

Performance Story

The performance story shares changes to Wiluna Martu Country and community that have resulted from the Australian Government funding for the IPA. In 2015 Wiluna Martu Native Title holders documented what they want for their people and Country in an Indigenous Protected Area plan. The performance story is a way to document how effectively these goals are being met and to provide feedback to the Wiluna Martu Traditional Owners, Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation as well as partners and stakeholders.

Our vision for Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara is to make sure it remains a place where Martu law and culture is practiced and that country is made healthier. Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara will be managed through progressive partnerships between the Wiluna native title holders, the Government and the broader community. Healthy partnerships will help balance Martu and Western knowledge of land management, create economically and environmentally sustainable employment and contribute to the health and wellbeing of future Martu generations.

- Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara IPA Country Management plan 2015-2020



The land management program has changed and grown over the years.

Big things have been happening that will help create economically and environmentally sustainable employment and contribute to the health and wellbeing of future Martu generations.

There has been significant capacity building of the land management program. This is an important story to tell.

Formation of a Land Management Company – Mantjiljarra Yulparirra Pty Ltd

Regina Newland - Director

What do you think the opportunities and benefits are for Wiluna Martu TO's with having this new land management company?

Well, to continue to connect back to Country, care for our animals and plants and share this with our kids, so the next generation can carry it on. Also, to share two-way and learn from our elders, and also white fellas. The most important thing is learning from our elders. Doing all of these things (burning etc), the right way. This all builds up the confidence of young people at the end of the day. It gives them confidence to do what they want to do, like with the training and the road project happening at the moment, for example. And things like being a coordinator or another higher position, or just coordinating and working with each other better on trips.

What would you like the company to be doing say in two years' time? (What changes do you hope this brings?)

Instead of being run by DSS this land management company is being run by Martu people. Some of our mob will be in coordinating positions and other jobs.

I would like to see more activities happening on the East side of Birriliburu IPA. There has historically been a lot of focus of places like Katjarra. We want to do more on the east side, where a lot of us are from.

Stronger and Better Skilled Ranger Team

Training



DSS has a strong partnership with the Martu-ku Yiwarra Training Centre training facility in Wiluna. IPA Funding has been used to pay ranger wages and enrolment fees, helping people to complete their studies. Through this partnership and other training opportunities there have been significant outcomes in terms of skill development and training of the Rangers in the land management program.

Since 2017, 12 Rangers have completed Cert 1 Automotive, 6 Rangers have completed Cert II in Conservation and Land Management, 10 Rangers have completed Cert II in Rural Operations, 6 rangers have completed Cert III in Conservation and land management and 9 students are currently enrolled in Cert II Automotive. This training is supported by the NIAA IPA funding. 10 Rangers are currently being trained and are working on a high-profile road project, sealing sections of the Wiluna to Meekatharra road. 8 people (4 supported by DSS) are undertaking a Cert II in Automotive. We are seeing Martu people get local work as a direct result of the job ready training they are receiving in Wiluna. The casual Ranger pool is better skilled, and people are better placed to start taking on coordination and management of assets.

The training facility is run by Mac Jensen through the Department of Education. Mac seeks independent funding to carry out this pivotal program in Wiluna. Mac Jensen's way of working in with the Martu community is integral to the success of this program

Central regional TAFE partners with the training facility to provide the actual training.

CRTAFE interviewed some of the students/ Rangers as part of Reconciliation Week 2020. Their thoughts and aspirations about enrolling in training, what they want for the future and challenges and advice for others are captured in this short film.

https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=central%20regional%20tafe&epa=SEARCH_BOX

The success story of the Martu-ku Yiwarra Training Centre training facility for the Wiluna people is captured here in this ABC 7:30 report

<https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/community-turns-tafe-loss-into-an-opportunity/11568600?fbclid=IwAR0GNe7SiJqvC8HJvrgE7UvUs0Onmo6dcY5zr4SSiyI8T-D-DL65OSCxS7o>

We spoke to Mac Jensen about the benefits of the DSS and training centre partnership to the land management program and the changes that he has seen over time.

Mac Jensen – Manager of the Martu-ku Yiwarra Training Centre training facility

What do you think the benefits are of the training centre and DSS partnership for the land management program in Wiluna and the community?

Building capacity and developing capability. Capability is the individual skills that become the capacity. Building the capability of Rangers to increase the capacity of DSS. You are building cohesive teams, because they are training together and being challenged together, that builds cohesion. The problem, the IPA program doesn't have fixed teams, it only has casual Rangers. That's the big drawback for you and me and everyone else. That stifles our capacity to train rangers, because you might be training 10 rangers and only one at a time maybe will go on patrol. This challenges building team cohesion, people that train together.

Empowering, training is empowering other Martu to become Rangers. Never underestimate the power of empowerment. Same as when you train soldiers, you have only got to train a couple and then people see them training and that they are more confident and have skills developed and then everyone wants to be one. They associate that with a good well-being and pride.

We are co-located, DSS and the training centre is in the same town. That's huge. The fact that we are a km apart. Imagine getting training up here otherwise. We are also quality controlling it. Making sure we get good trainers that are good enough for the rangers.

It's easy for DSS. We do all the enrolment all the USI's all the admin. Normally TAFE would be saying DSS needs to do that, but we do all of that, so that makes it easier for the IPA program.

We also ensure the training is in context, so the training here is Martu specific. Guys/students like Nathan and Clinton and Stewy, we have always consulted them when we put the course together and we consult them before each unit's delivery to ask what context

do you want this delivered? Here is the unit we we've got to teach, what's the context? Do you want it to be a field trip? Do you want it to be about weeds? What's the context you guys want. We work backwards from that, so we are responsive. Training is responsive to Martu. We don't say to the Martu, turn up this is what is going to happen. They tell us, we facilitate that, you tell us how you want that taught, and we'll go away and talk to Kalgoorlie (CRTAFE) and organise that and write the training program around that context.

Because we are co-located it's become a genuine professional partnership. This is mutually beneficial. When we go out on a trip where there is training associated, the rangers are going out with DSS gear, which makes a huge difference to us, DSS facilitates a lot of our field trips. DSS brings cars, trailer DSS gear which enables us. We could never hold that sort of equipment, and you are training on your own equipment which is a good thing.

We should be pushing for more training \$\$ because it is so efficient, you should get more training money, because you could do more with it.

What changes have you seen over time in the Ranger program, through skilling and training up Rangers?

The individual capability because we sit down with you guys. You let us know what capability you need and then we develop it through training. So, after consultation with DSS the training centre is able to build individual capabilities of the Martu rangers and often in specific skill sets (weed people, fire people, remote ops etc).

Self-confidence. The capacity of Martu to lead. You and I have been working on that for a few years now. They (Martu) are slowly standing up to lead. They have the skill set to trust themselves and for TMPAC they are really doing that now. They have the confidence to do this.

What changes have you seen over time for the community, in terms of employment and other social issues?

When you develop ranger capability and then you build ranger capacity in a remote community, that's respected by the community, because the Rangers work is very important for social and cultural outcomes. Elders want to see engaged programs with rangers going out and doing the right thing, so we are bringing the community well-being. It increases. So, you get those social and cultural outcomes of well-trained rangers operating in a well-funded and well-coordinated ranger program doing on country work, and that comes back when they report back to the elders. That's good for the elders and the community wellbeing. More importantly Martu wellbeing.

I've been here since the ranger program started, we saw lots of gear lots of equipment going out and not a lot of training. Now things have changed the last few years we have seen the emphasis on training increase and that's been a lot of work for everyone, but the benefits are obvious. The vehicles are better maintained, there is more regular servicing, there is more awareness of inspections and that sort of stuff, look at in 3 years how much less work for example is going into those cars. That's one of the most important skills out here, looking after and driving a vehicle, or you won't do any work, because it's so far away.

And that's the value of training!

You've got a social benefit, a cultural benefit, professional benefit, individual capability benefit, organisational capacity benefit and improved health outcomes.

When you're well trained and you know how to do your job, it's a lot better for your head, then when you don't really know what's going on and people aren't supporting you.

Hosting the Southern Desert Ranger Forum



In 2019 the Birriliburu and Wiluna Martu Rangers hosted the Southern Desert Ranger Forum (SDRF). This was no easy and small accomplishment and was only possible due to the strength that the land management program now has. The SDRF brings ranger teams together to build relationships, share information, enhance skills, undertake formal training in land management and set priorities for regional collaboration. 12 ranger groups and over 100 rangers got together to connect with Country and share knowledge and skills. The Rangers left the Forum with improved skills in first aid (Wilderness First Aid Australia), automotive & 4WD driving (Central Regional TAFE), fire and weed management (10 Deserts Project) and two-way science with schools (CSIRO). Time was specifically dedicated to cultural exchange with many people re-connecting with Country and each other after a long time apart.

An incredible collaborative painting was created in the spare moments, with panels representing stories of where the SDRF19 groups had come from.

Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa
Ngaanyatjarra Land and Culture
Spinifex Rangers
Ngadju Rangers
Oak Valley Rangers
Alinytjara Wilurara
APY Lands - Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara
Malgana Land and Sea
Tjiwarl
Gingirana Rangers
Matuwa and Kurrara Kurarra Rangers
Birriliburu Rangers



A short film was made to showcase the outcomes from this huge event and interviews with some of the Rangers who organised the event. <https://youtu.be/2i3EyIjgtQc>

Two-way Science Program with Wiluna School

Teaching young people on Country is of great importance to Martu and the intergenerational transfer of knowledge is fundamental to maintaining a connection to Country. Martu elders and Rangers are incorporating two-way learning into the Wiluna School. The IPA Management team have been working with the school and the CSIRO's science pathways for Indigenous Communities project and this has helped establish the two-way science program the rangers now have with the school.

This partnership has become an example of what good two-way science projects and partnerships with the local school can look like. This has featured in CSIRO's suite of educational resources. Science Pathways for Indigenous Communities also worked with the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority ACARA to develop Two-way Science videos that describe culturally responsive learning programs at Wiluna and other schools. <https://www.csiro.au/en/Education/Programs/Indigenous-STEM/Programs/Science-Pathways/Resources>

The Rangers presented a workshop at the 2019 Indigenous desert Alliance Conference in Yulara, Northern Territory about the two-way science project with the Wiluna school to other interested ranger groups.



David Broun – Senior Coordinator, Science Pathways for Indigenous Communities, CSIRO Education and Outreach

What are some of the benefits of the two-way science program for students?

Two-way Science values the cultural knowledge of students and communities and fosters local Indigenous leadership of education. It helps students to be proud of who they are, their culture and language and this lays the platform for success in the classroom. Through Two-way Science partnerships between ranger programs and schools, students see their families as leaders, teachers and workers. This role-modelling leads to improved aspirations for employment, careers and preserving cultural heritage. Students are exposed to scientists, and to improved science learning at school, that contextualises the Australian curriculum and integrates with literacy, numeracy and other learning areas. These outcomes have been documented in the Science Pathways for Indigenous Communities peer-reviewed case study evaluation which will be released in August 2020.

What are some of the challenges implementing this program?

Teacher transience is a major challenge to implementing the program. Resilience and sustainability are improved when Indigenous ranger groups work in partnership with the school and lead scheduled education activities that help induct new staff into the program.

Do you think this is something that could/should be rolled out across Australia?

The partnership in Wiluna between Rangers, schools and the CSIRO Indigenous STEM Education program has contributed to the development and CSIRO publication of 'Two-way Science: an integrated learning program for Aboriginal desert schools. This documents example activities from Wiluna and other communities and outlines a process and model that is readily transferable to other communities.

<https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/7949/>

Do you have any advice for government in implementing the program in other areas?

Two-way Science requires dedicated time and FTE to work well. The federal government could work with the Science Pathways for Indigenous Communities program which is part of the CSIRO Indigenous STEM Education project, to fund an ongoing training and coordination program that builds capacity within schools and ranger groups across remote and regional Australia.

Susan Trigwell - Wiluna Remote Community School Principle

I believe that the programme has enabled the empowerment of the community members, elders and school AEIO's to further develop e confidence in their cultural, historical and geographical knowledge; and to finally have public acknowledgement of their amazing skills set. In Wiluna I have witnessed a blossoming of confidence in our school cultural leader and the community elders, as they now have the recognition that their shared knowledge is

powerful and ever so valuable to their community, the younger generation and to the wider community. The now recorded information, collected through CSIRO is forever going to be available to be shared, learned, reviewed and constantly adjusted.

The two-way science programme has given our community a voice; one that is being heard loud and clear across the nation, and one that is finally acknowledging the powerful knowledge held by the elders of our Aboriginal communities. This aboriginal knowledge of the land is now being used in conjunction with western science techniques to develop an eclectic and deeper understanding of the world in which our children live.

Two-way science program Matuwa

It is an aspiration of the MKK IPA management team that the IPA becomes a hub for best practise two-way science projects.

The MKK Ngaparrtji Ngaparrtji (Two-way) Science Plan 2018-2023 was developed as a starting point for developing sustainable activities that will empower Martu and provide them with genuine opportunities to lead.

Training and the Aboriginal Ranger projects held by TMPAC which partners with DBCA, has led to some exciting opportunities for the Rangers. They are now more actively involved in some of the work that DBCA undertakes on the IPA such as Fauna trapping in the fenced enclosure.

ABC 7:30 report came to visit Matuwa during one of these field trips last year:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-28/saving-tiny-marsupials-in-the-desert/11448058?fbclid=IwAR05WNeGJPf49kPk8Fr33wkAdkZQgO2QMce6cPWoSVeGnrohZlnXlaQfN08>

Cheryl Lohr - Research Scientist, Animal Science Program, Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions.

The Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions have collaborated with the MKK IPA management team during several types of conservation projects on Matuwa, including native fauna survey and handling, and feral predator surveys.

*The highlight of our collaborations with the MKK Rangers and IPA Program have been the MKK Rangers involvement in the threatened fauna trapping and monitoring. Four native fauna species were successfully reintroduced into a predator-free fenced area at Matuwa: mala (*Lagorchestes rufous*), boodies (*Bettongia leseuer*), golden bandicoots (*Isodon auratus*) and brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*). With the collaboration of the IPA management team we were able to run an introductory course to fauna handling for 11 Rangers. Eight Rangers then opted to participate in future fauna trapping and monitoring*

exercises. Ultimately, 6 of those Rangers successfully completed AHCPMG307 Apply animal trapping techniques.

Handling wild animals is a difficult skill to acquire. The Animal Welfare Act demands that people be appropriately trained prior to handling wildlife. The associated field work is then intensive, fast-paced, and typically occurs outside of normal working hours. Despite these difficulties, I have seen growing enthusiasm amongst the MKK Rangers to not only participate in conservation works, but a desire to take on more responsibility for work that occurs on their country. In the future, I would like to see continued development in the capacity of the MKK Rangers to lead field trips and participate in the administration of coordinating Ranger teams.