been established.

Improvements in data collection methods mean that we have more comprehensive data about weed

infestations and the impact of control efforts. For species such as hyptis that have become somewhat naturalised in areas, eradication is unrealistic but containment is possible. To keep infestations contained, our methodical approach must be continued.

Warddeken programs to keep feral animal populations down and maintain good fire management

ABOVE: Lorraine Namarnyilk sprays weeds on the road between Kabuwarnamyo and Marlkawo.
Photo by: Alex Ernst

will also help prevent the spread of weeds. It's vital that we continue our consultative approach to communicate clearly and respectfully with neighbouring ranger groups, djungkay and landowners to highlight the importance and benefits of weed control across Arnhem Land.

“Despite high fuel build up, our award-winning Warddeken rangers ensured that 2017 late season wildfires had minimal impact.”

A wildfire burns in the stone country. Soon after the photo was taken, rangers contained the fire. Photo by: David Hancock

Wildfire Suppression

The 2017 late dry had potential to be a devastating wildfire season for West Arnhem Land. Two very good fire years in 2015 and 2016, combined with a big wet season, meant there was high fuel build up across much of the WALFA project area. Nonetheless, it turned out to be another very successful fire season for Warddeken and the broader WALFA project region, with the minimal area affected by late season fires.

A major factor in this was an improvement in wildfire response time. Warddeken rangers responded to the majority of wildfires within 24 hours. In previous years, rangers have observed some fires to see how they progress. This year, with the prospect of a devastating season, a decision was made to mobilise a crew immediately to deal with all wildfires.

This approach proved successful, with rangers controlling every fire within a relatively short timeframe. Rangers attended and contained 18 wildfires within the IPA, with a total of 29 rangers, 1190 man-hours and 83.3 chopper hours. Such was our success that a number of

the wildfires contained by rangers are not present on the Northern Australian Fire Information (NAFI) website due to the small area of country affected.

Most fires were the result of hunting fires or logs smoldering for weeks after early dry season burning.

However, the biggest fire event of the 2017 season was due to a large lightning storm in late October that led to multiple widespread fires. The award-winning Warddeken rangers responded well to this event.

The first wildfire hotspots showed on NAFI in the late afternoon of October 30 and a team was prepared and dispatched in the early hours of the following day.

The crew began by fighting a fire between the Mann River and Marlakwo Creek. Throughout the day, additional fires were identified at the head of Deaf Adder Gorge, west of Kabulwarnamyo, and two fires between the East Alligator and Goomadeer Rivers.

On the evening of October 31 a second helicopter was booked to allow two crews to move between the different fires burning across the IPA. With the early, sustained response and a substantial effort by 15 rangers, all five fires were contained within six days – a phenomenal effort that reflects the professionalism and commitment of Warddeken rangers.

Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust

The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust works with indigenous ranger groups, including Warddeken Land Management Ltd, in arguably the most culturally rich and biodiverse part of Australia, west and central Arnhem Land. Rangers and philanthropists are brought together to address some of the region's most pressing issues, including environmental conservation, education and employment. Our projects are both unique and respectful, in that each piece of work we partner on is 100% community driven, from concept to implementation.

Over the 2017-2018 financial year the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust and Warddeken have partnered to ensure quality bi-cultural education was delivered to the youth of the Kabulwarnamyo outstation, ecological surveying focused on restoring small mammal

populations, a pilot rock art documentation and conservation project was initiated, daluk (women) rangers were engaged meaningfully in the workforce, and community life in Kabulwarnamyo and Manmoyi was made more sustainable through access to food and market goods.

In May 2018 Warddeken Land Management and the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust were awarded a significant capacity building grant from the Northern Territory Government. This investment will see the Trust's ability to fundraise for projects across west and central Arnhem Land increased into the future. Additionally, two staff members were added to the team, signifying an intention to grow our impact and reach.

Despite being a year of consolidation and investment in future growth, we had a total income of \$1.4 million



this financial year, up from \$1.16 million last financial year. Of these funds, \$761,007 were granted to the projects we support in the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area and \$394,694 was invested in the growth of our organisation. The remaining \$252,950 was held as a reserve for next year's project specific funding needs and a contingency fund for operational expenses.

Thank you to our generous and visionary supporters, who underpin this incredibly valuable work.



*“Karrkad Kanjdji
Trust projects are
100% community
driven, from concept
to implementation.”*

An ancient painting of a rainbow serpent adorns the ceiling and wall of this rock overhang. *Photo by: David Hancock*

Our People

Senior Cultural Advisors



Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek



Josie Maralngurra



Leanne Guymala



Lillian Guymala



Deborah Nabarlambarl



Wurdib Nabalwad



Berribob Watson



Margaret Nabalwad



Molly Nayilibidj

Our People

Management & Staff



CEO
Shaun Ansell



FINANCIAL CONTROLLER
John O'Brien



ADMINISTRATION OFFICER
Bianca Twaddle



OPERATIONS MANAGER
Jake Weigl



MANMOYI RANGER COORDINATOR
Alex Debono *(to Oct 17)*



MANMOYI RANGER COORDINATOR
Natalie Chester *(from Nov 17)*



FIRE ECOLOGIST & MENTOR
Dean Yibarbuk



**IPA COORDINATOR & DALUK
ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**
Georgia Vallance



DALUK RANGERS TEAM LEADER
Elizabeth Nabarlambarl



DALUK RANGERS TEAM LEADER
Lorraine Namarnyilk



ECOLOGICAL MONITORING OFFICER
Alys Stevens



MECHANICAL SERVICES OFFICER
Jimmy Morrison



SENIOR RANGER
Terrah Guymala



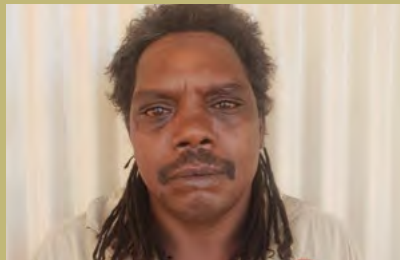
SENIOR RANGER
Freddy Nadjamerrek



RANGERS TEAM LEADER
Lindsay Whitehurst



SENIOR RANGER
Stuart Guymala



SENIOR RANGER
Greg Lippo



BUILDING & MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR
Chris Bald



NAWARDDEKEN ACADEMY EO
Olga Scholes



CLASSROOM TEACHER
Daniel Constantinou



ASSISTANT TEACHER
Danielle Ryan



TEACHERS' ASSISTANT
Rhonda Nadjamerrek

Thanks to our dedicated rangers

Adeline Guymala, Alexandria Namarnyilk, Alfred Nalorlman, Alio Guymala, Alton Marami, Amelia Gumurdul, Anthony Sullivan, Arijay Nabarlambarl, Asheena Guymala, Ashon Ngabuy, Berribob Dangbungala, Bradley Wesley, Carmen Garnarradji, Cecil Galaminda, Christella Namundja, Christopher Ngabuy, Cianne Woolley, Clifton Nagurrurrba, Conrad Maralngurra, Corey Rankin, Daniel Forrest, Darius Maralngurra, Dean Munuggullumurr Yibarbuk, Deborah Nabarlambarl, Delvina Guymala, Denzel Watson, Deon Koimala, Desvina James, Devita Hodgson, Dick Djogiba, Drusilla Nadjamerrek, Duane Dakgalaway, Duncan Gumurdul, Edna Midjarda, Elizabeth Nabarlambarl, Elkanah Dullman, Emma Namarnyilk, Enosh Nadjamerrek, Eric Gurruwiwi, Esau Djandjomerr, Fabian Andrews, Faith Nadjamerrek, Fred Hunter, Frederick Nadjamerrek, Garrett Pamkal, Gavin Namarnyilk, Gavin

Phillips, George Watson, Gillian Galaminda, Graham Namarnyilk, Greg Lippo, Hagar Nadjamerrek, Helena Malanga, Jalisa Koimala, Jamie Billess, Janice Nabalwad, Jean Burrunali, Jenkin Guymala, Jenny Nadjamerrek, Jerome Maralngurra, Jessie Alderson, Jobie Managku, Joel Naborlhborlh, Joelene Miller, Johnny Reid, Josh Cameron, Joshua Garnarradj, Joyce Marwal, Joylene Cameron, Judas Nalorman, June Nadjamerrek, Justin Nayilibidj, Kamahl Hunter, Karen Watson, Karl Makin, Keenan Nayinggul, Kenneth Mangiru, Kormel Nawilil, Kyrin Bulliwana, Leanne Guymala, Lester Guymala, Lewis Naborlhborlh, Lindsay Whitehurst, Lorina mralangurra, Lorna Nabalwad, Lorraine Namarnyilk, Maacka Marlibirr (Pascoe), Maath Maralngurra, Mandy Muir, Manoah Nawilil, Marcus Cameron, Margaret Guymala, Margaret Naborlhborlh, Mario Guymala, Marlene Cameron, Martha Cameron, Martha Maralngurra,

Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek, Maxie Dululuma, Megan Bulumbara, Milly Naborlhborlh, Mitchell Nabarlambarl, Naomi Nadjamerrek, Ray Nadjamerrek, Rhona Pamkal, Rhonda Nadjamerrek, Riccardo Nalorman, Richard Miller, Ricky Nabarlambarl, Robert Balmana, Rodney Naborlhborlh, Rosemary Nabalwad, Rosie Nabegayo, Ross Guymala, Sara Billess Cooper, Sarah Billis, Scholastica Waldock, Selone Djandjomerr, Serina Namarnyilk, Shaquille Gameraidj, Sharna Dakgalawuy, Stanley Balmana, Stuart Guymala, Susan Nabalwad, Suzannah Nabalwad, Tahnee Nabalwad, Tasma Guymala, Ted Maralngurra, Terrah Djogiba, Terrah Guymala, Terrance Brown, Terry Maralngurra, Theona Namarnyilk, Thomas Balmana, Tim Managku, Tinnasha Narorrga, Toni Whitehurst, Victor GarIngarr, Vietta Bangarr, Wayne McCartney, Winston Naborlhborlh, Zachariah Namarnyilk, Zario Guymala, Zebedee Ngabuy

Funding Partners

Thanks to our many supporters and partners



Australian Government
Department of the
Prime Minister and Cabinet



Australian Government
Department of the Environment



Australian Government





DEMED Association



KARRIBIDYKARRMERRIMEN
HELP ONE ANOTHER



Northern Land Council



CARING FOR COUNTRY



“The future of Warddeken is growth. We are steadily broadening our reach with ranger bases and infrastructure across the IPA.”

*Thousands of flying foxes take flight at dusk.
Photo by: David Hancock*

Financial Report

INCOME STATEMENT	NOTE	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Grant revenue		3,319,274	4,635,832
Contract income		594,067	-
Other income		4,716	6,650
Employee benefits expense		(1,983,601)	(1,891,967)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments		(225,812)	(184,551)
Hire of plant and equipment		(482,358)	(514,479)
Repairs and maintenance		(263,891)	(224,328)
Other expenses		(1,121,875)	(891,197)
(Loss)/profit before income tax		(159,480)	935,960
Income tax expense		-	-
(Loss)/profit after income tax		(159,480)	935,960
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	NOTE	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		982,718	1,135,762
Trade and other receivables		132,023	440,327
Total current assets		1,114,741	1,576,089
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment		1,409,954	1,243,522
Total non-current assets		1,409,954	1,243,522
TOTAL ASSETS		2,524,695	2,819,611
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables		80,357	80,741
Total current liabilities		431,529	535,523
TOTAL LIABILITIES		431,529	535,523
NET ASSETS		2,093,166	2,284,088
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		2,093,166	2,284,088
TOTAL EQUITY		2,093,166	2,284,088

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

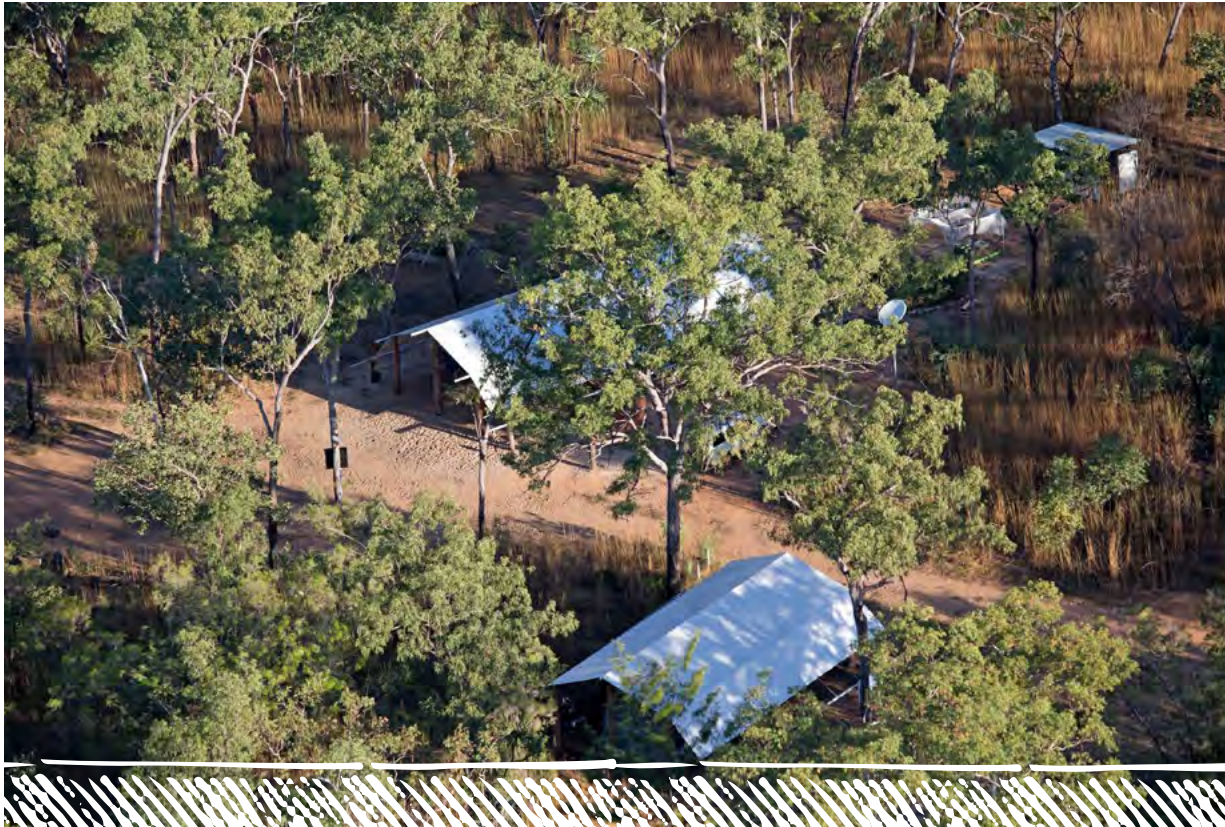
1. Basis of preparation of the financial report

This summary financial report is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 30 June 2018.

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.

The iconic balabbala safari tents of Kabulwarnamyo viewed from the air.
Photo by: David Hancock



Independent Audit Report to the members of Warddeken Land Management Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, 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 2018.

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

Summary Financial Statements

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

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

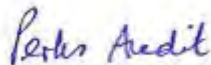
We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated the 30th of November 2018.

Responsibilities of Directors for the Summary Financial Statements

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

Auditor's Responsibilities

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



PERKS AUDIT PTY LTD
84 Smith Street
Darwin NT 0800



PETER J HILL
Director

Dated this 30th day of November 2018

In Memoriam

The past year has not been without sadness and grief. Three Nawarddeken Traditional Owners with strong ties to Warddeken lost their lives in tragic circumstances. We pay tribute to them and their contribution to caring for the Kuwarddewardde, and we extend our deepest sympathy to their families.



Bulanjdjan Ngalwakmarranj

Bulanjdjan Ngalwakmarranj 1990 – 2017

Bulanjdjan passed away at just 27 years of age, after a lifetime of battling health complications associated with rheumatic heart disease. Despite having faced four open heart surgeries by the age of 16, Bulanjdjan was an active and engaged daluk ranger who was increasingly taking on leadership roles within the work program. Bulanjdjan had so much more to give and her tragically short life is testament to an urgent need to address preventable disease in indigenous communities.



Kamarrang Nadurlmangkarr

Kamarrang Nadurlmangkarr 1977 – 2017

Kamarrang was a skilled, trusted and valued ranger who worked with Warddeken for six years. A proud Durlmangkarr man with a relentlessly positive attitude and gentle nature, he was beloved by the entire Warddeken team. His passing and the heartbreaking circumstances surrounding his accidental death shook our workforce to the core. We will miss him immensely, but his huge smile and laughter will stay with us forever.

Kodjok Nadjordi 1960 – 2018

Kodjok was a senior Traditional Owner of the Djordi estate who was involved in planning and establishing Warddeken's Manmoyi ranger program. Kodjok cared deeply for his country and faced many hardships to continue living on country at Kamarrkawarn outstation, even after service provision had ceased. In recent years, health concerns saw him spend less time on country, however he continued to visit his beloved homeland and was involved in cultural camps and programs.



Kodjok Nadjordi



Lindsay Whitehurst and Darius Maralngurra share a laugh after a long day's work.
Photo by: Kirsty O'Brien.

Dedication to Lofty

Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek, 1926 - 2009



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

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

Munguyhmunguyh ngarridjalbengkan ngudda.

We shall forever think about you.

Kunmalng ke karrurndeng kore Ankung Djang, kore Djabidj Bakoluy, kore Kundjorlomdjorlom, Nabiwo Kadjangdi, Ankung Kangeyh, Kabulwarnamy, 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 Kabulwarnamy, the place you referred to as "the dear one".

You Wamud will always be our "dear one".



Ngarridjarrkbolknahnan kunred

Looking after country together

Ngarridjarrkbolknahnan kunred
Looking after country together

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