



Warddeken
Land Management Ltd

Annual Report 2016-17

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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.

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.

Derek Guymala prepares for bininj kunborrk, traditional dancing
Photo by Rowand Taylor

Photo by David Hancock





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The Warddeken Story

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

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

With the arrival of balanda (white people), Nawarddeken began to leave the Kuwarddewardde, lured by Christian and government missions, opportunities to work in the mining and buffalo industries, and the appeal of larger

settlements such as Gunbalanya and Maningrida. Some also served with the armed forces in WWII. By the late 1960s, the Kuwarddewardde was largely depopulated. Nawarddeken elders considered the country orphaned.

For the next 30 years, our professors saw and felt the devastation of large wildfires and an increasing number of feral animals impacting on biodiversity and cultural sites. Their concern was matched only by their desire and motivation to return to country, to once again look after the Kuwarddewardde and pass on their knowledge to future generations.

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

TOP: Ngalek Mankabo (Mann River). *Photo by Rowand Taylor*
BOTTOM LEFT: Berribob Watson looks for fish to spear. *Photo by Rowand Taylor*
BOTTOM RIGHT: Tahnee Nabalwad choppers out to work in a remote region of the IPA. *Photo by David Hancock*





The Manwurrk ranger program pioneered a number of innovative programs, including the first fire-related carbon project in Australia, the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) project. Carbon projects have now become one of the biggest indigenous industries and economies in Australia and it originated here.

In 2007, after extensive consultation and meetings between landowners, clan members and the Northern Land Council, Warddeken Land Management Limited (Warddeken) was formally registered as a not for profit public company, limited by guarantee. Warddeken's Board of Directors is made up of

representatives drawn from more than 36 clan groups of the Kuwarddewardde. The Board is responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the company, and associated ranger program.

TOP LEFT: Suzannah Nabalwad. *Photo by Georgia Vallance*

TOP RIGHT: Lindsay Whitehurst, Darius Maralngurra, David Bond and Arijay Camp in the workshop. *Photo by David Hancock*

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 Djangjomerr



Ruby Bilidja



Mary Naborlhborlh



Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek OA



Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek



Djawida Nadjongorle



Josie Maralngurra



Jacob Nayinggul



Timothy Nadjowh OA



Wurdib Nabalwad



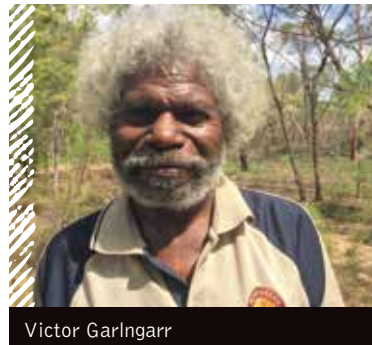
Lillian Guymala

Not pictured: Leanne Guymala, Leonie Guymala

2016/17 Board of Directors

More than 350 Nawarddeken are registered members of Warddeken Land Management Limited, which is governed by an Indigenous Board of Directors. Every three years, three board members are elected for each ward of the Warddeken IPA: Kakbi (north), Karrikad (west), Walem (south) and Koyek (east).

Kakbi



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

Karrikad



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/Berdberd (Ankung Djang/Ngalkombarli), Yamarr (Kidbulmaniyimarra), Kulmarru (Kubumi), Rol (Bolkngok), Djordi/Djorrorlom (Kodwalewale), Wurrbbarn (Nabrang), Warridjngu (Boburk), and Yamarr (Kidbulmaniyimarra)

Chairman's Report



Dean Yibarbuk

As Chairman of the Warddeken Board, I hope to provide experience and guidance to the new incoming members of the executive. We are continuing to track our progress against the Plan of Management. I think it will take a further 5-10 years to fully understand what we have in the IPA, and how our work impacts on the environment. We've come a long way, and we still have a long way to go.

This year, we established the Mayh Recovery and Monitoring Project and Daluk Rangers,

incorporating Manmoyi and Kabulwarnamyo daluk, to perform traditional roles in looking after rock art and biodiversity monitoring. These programs are providing more employment for bininj and daluk in West Arnhem Land.

We want to encourage more people to come back. Homelands around here are empty. In old times, people were always living on the country, meeting up with neighbouring groups, talking about the first fires, when seasons begin and end - there was a lot of communication.

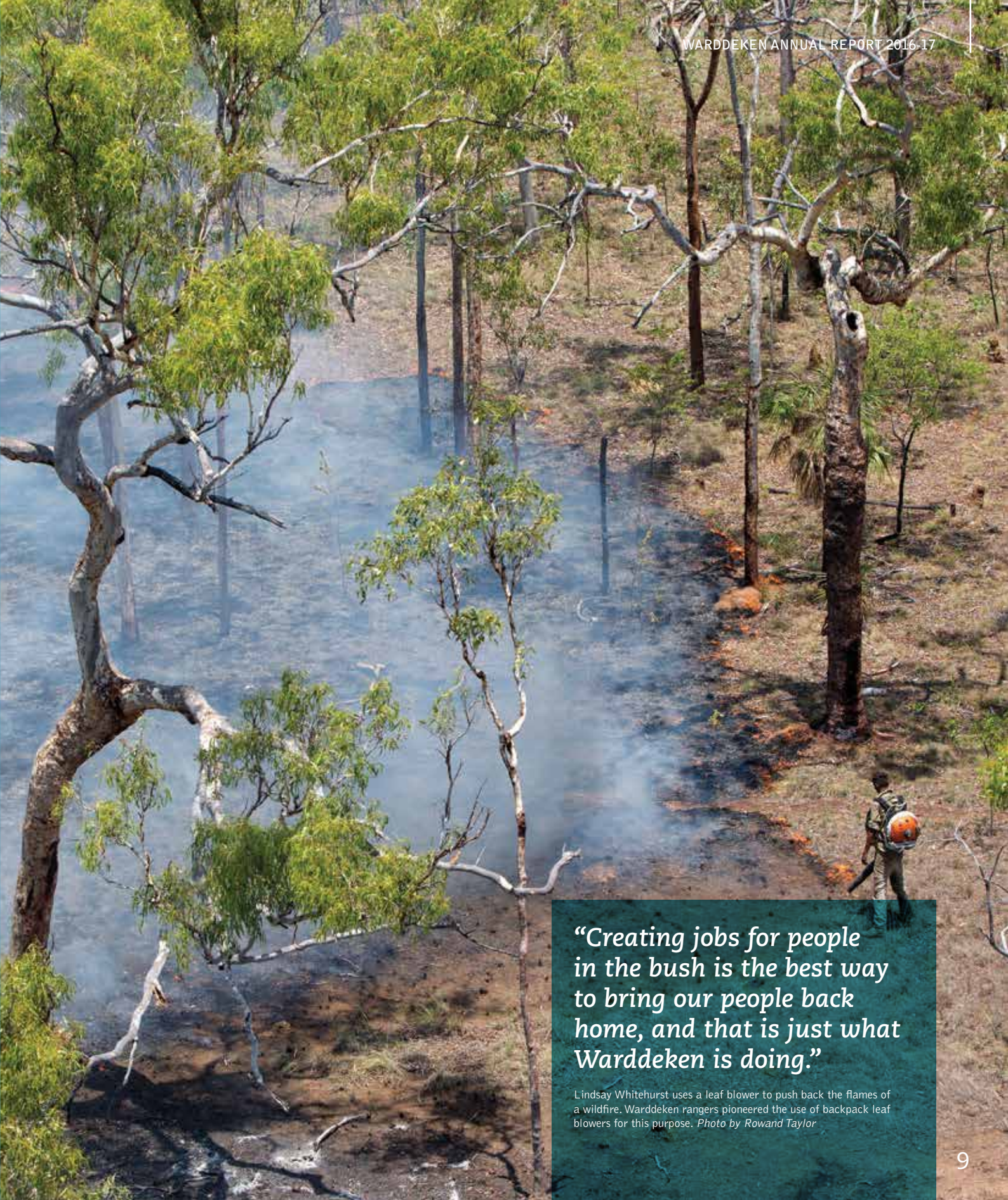
Each year in July we hold a culture camp and bush walk so that families from different clan groups can come back and see the land. Landowners can sit and re-think how the family moved away and never came back, see what's needed.

It's not easy to move back to homelands. Distance, lack of services and food security is a real issue. This makes our work harder and more important. We don't want to be a service provider but we can help with roads, dwellings, and jobs. Creating jobs for people in the bush is the best way.

The word about our Narwarddeken company is spreading. Slowly people are coming back. Living on country is more like freedom, managing your own rights on your own country, working for your own company. Once we know people are living around us we will be satisfied.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Dean Yibarbuk', written in a cursive style.

Dean Yibarbuk,
CHAIRMAN



“Creating jobs for people in the bush is the best way to bring our people back home, and that is just what Warddeken is doing.”

Lindsay Whitehurst uses a leaf blower to push back the flames of a wildfire. Warddeken rangers pioneered the use of backpack leaf blowers for this purpose. *Photo by Rowand Taylor*

Warddeken CEO's Report



Firstly, I would like to thank outgoing board members, Christopher Ngaboy, Isaiah Nagurrurrba, Sarah Nabarlambarl Billis for their commitment over the last three years, and welcome Dean Yibarbuk, Joelene Miller, Stuart Guymala to the board. I look forward to working with you all over the coming years.

2016-17 was a year of intense activity for Warddeken. We had another incredibly good fire season with the best result for the West Arnhem carbon abatement on record, which will go on to fund future works. The Nawarddeken Academy

has continued to grow, including company registration and additional staff, which lays the foundation for registration as an independent school in 2017-18.

We initiated two major projects, the Daluk Rangers Engagement Project and Mayh Recovery and Monitoring Project. These projects have been a long time coming and are incredibly important to the future of the company.

The Daluk Ranger Program has met our high expectations of what would be achieved if we provided a welcoming and appropriate work environment for daluk. We now have work opportunities for men and women equally, which is building very strong communities.

Biodiversity monitoring fills another crucial gap in the organisation, allowing us to accurately monitor and report on the impacts of our work within the IPA. The scale and ambition

of the monitoring project is significant. As an Indigenous-funded enterprise, it's an example of where we need to head in the future, to have as much control as possible over research, monitoring and exploration of Indigenous-held lands.

Lastly, we have continued to build our capacity to support people's return to country and livelihoods on country through additional housing and accommodation at Kabulwarnamyo, and the expansion of ranger facilities and assets at Manmoyi. The challenge for the future is how to spread the impact of Warddeken more broadly and deliver more equal opportunity for landowners across the IPA.

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark blue background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Shaun'.

Shaun Ansell
CEO



“We now have work opportunities for men and women equally, which is building very strong communities.”

Delvina Guymala records vegetation data during a biodiversity survey. Photo by David Hancock

The Warddeken IPA

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.

Established in 2007, the Nawarddeken-owned Warddeken company is responsible for extensive fire management, feral animal and weed control, and monitoring of our unique and threatened biodiversity. Through this work, we are able to live on country and look after our significant sacred sites, rock art and archaeological sites, and transfer knowledge to younger generations.

The Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) was declared in 2009. The IPA encompasses approximately 1.4 million hectares of the Kuwarddewardde, stone and gorge country in West Arnhem Land. It borders Kakadu National

Park to the west and overlaps with the Djelk IPA in the north. Since its establishment, more than 250 Indigenous people have worked within the IPA.

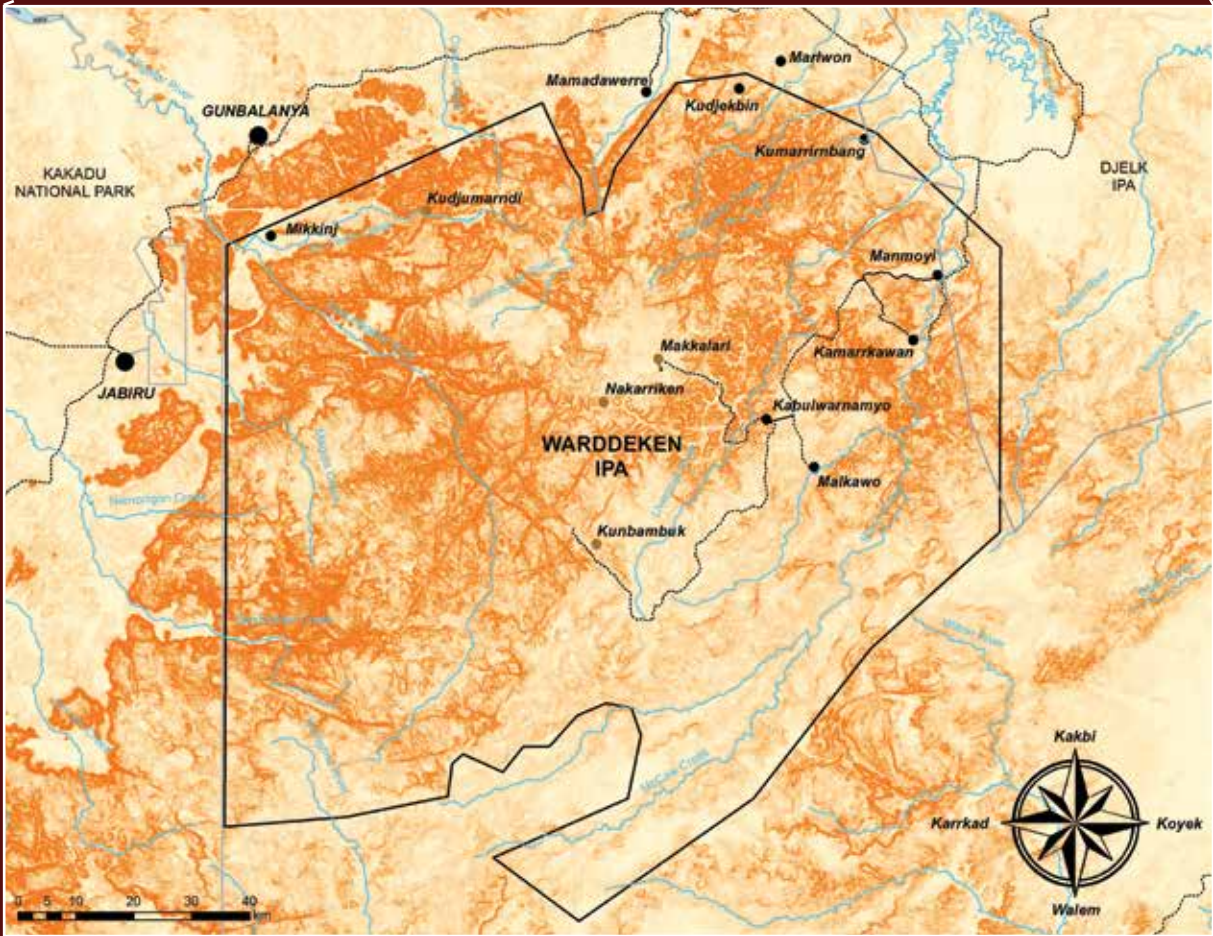
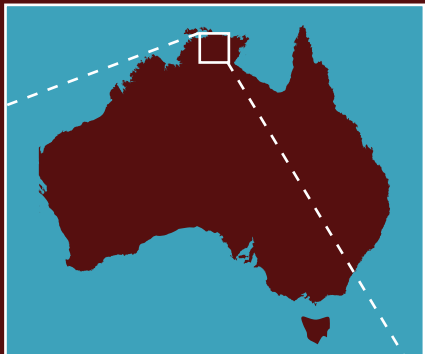
Outstations of the IPA are:

- Koyek - Kabulwarnamyo, Manmoyi and Kamarrkawarn
- Kakbi - Kudjekbinj, Kumarrirnbang (Marlwon and Mamadawerre)
- Karrikad - Kudjumarndi and Mikkinj
- Walem - Marlkawo

Two outstations are permanently populated, Manmoyi and Kabulwarnamyo, as well as Mamadawerre just outside the boundary of the IPA.

Kabulwarnamyo community was established by Bardayal in 2002 after government support for the homeland movement had dissipated. Both Manmoyi and Kabulwarnamyo have populations of over 50 people.

Warddeken continues to seek funding for a new ranger base at Kudjekbinj. Other outstations at Kumarrirnbang, Kamarrkawarn, Marlkawo, Mikkinj and Kudjumarndi are seasonally occupied.



Governance

Our Warddeken company has good governance that helps us make good, strong decisions. The process of learning how the company works, and how to move forward, has been empowering. Our Board of Directors has an impressive level of knowledge, making high level decisions and developing organisational relationships.

The Board is responsible for establishing and monitoring our company’s policies and procedures to ensure that our rules are respected and contracts are honoured. During 2016-17 our Board met four times developing a code of conduct and working with members to amend our constitution. The amendments recognise the central importance of supporting Bininj to lead successful and empowered lives on country, as

healthy country both develops and needs healthy people.

2016 Election

In October-November 2016, we ran our triennial elections. Of 281 eligible members, 144 people voted. As there were only three nominees in the Karrikad ward, Karrikad members were not required to vote.

Three directors, Christopher Ngabuy, Isaiah Nagurrurrba,

Sarah Nabarlambarl Billis were replaced during the election.

We thank them for their commitment over the last three years and welcome our three new directors, Dean Yibarbuk and Joelene Miller in Walem ward, and Stuart Guymala in Koyek ward. Dean Yibarbuk replaces Fred Hunter as Chairperson.

Polling locations are listed in the table below.

DATE	POLLING LOCATIONS
25 Oct	Pine Creek, Kybrook Farm, Katherine & Kalano
26 Oct	Manyallaluk, Beswick & Barunga
9 - 10 Nov	Mamadawerre, Kumarrirrbang, Manmoyi, Kabulwarnamyo (incl. Marlkawo) & Kamarkarrwarn
11 Nov	Maningrida
14 Nov	Gunbalanya
15 Nov	Jabiru, Patonga HS, Patonga OS, Paradise Farm, Park HQ, Mudjinberri & Mamukala
16 Nov	Katherine George & Park HQ

Special thanks to our polling assistants, Wesley Campion, Richard Miller, Joelene Miller, Roxanne Naborlhborlh, Edna Midjarda, Jamie Billis and Syliva Ragurk for their hard work.

Membership

People over 18 years of age can be a member of Warddeken through connection to country in four ways: father’s country, mother’s country, mother’s mother’s country or mother’s mother’s mother’s country. However, a person can only be represented in one ward.

Warddeken maintains an up-to-date membership database and signs people up opportunistically through work or community consultation. We also conduct a membership drive during each triennial election.

During the election last year, Dean Yibarbuk supervised the membership drive, checking

that all the different clans were adequately represented. We also completed missing data for members who were signed up in the early days. As a result, Warddeken’s membership list is now quite comprehensive, with representation from all of the different clan groups and families.

Total membership currently stands at 359. Each ward of the Warddeken IPA has a different story, and each clan has different needs and desires for interacting with their country:

- Koyek has two permanently inhabited outstations, Manmoyi and Kabulwarnamyo and a membership of 137.
- Kakbi is where landowners have a really strong desire to return to country and we are currently looking for funding to set up a ranger base at Kudjekbinj. Membership in Kakbi ward is 99.

- Karrikad clans really suffered and there are a number of extinct clans now under caretaking arrangements. Mikkinj is seasonally occupied but there are no permanently occupied outstations. Karrikad has 34 members, most of whom live in Gunbalanya or Jabiru.
- Walem landowners are spread out with many living in Pine Creek, Kalano, Barunga, Bulman, and Weemol. Many of these landowners have never visited their country. There are 72 members in Walem ward.

Faith Nadjamerrek casts her vote as returning officer Dominic Nicholls looks on.



Manwurrk *(Fire management)*

For thousands of years, Nawarddeken used fire in a way that benefited them and the whole ecosystem has adapted to it. Between the 1960s and 2002, the Kuwarddewardde was largely depopulated and large wildfires devastated the region. In 2002, Bardayal established the Manwurrk Rangers and worked alongside our many partners to reintroduce a more customary fire management regime.

WALFA

Using the 'two-toolbox' approach, the Manwurrk Rangers began to address the significant issue of uncontrolled wildfire, combining traditional knowledge and Western science. They also played a central role in the development of the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement project (WALFA).

WALFA was the first Indigenous-owned carbon abatement scheme in Australia. Since then, carbon projects have become one of the biggest indigenous industries and economies in Australia – and it originated here.

WALFA is now the second largest carbon project in Australia. Carbon revenue is reinvested into

West Arnhem land management, including Warddeken's early dry season burning program. Early dry season burning reduces the extent and severity of late season wildfires, which keeps our country healthy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2016 we had another successful year, with over 281,000 Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs) credited (compared to 230,000 in 2015) and significant income generated.

Early dry season burning

In 2016-17 we had a big wet, which meant there was a lot more water around and the Kuwarddewardde took longer

to dry out. We had to stay away from the perched wetlands because they were too wet to burn. However, after two good abatement years and fewer late season fires, the fuel load across the Kuwarddewardde was high. We needed to break up that fuel load.

Our early dry season burning strategy was to increase the incendiary drop rate, fly faster and get into more broken-up country with smaller fires. This led to a record-breaking year, with 25 landowners, 119.2 chopper hours (11691.53km), and 60,000 more incendiaries dropped than in previous years.

We plan our approach based on knowledge of the country

and impacts of burning on native plants and animals, and the Northern Australian Fire Information (NAFI) website that maps fire scars and hot spots. We know the right time of the day, and wind directions for burning.

Our plan needs to be flexible depending on the wind. If it's too windy for one area, we'll find an area that's quite sparse where good, strong wind would be ideal. This year, May was incredibly windy but dropped off in June, which was perfect for aerial and on ground burning work.

Most of the dry season we have south-easterlies during the day that swing around to become light northerlies in the evening. Overnight we get heavy dews, which means the fires we light during the day usually go out overnight. The exception is when we hit old pockets of grass that might have enough fuel for the fire to continue through the night.

We burn along the roadsides every year using mosaic burning. The lowlands in the north are also burned annually. Other areas, such as the plateau and

open woodlands are burned every two or three years. Heath communities, which contain a lot of obligate seeders, are burned only every four or five years.

Obligate seeders, such as cypress, are a good indicator of fire management. If you see a diverse age range of cypress trees, old and young ones, it means your fire management is good.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Lindsay Whitehurst prepares for aerial prescribed burning. *Photo by Jake Weigl*



Anbinik (Allosyncarpia rainforests)

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

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

Anbinik was the dominant tree species of the Kuwarddewardde going back to the last Ice Age. As fire became more prevalent, the species declined. However Nawarddeken maintained small remnant patches for their microclimate and cool shade.

Since 2012 Warddeken rangers have been working with scientists and senior traditional owners to reinstate the tradition of protecting these valuable sites.

Anbinik trees are fire sensitive and slow growing, so entire stands can be destroyed if

affected by large, hot fires.

Anbinik growing in gorges are generally healthy and protected from fire. Isolated stands are incredibly vulnerable.

Over the last five years, Warddeken has implemented a management program to look after isolated, remnant patches of Anbinik forest diagnosed as at risk to fire. As a result we are seeing regeneration and slow expansion of the forests, with young trees from two metre saplings to seedlings.

In 2017, rangers protected 15 Anbinik forests through installation of mineral earth breaks and strategic back burning. All of the firebreaks were installed by hand, surrounding entire stands of rainforest.

These fire breaks are created in the early dry season. Once installed, they ensure that vulnerable Anbinik isolate rainforests are protected against wildfires in the late dry season.

Analysis completed during 2016/17 has shown that under this management there has been no significant reduction in the extent of these managed Anbinik isolates and that the impact of late dry season wildfire has been eliminated.

This innovative management regime is an example of how Warddeken rangers are interpreting the customary knowledge of elders in a contemporary land management context.



“Anbinik trees are fire sensitive and slow growing, so entire stands can be destroyed if affected by large, hot fires.”

An aerial image shows an isolate Anbinik rainforest with a mineral earth break installed around the entire perimeter. *Photo by Jake Weigl*

Kunmayali (Knowledge)

Bininj manbolh (bush walk)

The Kuwarddewardde is crisscrossed with walking routes that generations of Nawarddeken have traversed. Along these paths are dreaming sites, favourite fishing spots, hunting grounds, ritual increase sites, burials, birthplaces, campsites and rock art galleries, demonstrating tens of thousands of years occupation.

Warddeken's stone country bushwalking program has been running since the early days of the Manwurrk rangers. Bininj manbolh is a way to renew connections to country and visit remote areas of clan estates that are only accessible by foot. This year's walk went from Yidngarremarneng in the south of the IPA to Milerrelerre in the east.

During planning, rangers consulted extensively with Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek who in her youth walked and camped this track countless times with her late husband Bardayal and their extended family groups. Mary provided two place names, Lambalk Bihbim and Bardmi, and directions and landmarks to guide the rangers through country they had never seen before.

On the first day, rangers were excited to locate Lambalk Bihbim, an amazing rock art gallery. The dominant painting at Lambalk Bihbim is a spectacular image of a zoomorph with the body of a man and the face of a crocodile. A huge fire had been through the area and some of the paintings were smoke-damaged. Rangers have earmarked the site to revisit, document in detail and conserve.

The second campsite was Bardmi. Mary had said that when you can first see the paperbarks on the river, you know you're there. The last three days, the bininj manbolh followed more familiar tracks. White-throated grasswren surveys were undertaken at a couple of locations. No wrens were sighted, however rangers identified potential habitat.

Rangers also found warlang (ghost bat) habitat. Warlang are a culturally significant species imperilled in other parts of the NT. Later, at the culture camp, rangers saw warlang and found the remains of one.

Each year, the bushwalk creates an enormous sense of pride and accomplishment at having moved through country in the way old people did. Rangers are already planning the next year's event.

TOP: Bushwalkers traversing country.
BOTTOM LEFT: Terrah Guymala surveys the bush walk route from the top of the escarpment.
BOTTOM RIGHT: This spectacular zoomorph 'crocodile man' was rediscovered at Lambalk Bihbim during this year's Bininj manbolh.
Photos by Rowand Taylor





Milerrelerre Cultural Camp

From 24-30 July, 48 rangers and families came together for a culture camp on Djordi Clan estate in the east of the IPA. Culture camps represent an opportunity for family groups and clans to come together to harvest and hunt bush food, dance, and share stories and knowledge the way old people did. This year's camp included a number of young Djordi traditional owners and djungkay who were visiting their country for the first time.

This year, elders and rangers decided to place particular emphasis on cultural teachings related to freshwater places. This included: harvesting and preparing karrbarda (long) and manyawok (cheeky) yams, favoured bush foods that grow in riparian zones; setting traditional woven fish traps in small streams; and identifying and learning the Kunwinjku names for freshwater species.

The highlight of the camp was a major fishing event at Ngalalek Mankabo (a stretch of the Mann River) that involved every man, woman and child. Customarily, clans of the region came together at this time of year to poison barramundi stranded in isolated pools along the river.

First, rangers worked with young people to collect large quantities of various mawurrumbulk (plants used as ichtycide to poison fish). Then everyone walked to a large, still pool on a rocky stretch of the river and pounded bunches of leaves and bark with rocks and sticks, leeching the poison into the water. Poisonous branches were also thrown into the water. The work was labour intensive, taking over three hours. There was great excitement when three barramundi floated to the surface, the largest speared by nine-year old Derek Guymala.

On the final evening of the camp a large kunborrk (traditional dance) was held. In preparation, rangers travelled to Boliblib to collect karlba (yellow ochre)

TOP LEFT & RIGHT: Collecting mawurrumbulk (fish poison).

“This year, elders and rangers decided to place particular emphasis on cultural teachings related to freshwater places.”

Berribob Watson pounds the water with the poisonous branches. Photos by Rowand Taylor.



and Dilebang to collect delek (white ochre). Daluk rangers had prepared bokngarru (grass skirts) throughout the year. After painting up in ochre and donning grass skirts, senior rangers taught younger generations the dances and song cycles of the Kuwarddewardde, including dances for mankung (native honey), djukerre (female black wallaroo), karrbarda (long yam) and mandjandemed (Gilbert's dragon).

Kunabibi Ceremony

Kunabibi is a sacred ritual initiation ceremony. In 2016, for the first time in twenty years, the Bordooh clan hosted kunabibi at a ceremony ground near the Manmoyi ranger base.

Warddeken rangers set up kundalwanino, the public camp that acts as a base for the women and children. Some men and youths participating in the rituals move back and

forth between the secret men's camp and the public camp.

Rangers cleared the campsite, built traditional dwellings, pumped water to the camp, built bathroom facilities and regularly provided meat to over 200 people. Additionally, rangers hunted and butchered buffalo and wild cattle for kodjrung, the ceremonial feast held on the last day of ceremony.

BOTTOM LEFT: Deborah Nabarlambari wove this fish net to use at the camp.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Jamie Billis teaches young boys how to perform kunborrk (traditional dance).
Photos by Rowand Taylor





Bordomo Ritual

Bordomo is an increase ritual performed to ensure plentiful mankung (sugarbag or native honey) and to protect the honey hives from hot and destructive late dry season wildfires. It is described as a ritualistic game in which men, women and children participate. Until this year, bordomo had not been performed in the stone country for 20 years.

Over one week in June, Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek, Daluk Rangers and Nawarddeken Academy students worked together to prepare for the

ritual, with Mary overseeing the production of headdresses made from paperbark.

A large fire was prepared in the middle of Kabulwarnamyo community around which the ritual would be held. When darkness fell, the fire was lit.

Dean Yibarbuk followed Mary's directions and played the role of the 'bordomo man'. Painted in white ochre and wearing a headdress, he emerged from the darkness and snatched up the children one by one. With shrieks of laughter the children continued chanting and circling

the fire. When one child was left and the flames had died down, the ritual was complete.

The community feels uplifted and proud at having brought bordomo back from the brink of extinction. Bordomo will now be an annual ritual at Kabulwarnamyo.

TOP LEFT: Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek shows Lorraine Namarnyilk how to make a bordomo headdress.

TOP RIGHT: Lorina Maralngurra fits her younger brother Tyson with a bordomo headdress during a Nawarddeken Academy cultural learning activity.



“Until this year, bordomo had not been performed in the stone country for 20 years.”

Children hold hands and circle the fire, chanting the bordomo song. *Photo by Steven Bird*

Bininj Kunwok (Language)

There are six languages that make up the Bininj Kunwok language group. If these languages are lost then ceremonies will not be carried out and we will not know the stories, songs and places of the Kuwarddewardde.

Kundedjnjenghmi is the original language of the Kuwarddewardde, however most younger Nawarddeken are not fluent speakers. Today, Kunwinjku is the dominant language spoken across West Arnhem Land. There are around 1200 speakers of Kunwinjku who mostly live in Gunbalanya. Kunwinjku is one of only fifteen Australian Indigenous languages still being learnt by children as their first language.

An objective of our Plan of Management is that Bininj knowledge and languages will

be transferred, stored and used. Elders and older rangers are keen to see greater emphasis placed on our first language, Kundedjnjenghmi. With the arrival of linguist Steven Bird at Kabulwarnamyo, there has been exciting work in this space.

Over the years, Warddeken has recorded large volumes of video and audio media in Kundedjnjenghmi. Steven is working with rangers to transcribe and translate

these materials to make them more accessible, and build local capacity for language work through training in literacy and technology.

The result will be a collection of oral literature resources to support future research and language learning, and bilingual knowledge workers who will be highly employable in any industry in the region.

RIGHT: Professors Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek and Josie Maralingurra lead a workshop on the language of kunwarddebim (rock art).



Daluk Rangers (Women)

During consultations for the 2016-2020 IPA Plan of Management, many Warddeken landowners expressed a strong desire to see Warddeken improve daluk engagement and provide increased opportunities for women in IPA work programs. At this time, women comprised 40 per cent of Warddeken’s workforce, however worked only 18 per cent of all hours.

In response to landowner aspirations, Warddeken employed a daluk coordinator with funding secured by Karrkad Kanjdji Trust, and in July 2016, the Daluk Engagement Project commenced. We had high expectations of what the project would achieve, and the impact has been extraordinary. In the first year, we went from 18% to 38% daluk engagement in the workforce.

The program is not about having women-only projects, but providing a welcoming, appropriate workplace for daluk, with teams built around strong female role models and leaders within the organisation.

Over the last 12 months, Daluk Rangers have been involved in:

- Training and capacity building;
- Biodiversity survey; and monitoring
- Cultural heritage management; and
- Working with wurdurd (children).

Daluk Rangers have taken the lead in documenting and conserving cultural heritage sites within the Warddeken IPA, in particular rock art sites. Over the last year women have been visiting rock art sites and galleries to build skills in identification and photography

of rock art, site survey methodology and undertaking basic conservation measures. Under the leadership of ecologist Alys Stevens, they have also honed a range of skills relating to biodiversity survey work.

An important aspect of the work program has involved Daluk Rangers working closely with students from Kabulwarnamyo’s Nawarddeken Academy and the Manmoyi Homeland Learning Centre on a regular basis. In this way rangers are mentoring the next generation of daluk landowners and providing strong female leadership and role models within the community.

TOP: Daluk Rangers at work. Milly Naborlborhl, Amelia Gumurdul, Karen Watson, Asheena Guymala, Marlene Cameron, and Lorraine Namarnyilk. *Photo by David Hancock*
BOTTOM LEFT: Sarah Billis records a rock art site on her country. *Photo by Rowand Taylor*
BOTTOM RIGHT: Elizabeth Nabarlambarl and Asheena Guymala set a camera trap. *Photo by David Hancock*



With the help of Warddeken, we have worked with some very committed daluk to develop an Early Learning (EL) program for 0–4-year-olds.

The Nawarddeken Academy balabbala classroom – a unique two-way learning environment. *Photo by Steven Bird*





Nawarddeken Academy

In its second year, the Nawarddeken Academy is well-established as an enriching, functional, and nurturing environment for learning. Our students are multilingual, speaking Kunwinjku (language spoken by most Nawarddeken) as well as English. Developing a bilingual program is not only a priority for the Academy but a holistic way of learning and operating the school.

We began as a one-teacher school with eight students and a maximum capacity of 12 students. Today, we have an Executive Officer, two permanent teachers, three casual Indigenous teaching assistants and 19 students (15 primary and 4 early childhood).

We have capacity for 30 students (20 primary and 10 early childhood) and cater for the individual learning needs of a mixed age, English as a Second Language (ESL) classroom. This year has been focussed on the development of a sound curriculum for the Academy that targets and recognises that the complex needs of our students.

Our multi age classroom (Transition to Year 7) requires a multi age curriculum. This is achieved through team teaching or pairing students, older students teaching younger students, and planning for four differentiated groups within the classroom.

The curriculum is designed for ESL students based on the Aboriginal Literacy Strategy, which specifically caters for the needs of students in our context. Formal implementation of the NT Indigenous Language and Culture (ILC) curriculum framework is a priority. The ILC curriculum continues to be developed in consultation with elders and the Warddeken rangers to ensure that learning is strong in both cultures.

The development of Kunwinjku language resources also support the delivery of the curriculum.

With the help of Warddeken, we have worked with some very committed daluk to develop an Early Learning (EL) program for 0-4 year olds. The EL program began operating in November 2016 out of the Warddeken ranger training balabbala. We anticipate that a purpose-built EL balabbala will be constructed by late 2017.

The EL program is based on the Families as First Teachers (FaFT) model used in the Gunbalanya Child and Family Centre. This approach has been identified as one of the most effective



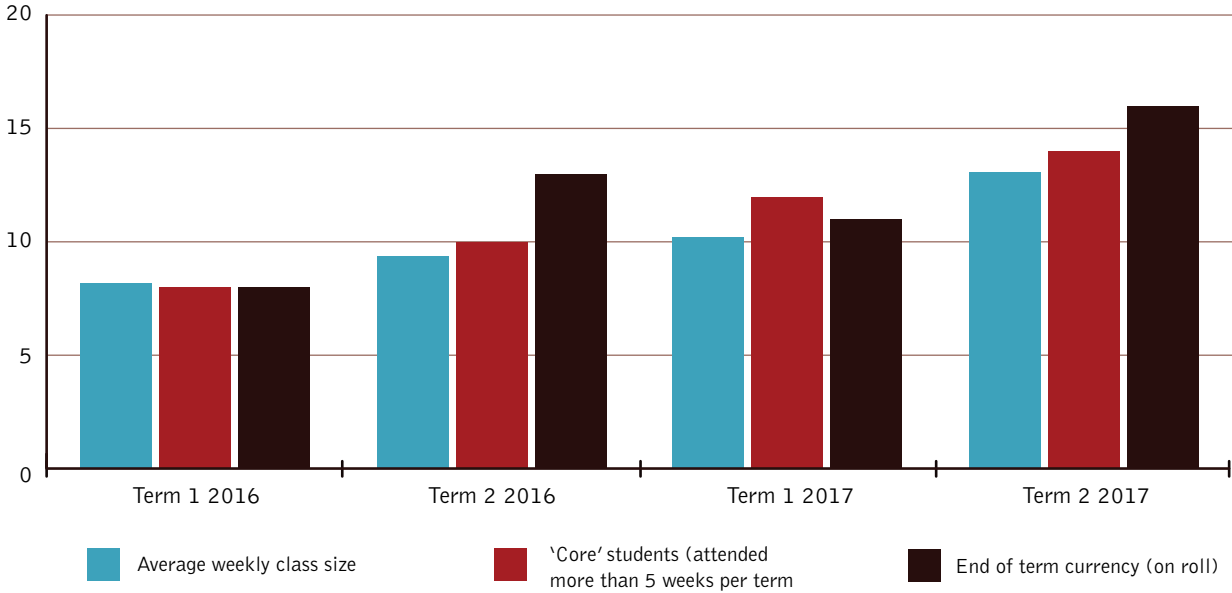
evidence-based approaches to early learning for disadvantaged children and children living in a remote context. Our EL daluk has participated in professional learning with an early childhood specialist in Kabulwarnamyo, and more training will be provided.

2016-17 Highlights

- Working with the whole community to prepare for and perform the Bordomo ritual.
- The Daluk Ranger Program has been providing opportunities for older students to go on bush trips and develop the literacy and numeracy skills related to biodiversity monitoring and rock art management.
- Community members and the Academy have been working closely with linguist Steven Bird to develop bilingual resources for the school.
- An interactive white board has been installed at the Academy. Staff are now able to use a variety of interactive educational applications to aid in teaching and learning activities.
- The Advisory Committee to the Nawarddeken Academy (ACNA) has been formed as a body to ensure local community members and parents of children attending the school have a voice in the operations of the school.

To date, Nawarddeken Academy has been entirely privately funded through the generous support of Warddeken and the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust. We recently renewed our MOU with Gunbalanya School and will continue to work closely with them. The process of independent school registration is well under way, and we hope to be in receipt of Federal and Territory Government funding in 2018.

Attendance Data 2016 & 2017



(OPP. PAGE) TOP LEFT: Early learner Shari Maralngurra. Photo by David Hancock
(OPP. PAGE) TOP RIGHT: Maureen Namarnyilk enjoying a swim at Aldadubbe. Photo by David Hancock
BOTTOM: Alyssa Djogiba, Mitchell Ngaboy and Agnes Gumurdul with bilingual learning resources. Photo by Steven Bird



Mayh (Animals)

Recovery and Monitoring Project

Stone country mayh (animals) are a key asset identified in our Plan of Management. The West Arnhem Plateau is the most species rich ecosystem in the Northern Territory and right now there is an extinction event occurring across northern Australia.

The Mayh Recovery and Monitoring Project aims to monitor and restore native mammals populations of the Warddeken IPA. Through monitoring we can begin to tease out how big factors, such as feral animals, fire and weeds, are impacting on mayh, and establish the patterns that support a healthy ecosystem.

Large late season wildfire has a devastating effect on mayh. While early dry season burning has significantly reduced the frequency of large late wildfires,

we need to look more closely at what cool fire conditions, what type of patchiness and frequency, are most suitable.

Mayh are also impacted by habitat change caused by feral animals. Buffalo and pigs pollute freshwater places, destroy soil structure, change grass loads and vector weeds. Pigs compete with people and native animals for bush tucker. The spread of weeds also changes fire patterns.

Feral cats are another problem. Cats target land cleared by fire because hunting is much easier. Big hot fires can kill small mammals, and cats will kill whatever is left alive. Cats also spread toxoplasmosis, and the effect on native mammals is unknown.

We've found town/black rat (*Rattus rattus*) in the bush. In other parts of the world, black rats carry disease to native mayh and while preliminary

investigations in the NT have not revealed a link, we will continue to monitor their impact.

Work program

By using cameras, we can speak with confidence about the biodiversity and impacts of land management on species of cultural or ecological concern. Our target native species are: bakkadjdi (black-footed tree rat), yok (northern brown bandicoot), djabbo (northern quoll), djebuyh (brushtail possum), barrk (black wallaroo) and dalkken (dingo). Introduced species are buffalo, pig, cat and black rat.

For the science to be strong, we need to monitor 120 sites. At each site, we place five cameras for five weeks, with 60 sites monitored per year. This means it will take two years to complete a full round and our baseline data will be completed in 2018.

Prior to commencing our fieldwork, landowner/djungkay

meetings were held to discuss the project. Sites were selected based on a combination of landowner direction, known or predicted species occurrence, and stratified random selection. Final approval was obtained by landowners and/or djungkay by helicopter.

During March to June 2017, 300 cameras were deployed at the first 60 sites across 12 clan estates. Working on their country, 47 landowners and djungkay completed 41 days of fieldwork.

The cameras took nearly half a million photographs (474,435) and the Daluk Rangers put in a colossal effort to analyse the photos in a custom-built database, identifying and labelling every photo of an animal in English and Kunwinjku.

Of approximately 33 native species known from the plateau, we have captured photos of 28 including all of our native target species. Importantly, we found two separate populations of djabbo (quoll) still living in the

IPA, which have not been seen since cane toads came through in 2003. This is the first ever formal recording of djabbo in the IPA.

Landowners are engaged from initial consultation and site selection, through deployment and retrieval of cameras, to the sorting and analysis of data. We hope in time the people involved in this work will take their passion and experience further and pursue formal qualifications.

BOTTOM LEFT: Bakkadji (black footed tree rat) was recorded for the first time in the Warddeken IPA.
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Finding djabbo (northern spotted quoll) for the first time in the IPA was a definite highlight of the biodiversity surveys.





“Our children know their home is here, inside the Warddeken IPA, this is Kuwarddewardde.”

Cannon Nabarlambarl and other young men prepare for kunborrk. Photo by Rowand Taylor.

Kunred (Communities)

Manmoyi

Manmoyi outstation was established during the 1970s homelands movement, when families moved back to their traditional lands with Government support. They have lived there ever since.

However, after the 2007 NT National Emergency Response (the Intervention), changing government policy slowly brought the homeland movement to its knees. Services ceased, food deliveries ended without warning, and power and water became intermittent. The restructured CDEP did not work for outstation communities. People at Manmoyi were confused and uncertain about the future.

In 2011, a group from Manmoyi approached Warddeken about setting up a ranger program there. Over the next 18 months,

we worked together to develop a management plan, and in 2013 the Manmoyi ranger base was established. This year the scale of operations meant we needed two new buildings, office and workshop, and a tractor permanently on site.

During the wet season, rangers worked alongside builder, Chris Bald to construct the new office, modelled on Mary's house at Kabulwarnamyo. The new building takes into account the cultural needs of daluk and bininj, with two distinct work areas, and doors in the sides and front of the building. This means that people can come and go, and work in the same building without being in the same space.

External contractors built the new 18m x 8m workshop and rangers poured the concrete floor. The new workshop provides

a safe place to work out of the sun, and storage space for equipment, including the tractor.

Food security is still a major issue. However, people have access to fresh food and vegetables via the Simplot Food Plane, a fortnightly food run organised by Warddeken and funded through the Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust. Anyone working for Warddeken can use their wages or Centrelink basics card to order food and Warddeken pays for the cost of freight.

There is a school at Manmoyi with a homeland teacher supported by a visiting teacher two days a week. When the kids finish school, they know they can stay in the bush and work for their Warddeken company. Our children know their home is here, inside the Warddeken IPA, this is Kuwarddewardde.

Kabulwarnamyo

With regular maintenance by rangers, Kabulwarnamyo's balabbala dwellings have held up well over the last 15 years. However, the raised decking was becoming difficult for our most senior Professor Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek.

Warddeken directors had long wanted to build a house for Mary and her late husband Bardayal. Unfortunately this was not possible before Bardayal's passing in 2009, as funding was never secured.

This year the construction of a house for Mary was made possible with money earned through the sale of fire-related carbon credits. This is only fitting given the key roles played by Mary and Bardayal in developing the fire project.

Engineer Hamish Banks worked with Mary and her

family to design a house that would suit the climate and unique living conditions of an outstation in the wet/dry tropics, incorporating elements such as an outdoor campfire kitchen. Hamish contributed his time and expertise pro bono and we are sincerely grateful for this.

Warddeken rangers worked with builder Chris Bald to construct the house, which is partially built from local rock and native cypress. Throughout the build, the entire community of Kabulwarnamyo was involved in one way or another, including picking the stone, helping with the concrete or staining the timberwork.

The house is situated next to Bardayal's grave, and when construction was complete it immediately became a gathering place for the community.

School balabbala

The growth of the Nawarddeken Academy over the last year necessitated an upgrade of the school balabbala. In late 2016, rangers completed an upgrade of the structure that doubled its size, creating a large undercover space adjacent to the decked classroom area. This shady area has been covered with white sand. As well as increasing the learning area, it is the perfect space for holding community meetings and bininj kunborrk (traditional dancing).

Rangers also completed a new balabbala dwelling for the Nawarddeken Academy Executive Officer, and upgraded the bathroom and laundry facilities across the Nawarddeken Academy precinct.

TOP: New home of Professor Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek
BOTTOM LEFT: Dick Djogiba unloads food from the fortnightly tucker run.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Mario Guymala, Rodney Naborlhborlh, Manoah Nawilil, Stuart Gumyala and Terrah Guymala mix concrete for the new Manmoyi office.



Kunwarddebim (Rock Art)

Kunwarddebim in the Warddeken IPA is integral to the cultural identity of Nawarddeken, embodying a rich library of Bininj knowledge spanning tens of thousands of years. Paintings contain stories that must be passed down to younger generations in Bininj Kunwok. The world heritage standard rock art of the IPA also has great national and international significance as the oldest form of human artistic expression.

It is conservatively estimated that over 30,000 distinct rock art sites exist within the Warddeken IPA. However, less than five per cent of these sites have been formally documented.

In 2016-17, five new rock art sites were recorded opportunistically during aerial prescribed burning, biodiversity surveys and bush walking. GPS coordinates and images were recorded and added to the database.

Rangers installed animal exclusion fences at Kamerrhdjabdi, Aldadubbe and Kundjorlomdjorlom on Mok estate. These fences will

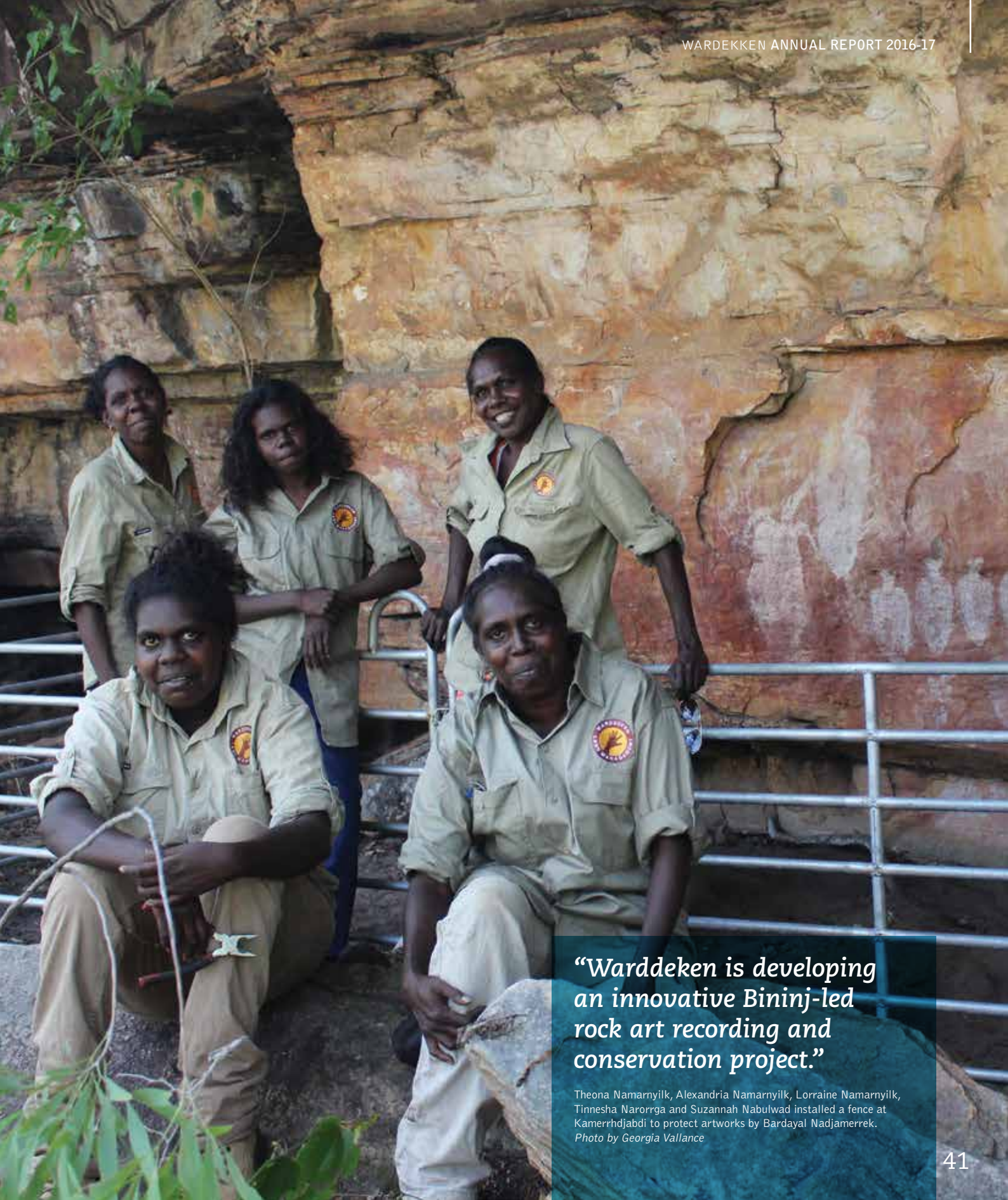
protect important paintings by Bardayal Nadjamerrek, which were being progressively damaged by pigs and wallabies rubbing against shelter walls.

Fuel reduction, vegetation removal and fine scale burning was undertaken at more than thirty art sites across the IPA. This work ensures that late season wildfires do not burn inside galleries or close to paintings, as smoke and heat can damage or destroy rock surfaces.

With the establishment of the Daluk Engagement Program, Warddeken is developing an innovative Bininj-led rock art recording and conservation

project. The project is currently in consultation and development phase, and Daluk Rangers are working collaboratively with landowners and elders to establish a culturally appropriate and robust framework.

In the coming year the project will move into its pilot phase, and rangers will field test a customised methodology of surveying and mapping Kunwarddebim. This exciting project will allow rangers to work alongside landowners to methodically record art sites on their clan estates, and direct a rigorous program of conservation and protection.



“Warddeken is developing an innovative Bininj-led rock art recording and conservation project.”

Theona Namarnyilk, Alexandria Namarnyilk, Lorraine Namarnyilk, Tinesha Narorrnga and Suzannah Nabalwad installed a fence at Kamerrhdjabdi to protect artworks by Bardayal Nadjamerrek.
Photo by Georgia Vallance

Work-ready Training

We have a strong program of on-the-job and formal training for bininj and daluk rangers. We have found that on-the-job training is the most effective method of developing skills and experience, and gaining confidence in the workplace, followed by more formal training off-site.

Bininj Rangers

With the acquisition of new plant machinery to improve access to the IPA and reduce damage to vehicles from bad road conditions, eight rangers obtained their Heavy Rigid Truck Licence and Transportation of Dangerous Goods Licence. Training has also included Remote Area First Aid, Learners Permits and Provisional driver licences, Operate Tractors, and Welding.

To date, three rangers have received 15 days on-the-job training conducting earthworks alongside a highly skilled operator. Ongoing informal plant operation and maintenance training will be provided.

Daluk Rangers

For many of the women involved, the new Daluk Ranger Program represents their first engagement with the workforce. To build confidence and capacity, Daluk Rangers have participated in an intensive work-ready training program.

To date, daluk have completed accredited courses and licencing, including Treat Weeds, Apply Chemicals Under Supervision, Occupational Health and Safety, Firearms A & B licences, Perform Complex 4x4 Operations, Recover 4WD Vehicles, Operate Tractors, Welding, Operate and Maintain Chainsaws, Learners Permits and Provisional driver licences.

As well as accredited training, Daluk Rangers have been engaged in on-the-job training in two key project areas: biodiversity monitoring and cultural site management. This includes setting up and deploying motion sensor camera traps, recording geo-referenced data, undertaking vegetation surveys, post-survey analysis of images, and mammal, bird and reptile species identification.

TOP: Maath Maralngurra during tractor training.
BOTTOM LEFT: Alys Stevens and Lorraine Namarnyilk engaged in on-the-job biodiversity monitoring training. *Photo by David Hancock*
RIGHT: Daluk rangers during chainsaw training.



Kukku (Freshwater places)

Nawarddeken are freshwater people. Many of our freshwater places are sacred sites, others are important sources of bush food, 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 our ranger stations and remote ranger bases.

During the Government's bovine tuberculosis eradication program in 1983-84, there was a heavy culling in lowland areas, driving buffalo and other feral animals into the escarpment. Before long the water of the Kuwarddewardde wasn't drinkable, and native plants and animals were threatened.

Feral animal culls

Aerial culls are an important part of our land management program. However, while buffalo are a threat to the health of the Kuwarddewardde, they are also a ready supply of fresh meat and important to our food security. One of our challenges is to reduce the threat of buffalo whilst maintaining it as a food source.

Each year, we consult with landowners to plan and gain permission for culling on their clan estates. Over the years, with reduced numbers of buffalo, pig and feral cattle, we have seen the country become healthier.

In October-November 2016, we conducted two weeklong aerial culls of feral animals. During these culls a total of 1,560 buffalo, 121 pigs and 31 cattle were destroyed. Warddeken rangers distributed meat to landowners at neighbouring outstations, including Mamadawerre, Manmoyi and traditional owners at Gunbalanya.

We butcher the meat for landowners, providing families with their preferred cuts of

meat, or an entire carcass – the choice is theirs. Whilst it is not possible to use all of the animals culled, in this way we aim to use as many as we can.

Our aim is not to remove all buffalo from the IPA, but to control them. Buffalo are an important resource for bininj but we need to balance this benefit against the damage that over-population can do to one of the world's most unique ecosystems.

TOP: Perched wetlands are particularly susceptible to damage by buffalo and pigs and rangers work to protect them through on ground and aerial culling programs. *Photo by Rowand Taylor*
BOTTOM LEFT: Manoah Nawilil cooks buffalo in a ground oven. Warddeken rangers provide fresh meat to outstation communities on a regular basis. *Photo by Rowand Taylor*
BOTTOM RIGHT: Lindsay Whitehurst loads bags of fresh meat from an aerial cull into eskies for delivery to landowners in other communities.



Weeds

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

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

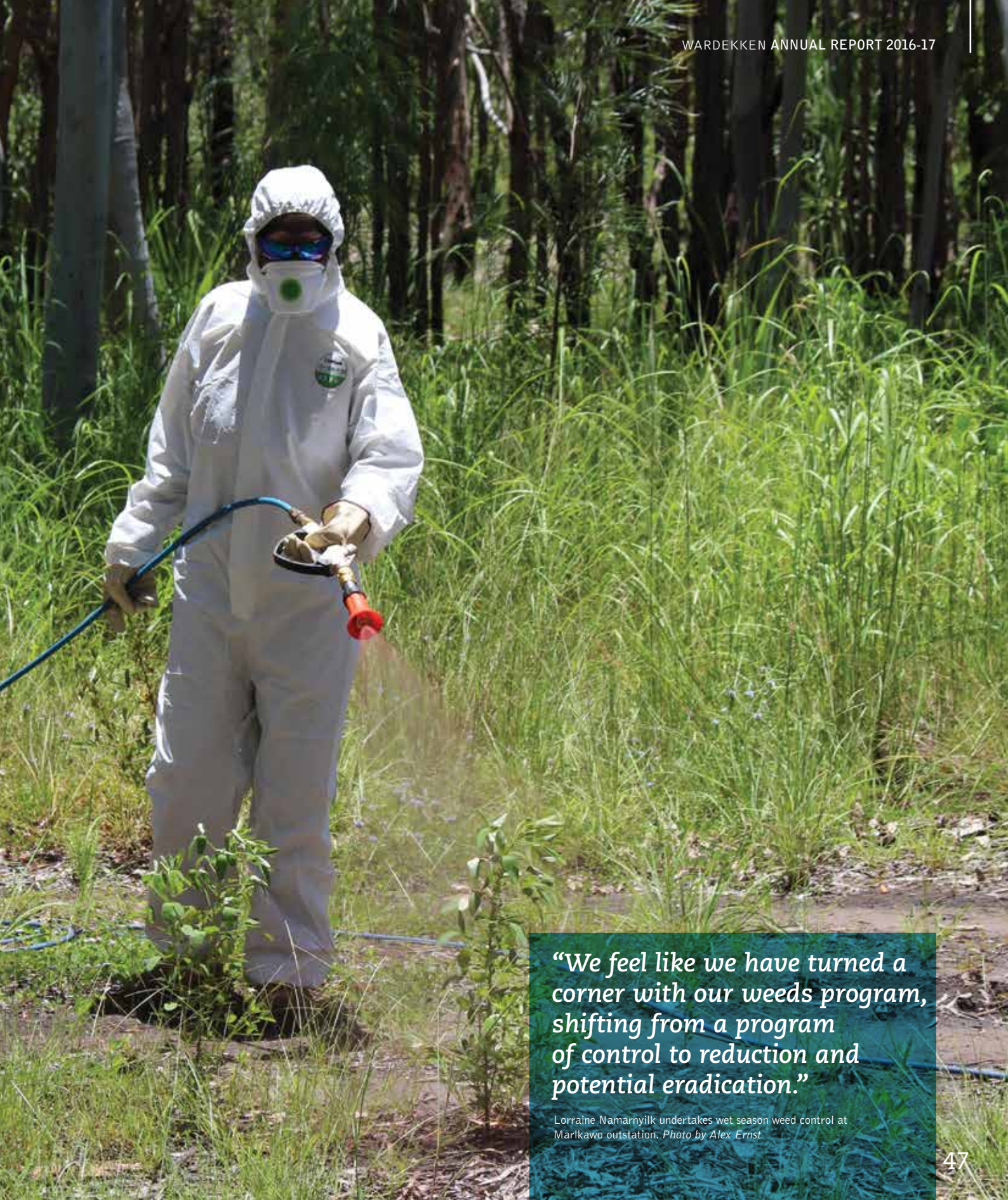
Our big push in the 2016-17 wet season was eradication (rather than containment) of weed infestations of mission grass and rattle pod along the

highway corridor in the north of the IPA. The whole community of Manmoyi was involved in this work, and we expect to see some really good results in the coming year. A team of 10 rangers also worked at Marlwon, Kumarrirrbang, Mamadawerre and Kudjekbin using residual herbicides previously trialled by Kakadu National Park.

This year, we also conducted more thorough weed mapping, using cyber tracker. Having the specific locations of weed infestations will help with monitoring and follow-up in the coming years.

Until now we have seen an increase in distribution, but this year we can see real progress. We feel like we have turned the corner with our weeds program, shifting from a program of control, to one of reduction and potential eradication.

Our aim now is to improve efficiency and expand operations. Our plan is to have more equipment based in the north and west of the IPA, which will allow us to better undertake control efforts and increase productivity.



“We feel like we have turned a corner with our weeds program, shifting from a program of control to reduction and potential eradication.”

Lorraine Namarnyilk undertakes wet season weed control at Marlkwawo outstation. Photo by Alex Ernst

Wildfire Suppression

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

Warddeken rangers are committed to protecting the Kuwarddewardde from devastating wildfires. We are specialists in fighting fires in the dissected sandstone escarpment environment, one of the most rugged terrains in Australia.

Our wildfire suppression strategy has been refined over the years,

and we now respond to most wildfires of concern within 24 hours. Rangers deploy at first light, while the temperature is cooler and winds haven't picked up. As most fires are fought in remote terrain, we drop in by helicopter. We work with natural features of the country such as rocky escarpments and rivers, and use dry firefighting

techniques; backpack leaf blowers, chainsaws and axes. In this way, we strategically clear wide mineral earth breaks around the flanks to pull up fire fronts, control and extinguish the fire.

The 2016 late season was a great success. Warddeken rangers attended and contained 15 wildfires within the IPA,





with a total 24 rangers, 1490.5 man hours and 111.8 chopper hours. We managed to respond early to all fires and get on top of them quickly. The causes of fire were lightning strikes, hunting fires or early burns that had crept a little too far.

The biggest fire was a complex of three fires at the top of the Katherine River in November, caused by lightning strikes. Warddeken Rangers joined Jawoyn Rangers in

a massive combined effort. Warddeken contributed 645.5 man hours, with 10 men covering the 20-kilometre flank on foot in one day.

For fire surveillance and planning, we use the Northern Australian Fire Information (NAFI) website that takes satellite data, such as hotspots and fire scars, and generates up-to-date fire mapping. It's a very useful tool. The IPA is too vast for smoke towers and

we can't take a helicopter out every time there's a lightning storm, but with NAFI we have timely, accurate information.

Firefighting in the Kuwarddewardde is gruelling and emotionally demanding work. It often requires teams to be away from their families for long periods of time. We would like to thank all Warddeken rangers who fought fires this year for their commitment and willingness to go the extra mile.

TOP LEFT: Lindsay Whitehurst works a fire line to install in a mineral earth break.
 (OPP. PAGE) BOTTOM LEFT: Zacharia Namarnyilk patrols an extinguished fire front.
 (OPP. PAGE) BOTTOM RIGHT: Darius Maralngurra uses a leaf blower to make a mineral earth break and halt the flames.
 Photos by David Hancock

Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust

2017 was a transformational year for the Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust, as it continued its transition to becoming a sustainable and meaningful support organisation for Arnhem Land's Indigenous land managers.

Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust (KKT) was established in 2009 for the purpose of protecting, restoring and enhancing the unique natural environment of West and Central Arnhem Land. Our view of this environmental mission is a holistic one; Bininj have been an integral part of this landscape for 50,000 years or more, they have managed and shaped it over this time, and theirs is the essential role in its healthy management moving forward. Traditional knowledge and modern science jointly inform the work, and notions of knowledge, culture and environment are intertwined.

Our role is to assist traditional owners by helping to develop compelling projects, providing philanthropic funding for those projects, and by acting

as a custodian of financial resources already held. KKT is the bridge between indigenous land managers and those in the broader Australian community with the capacity and desire to assist in this work.

In 2016-17, KKT made meaningful progress towards its objectives. Thanks to its dedicated supporters, KKT raised almost \$1.2m, up 42% from last year, for projects including the Nawarddeken Academy, Daluk Rangers, Recovery and Monitoring Project and the Simplot Food Plane. Operational expenses came in \$25,702 under budget, and KKT added meaningfully to its contingency fund, providing greater security for future operations.

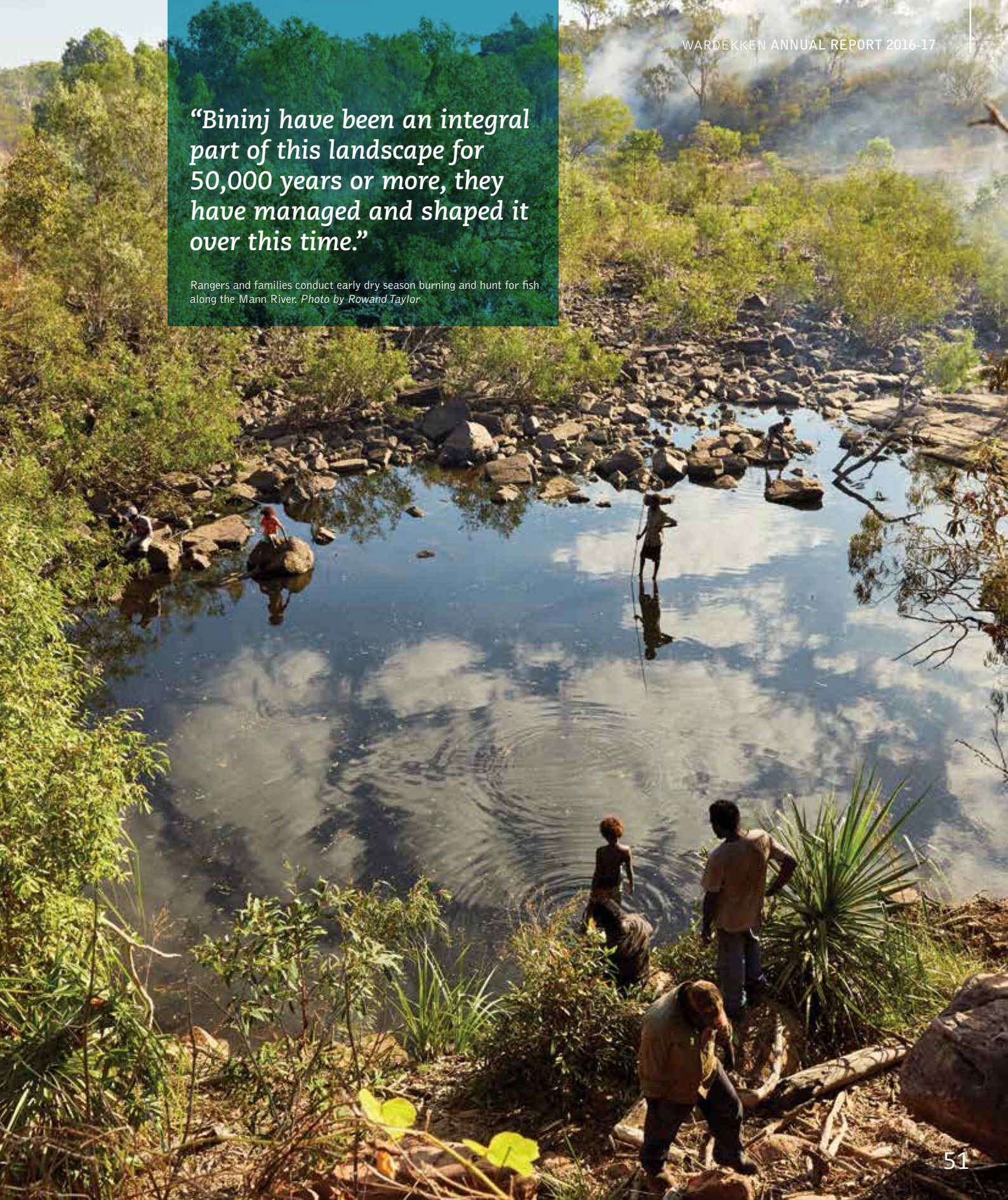
KKT would like to express its sincere gratitude to its highly dedicated group of supporters, all of whom play a vital role in funding and guiding this valuable work.

We are very fortunate to work with the outstanding Warddeken team. In particular, we would like to thank Dean Yibarbuk, Shaun Ansell and Georgia Vallance of Warddeken, and the remarkable communities across Warddeken for their partnership and support.



“Bininj have been an integral part of this landscape for 50,000 years or more, they have managed and shaped it over this time.”

Rangers and families conduct early dry season burning and hunt for fish along the Mann River. *Photo by Rowand Taylor*



Our people

Senior cultural advisors



Mary Kolkiwarra Nadjamerrek



Josie Maralngurra



Leanne Guymala



Lillian Guymala



Deborah Nabarlambarl



Wurdib Nabalwad



Berribob Watson

Our people

Management and staff



CEO
Shaun Ansell



FINANCIAL CONTROLLER
John O'Brien



OPERATIONS MANAGER
Jake Weigl



REMOTE RANGER COORDINATOR
Alex Debono



FIRE ECOLOGIST AND 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



SENIOR RANGER
Terrah Guymala



SENIOR RANGER
Freddy Nadjamerrek



BININJ RANGERS TEAM LEADER
Lindsay Whitehurst



SENIOR RANGER
Stuart Guymala



SENIOR RANGER
Keith Nadjamerrek



**NAWARDEKEN ACADEMY
EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
Olga Scholes



CLASSROOM TEACHER
Daniel Constantinou



ASSISTANT TEACHER
Danielle Ryan



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



**BUILDING & MAINTENANCE
OFFICER**
Chris Bald



MECHANICAL SERVICES OFFICER
Matthew McClaren

WARDDEKEN RANGERS

Christine Alangale, Benita Alengale, Darren Badari, Robert Balmana, Elizabeth Bangarr, Jamie Billis, Sarah Billis, Terrance Koimala Brown, Hagar Bulliwana, Kyrin Bulliwana, Jean Burrunali, Joylene Cameron, Marcus Cameron, Marlene Cameron, Martha Cameron, Arijay Camp, Zimeron Champion, Sharna Dakgalawuy, Antonia Djandjomerr, Jeshua Djandjomerr, Kamahl Djandjomerr, Dick Djogiba, Terrah Djogiba, Elkanah Dullman, Damiel Forrest, Christopher Galaminda, Kaywana Gamarrwu, Victor GarIngarr, Bernard Garnarradj, Carmen Garnarradj, Nigel Gellar, Tana Girrabul, Theophilus Gulamuwu, Amelia Gumurdul, Duncan Gumurdul, Alio Guymala, Anthea Guymala, Asheena Guymala, Casten Guymala, Delvina Guymala, Jenkin Guymala, Lester Guymala, Margaret Guymala, Mario Guymala, Ross Guymala, Stuart Guymala, Terrah Guymala, Zario Guymala, Fred Hunter, Desvina James, Deon Koimala, Jalisa Koimala,

Greg Lippo, Karl Makin, Helena Malanga, Kenneth Mangiru, Conrad Maralngurra, Darius Maralngurra, Lorina Maralngurra, Maath Maralngurra, Nick Maralngurra, Alton Marami, Maacka Marlibirr, Joyce Marwal, Edna Midjarda, Joelene Miller, Richard Miller, Mitchell Nabarlambarl, Ricky Nabarlambarl, Lazarus Nabobbob, Roxanne Naborlhborlh, Heather Naborlhborlh, Joel Naborlhborlh, Len Naborlhborlh, Lewis Naborlhborlh, Milly Naborlhborlh, Rodney Naborlhborlh, Winston Naborlhborlh, Adda Nabolwad, Lana Nabolwad, Lorna Nabolwad, Margaret Nabolwad, Rosemary Nabolwad, Suzannah Nabolwad, Tahnee Nabolwad, Velda Nabolwad, Donna Nadjamerrek, Drusilla Nadjamerrek, Enosh Nadjamerrek, Faith Nadjamerrek, Jai Nadjamerrek, Jenny Nadjamerrek, Lois Nadjamerrek, Ray Nadjamerrek, Rhonda Nadjamerrek, Clifton Nagurrurrba, Isaiah Nagurrurrba, Alfred Nalorlman, Janice Nalorlman,

Alexandria Namarnyilk, Emma Namarnyilk, Gavin Namarnyilk, Graham Namarnyilk, Josech Namarnyilk, Serina Namarnyilk, Theona Namarnyilk, Zacharia Namarnyilk, Charlton Namundja, Christella Namundja, Tinesha Narorrnga, Kormel Nawilil, Manoah Nawilil, Justin Nayilibidj, Nicodemus Nayilibidj, Zabalan Nayilibidj, Keenan Nayinggul, Ashon Ngaboy, Christopher Ngaboy, Zebedee Ngaboy, Carol Pamkal, Garrett Pamkal, Rona Pamkal, Gavin Phillips, Owen Phillips, Sylvia Ragurrrk, Johnny Reid, Rodney Sailor, Karen Watson, Bernadette Yibarbuk, Jamie Yibarbuk

OTHER VALUABLE HELP FROM:

Dr Murray Garde, Jonas Klein, David Bond, Tom Bates, Dr Steven Bird, Alex Ernst (Batman), Hamish Banks, Calvin Murakami, David Hancock, Rowand Taylor, Jabiru NLC, Ken and Jenny at Jabiru Foodland, Paul Josif, Claudia Cialone and Remy Lewis.

Thank you to Nigel Gellar

Warddeken honours and recognises our longest serving employee Nigel Gellar, who announced his retirement in late 2016. Nigel Gellar was Warddeken's Senior Ranger Coordinator for thirteen years and has been a leader in the Indigenous land management movement for more than 40 years.

Nigel is a Rembarrnga man from Central Arnhem Land, who in 2002 assisted his dear friend Bardayal Nadjamerrek to return to the West Arnhem Plateau and establish the Kabulwarnamyo ranger base. Nigel has worked to build Warddeken Land Management ever since and the company is stronger for his involvement.

Nigel's career began as a research assistant with CSIRO in the 1970s, looking at the impact of feral rats and buffalo damage to freshwater systems. He then worked as a ranger for Kakadu National Park on their early fire management projects, before

moving to Kabulwarnamyo to mentor the Warddeken Rangers.

Nigel brought a depth of knowledge, traditional and western, to his position as Senior Ranger Coordinator. He has played an enormously valuable role in the development of fire management programs.

Nigel's passion has always been "showing young fellas how to do the job properly" and he has been an exemplary mentor to dozens of young rangers. As all who have had the honour of working alongside him know, Nigel's style is to lead by example, never asking others to do more than he was willing to do himself.

Nigel represented our award-winning WALFA project at an International Wildfire conference in South Africa, shared fire management knowledge with village chiefs in Namibia, and has spoken at conferences across Australia about Indigenous land management.

Nigel has been an inspiration to all who have worked with him. His humility, strength, humour and overwhelming contribution to land and cultural management make him a true Australian legend.

Warddeken thanks this great man for all he has given the company.



“Nigel’s humility, strength, humour and overwhelming contribution to land and cultural management make him a true Australian legend.”

Funding Sources

Warddeken Land Management is funded by:



Australian Government
**Department of the
Prime Minister and Cabinet**



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

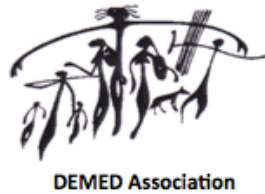


Australian Government



ALFA (NT) Limited
Arnhem Land Fire Abatement

Warddeken also acknowledges and thanks many other supporters and project partners including:



Warddeken Land Management Limited

ABN 12 128 878 142

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

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 2017.

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.

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 2017, 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 2017.

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 27th September 2017.

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
180 Greenhill Road
Parkside SA 5063

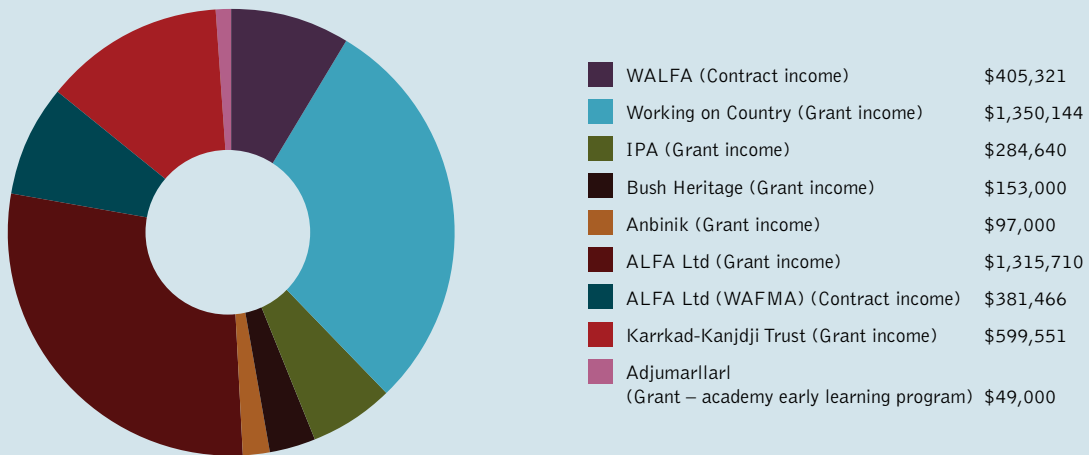
PETER J HILL
Director
Dated this 27th day of September 2017

INCOME STATEMENT	NOTE	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
Grant revenue		4,635,832	3,721,116
Other income		6,650	452,335
Employee benefits expense		(1,891,967)	(1,716,584)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments		(184,551)	(143,592)
Hire of plant and equipment		(514,479)	(419,192)
Repairs and maintenance		(224,328)	(193,854)
Other expenses		(891,197)	(1,022,453)
Profit before income tax		935,960	677,776
Income tax expense			
PROFIT AFTER TAX		935,960	677,776

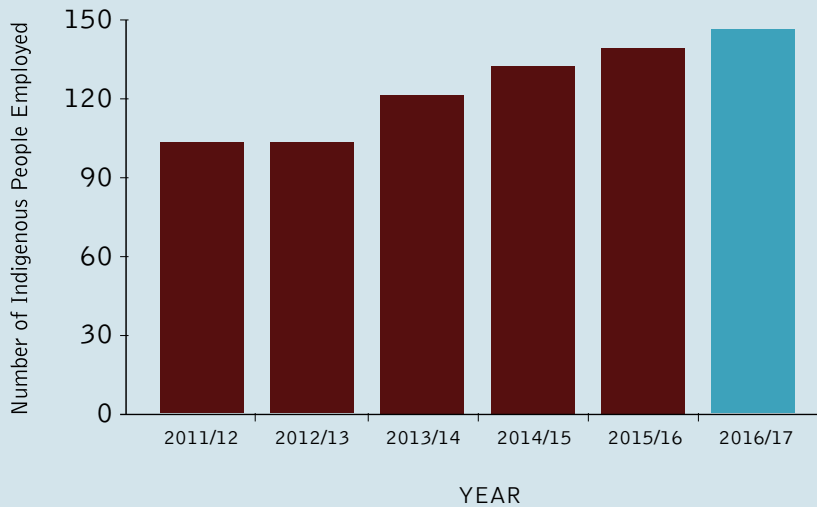
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	NOTE	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		1,135,762	1,981,587
Trade and other receivables		440,327	50,005
Total current assets		1,576,089	2,031,592
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment		1,243,522	960,566
Total non-current assets		1,243,522	960,566
TOTAL ASSETS		2,819,611	2,992,158
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables		454,782	287,792
Employee provisions		80,741	28,980
Total current liabilities		535,523	316,772
TOTAL LIABILITIES		535,523	316,772
NET ASSETS		2,284,088	2,675,386
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		2,284,088	2,675,386
TOTAL EQUITY		2,284,088	2,675,386

Warddeken Land Management

Income received by Warddeken



Number of Indigenous Rangers employed by Warddeken





“Kunwinjku is one of only fifteen Australian Indigenous languages still being learnt by children as their first language.”

Richard Nadjamerrek and Tyson Maralngurra. Photo by Kristy O'Brien



Berribob Watson on the Mann River during this year's bushwalk. *Photo by Rowand Taylor*

DEDICATION TO LOFTY

Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek, 1926 - 2009



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

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

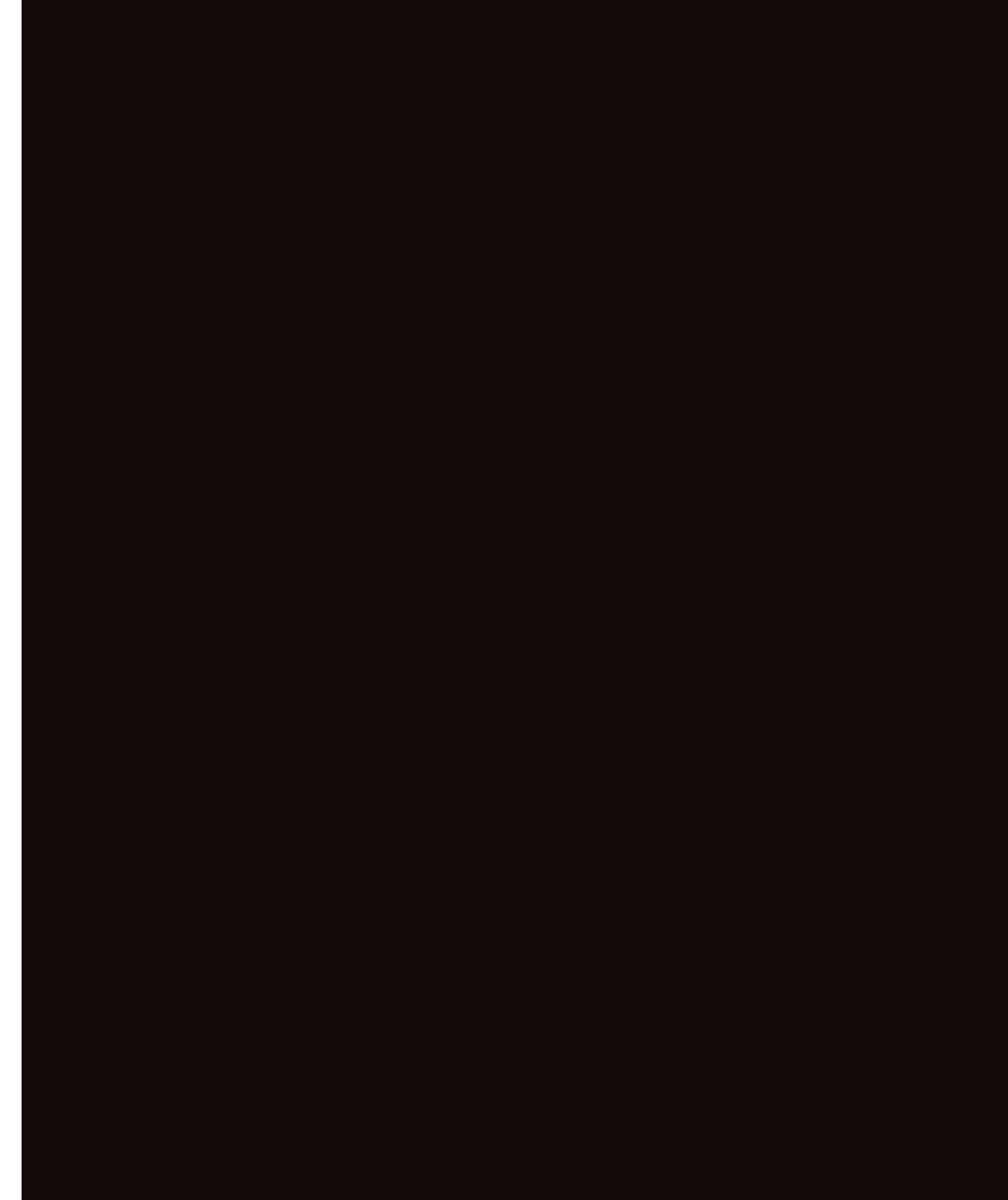
Munguyh-munguyh arri-djalbengkan ngudda.

We shall forever think about you.

Kun-malng ke ka-rrurndeng kore An-kung Djang, kore Djabidj Bakoluy, kore Kundjorlomdjorlom, Nabiwo Kadjangdi, Ankung Kangeyh, Kabulwarnamyo, kore "the dear one".

Your spirit will return to the Honey Dreaming sacred places, to Djabidj Bakoluy, to Kundjorlomdjorlom, Nabiwo Kadjangdi, to Ankung Kangeyh and Kabulwarnamyo, the place you referred to as "the dear one".

You Wamud will always be our "dear one".





Ngarridjarrkbolknahnan kunred

Looking after country together

Warddeken Land Management Limited
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Phone: 08 8979 0772 (Kabalwarnamyo)
Email: operations@warddeken.org.au