

Karajarri and Environs Kimberley secure funding from Google!

Malcolm Lindsay



Environs Kimberley, Karajarri Traditional Lands Association and Walker Services have developed a project, *Pirra pani pijarra: Desert eyes and ears*, to use cutting-edge technology to increase the quality and quantity of data helping Aboriginal rangers with their conservation land management.

The project will create a network of remote monitoring equipment (eg camera traps, sound recorders, weather stations) linked together with wifi. The increased data from this network will be transmitted to the Karajarri Ranger base through long-range wifi or satellite, allowing rangers to retrieve data regularly from remote sites. All this data will then be analysed by machine-learning software to generate insights that can inform the Rangers' management of country and culture.

Lastly, the images and sounds from remote sites will be projected into 360-degree-surround classrooms, allowing immersive cultural education for Karajarri kids and tourists.

We are delighted to say that the project received runner-up funding in the 2018 Australia Google.org Impact Challenge, a funding challenge from Google.org to support organisations creating a better future through technology.

The funding process was an adventure. After an application and interview, we made the shortlist of ten finalists. The next stage involved Mervyn Mularity (Karajarri), Wynston Shoveller (Karajarri), Toby Barton (Walker Services) and myself heading over to Google headquarters in Sydney to pitch our project in front of a panel of judges, an audience and media. And by 'pitch' I mean 90 seconds only! We did not win the challenge, but as a runner-up we still gain significant funding and ongoing support from Google. More information at impactchallenge.withgoogle.com/australia2018/charities

We are very excited to see how this project will develop and expand to help support the incredibly important work that Aboriginal Rangers do in protecting country and culture.



Toby, Mervyn, Wynston and Mal at Google H.Q in Sydney



Kate Golson

Report From The Chair

Hello all,

In my last report I wrote about the great success that container deposit schemes around the industrial world are having in curbing pollution, by providing incentives to people to recycle.

This year, WA and Queensland became the latest Australian states to ban single-use and degradable plastic bags, leaving the NSW and Victoria Governments the last with their heads in the sand.

The decision has certainly had a marked effect on my household, leading us to make more strenuous efforts to use less plastic in a multiplicity of ways.

Imagine, next, a ban on single-use plastic items like straws and disposable utensils – or at least, policies that would make them available only upon request, so that wastefulness would become an active choice rather than the status quo.

Another positive change that has occurred recently is the introduction by the two largest supermarket chains of recycling bins for soft plastics in many of their stores. This is a sign that corporations are taking note of consumers' views.

Some local jurisdictions in Australia are tackling the shortcomings of kerbside recycling efforts effectively. In 2010,

six neighbouring NSW councils set a target of 50% reduction of waste to landfill by 2020. In 2018, they've come close to meeting this goal. Community information and education to reduce waste and increase recycling has been a central contribution to the behaviour change that has occurred, and among the services introduced is a food-and-garden-organics bin service at no extra cost to the community (<https://blog.mraconsulting.com.au/2018/11/30/albury-city-council-and-halve-waste-win-outstanding-local-government-award/>).

Across the US and through Europe, decision-makers are encouraging manufacturers to design environmentally friendly products, by holding producers responsible for the costs of managing their products at end of life. This is known as Extended Producer Responsibility.

While examples of informed and effective governmental action to stop the pollution of our environment and our bodies are not as commonplace in Australia as they should be, some significant milestones have been reached in 2018.

As for EK activities in the last part of the year, in October at our AGM, we welcomed new Board members Richard Hosking, Bart Pigram and Rowena Puertollano, after thanking Jan Lewis and Alex Mountford for their valuable contributions over the past few years.

We also hailed our newest staff member, Phillip Walker, who is coordinating the Frack Free Kimberley campaign. Now we're set for the year ahead.

A happy festive season to you all.

Kate

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Acknowledgements

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Letters To The Editor

Environs Kimberley welcomes letters to the Editor. We accept comment and criticism, and print all letters that are not obscene, offensive or libellous. If you have a bone to pick, pick it with us.

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Director's Report

Martin Pritchard

McGowan government allows fracking in the Kimberley

On November 27th the Premier, Mark McGowan, announced that the moratorium on fracking in the Kimberley is being lifted. This will go down in history as the most retrograde decision in decades, made despite the objections of a large majority of the community, including Traditional Owners, WA Unions the State Executive of the Labor Party, and government MP's.

The Premier, with Bill Johnston, Minister for Mines, and Stephen Dawson Minister for the Environment, rammed through the decision. They said they had listened to the so-called 'science', completely ignoring the wishes of the electorate and the appalling record of the fracking industry in the Kimberley so far. Radioactive wastewater near Noonkanbah, two gas leaks at Yulleroo, wastewater ponds overflowing, dead animals in turkey nest dams, no inspections for seven years of the first well to be fracked, threats against a public officer by a Buru Energy employee — all of this was ignored.

The government spin-doctors tried to paint the decision as 'balanced', saying that 'only' 2% of the state would be open to fracking. This is nearly the size of Tasmania, and all existing exploration and production leases remain active.

Veto rights for traditional owners and owners of freehold land were a way for the McGowan government to avoid taking responsibility for the decision — leaving it to others who are vastly unequal in power to the fracking industry. It is not yet widely understood that these veto rights apply only to wells for production. Before production takes place, wells have to be tested, and test-fracking is not covered by veto rights.



This means that many wells could be test-fracked without consent from Traditional Owners or freehold farmers.

The inquiry failed to undertake a lifecycle analysis of greenhouse gas emissions, even though this was an election commitment of the Labor Party. No economic analysis was done to find out if and how fracking might benefit the state, and how many jobs it might bring. An analysis by independent economists, The Australia Institute, shows that fracking would bring very few jobs to WA. Most of them would be in Perth and on available figures would provide between 3 and 19 long-term jobs for Aboriginal people. Royalties to the state would be equivalent to the revenue from speeding fines. The Australia Institute planned to present its findings to the Labor MPs in parliament, but the presentation was cancelled by the Premier just as the team landed in Perth.

To justify fracking, the Premier said that WA will run out of domestic gas supplies early in the next decade. If this is the case, it reveals an appalling mismanagement of an industry that is exporting billions of dollars' worth of gas.

Fracking is now banned in the South West, Perth and Peel, and the Premier announced that the Dampier Peninsula would also be spared. No explanation of the 'science' of this decision was made. The Premier has failed to convince a majority of Kimberley residents that fracking is safe.

The Premier and his government have made one of the worst decisions for the environment of the Kimberley. The can redeem themselves only by reversing the decision — and that's what we will push them to do.

DO YOU WANT TO HELP US REVERSE THE DECISION TO ALLOW FRACKING IN THE KIMBERLEY?



We can do this, we can turn this decision around but it will take a huge community effort. We need support to do this and we need money to buy the basics like bumper stickers, yellow 'Frack Free Kimberley' triangles, advertising on social media and community engagement." Martin Pritchard, Director, Environs Kimberley

Please make a tax-deductible donation securely through our website environskimberley.org.au/donate or directly into our bank account. You can also ring the office on (08) 9192 1922 and make a credit card donation over the phone. THANK YOU!

More tips to improve the sustainability of our daily lives without too much effort.

ELECTRICITY

This article was prompted by politicians and others telling us how much money we can save on our electricity bills just by switching from one provider to another. We are urged to research the various providers and compare their charges. Who wants to spend precious time doing that sort of homework? An alternative is to bargain with one's existing provider for a better price. Whatever happened to the rrp? We have it on books, why not on utilities? We should know what the value of a product is, and the price should be the same for all customers, not the result of a game of chance.

What really gets me in the solar plexus is the amount of money we can supposedly save: figures in the range of \$500 and more. This makes me wonder how much the average household is spending on electricity, if \$500 can be saved by switching. The Internet tells me that the average bill for electricity in NSW and Victoria is \$1,500 to \$1,700 a year. Whatever are they doing with it?

Despite all the political rhetoric about the need to reduce the cost of power to the consumer, I never hear any suggestion that people could reduce their consumption. It seems that many of our households own multiple televisions and computers, two or more fridges and far more electronic gadgets than are good for us. Let's get rid of some of them.

Start with the clothes dryer. I was astonished to learn that some people own and use clothes-dryers even in the Kimberley. Folks, there's sun and wind out there, and they do a wonderful job of drying and sanitising clothing and bed linen at no charge. What's more, they are available almost every day of the year. Take the dryer to the tip or do something creative with its parts.

Then there's the second fridge. Surely most normal-sized families only need one of them? Beer needs its own fridge, you tell me. No wonder so many Australians are unfit, impotent and obese.

The air-conditioner. I hear that some people leave it on all the time, even when they go out. If you have good air flow in your house, air-conditioners are unnecessary for most of the year, and good overhead fans do a splendid job. The Eastgate Centre in Harare, Zimbabwe, is designed on the principle of a termite mound, using passive cooling via vents. It uses 10% of the energy of similar buildings. Your house could be like that rather than hermetically sealed. At the very least, turn off the aircon when you don't need it and when you go out. It doesn't take long to cool down a room when you get back.

I hate electronic lights, especially at night. In hotels, I sleep with the blanket over my head so that I can't see the smoke alarm staring at me. You can reduce the number of nocturnal lights and save electricity by turning off your gadgets at bedtime — including your NBN connection.



Ruminating with MAD COW



Some environmentalists believe that, to compete in the neo-capitalist 'market', features of the natural environment should be given a notional dollar value. They think that this will be more persuasive to our politicians than ecological arguments.

I think this is a dangerous idea. Firstly, since these features don't usually have a monetary value unless they can be exploited in some way, no one will take the notional value seriously — only real money talks. Even worse, where the proposed monetary value of a natural asset is less than the anticipated value of a development, then, by the same logic, the development wins — however precious the natural asset is in non-monetary terms.

Then there is the question of who sets the value, and how. We could draw up a list of the ways in which an asset contributes directly to the economy — the Great Barrier Reef as a nursery of fish for human consumption and a tourist Mecca, for instance — but that doesn't seem to weigh in the political mind against coal mines. There is more to this story than mere monetary value — there are political shenanigans at work too.

Not all natural assets make as clear a contribution to the money economy as the GBR. Bees do, in a very direct way, by pollinating our crops and producing honey, but the value of termites is less obvious. Indeed, most people would be surprised to learn that termites contribute anything at all to the economy; we are far more familiar with the economic damage some of their more recalcitrant members do. People in so-called developing countries are much wiser, much more familiar with nature's gifts. They know that termites bring moisture and minerals to the topsoil. Some folk eat termites or feed them to their poultry, some use their mineral-rich mounds as fertilizer; others grow melon vines over them.

The problem is not that nature isn't aligned with capitalism, but that amongst our power elite, ignorance prevails. Sometimes it's the plain ignorance of those who don't take an interest in natural processes or are too busy jostling for power or making money to read anything other than the financial news. Sometimes it's willful ignorance, as when politicians with a background in law or business studies reject the findings of 98% of climate scientists, claiming that they know better. Sometimes it's not ignorance at all — many people may well know that they are living in a fool's paradise, but so long as that paradise lasts, they are not going to concern themselves about any future but their own.

Nature has to stand or fall on its own merits, not on those of finance. It's our job to break through the ignorance of politicians and the populace at large. All power to those school students who went on strike for action on climate change. They are wiser than some Prime Ministers we know.

Flowers, fruits, seeds and seasons

Ayesha Moss



The build-up is here and it's hot and humid. This season is known as Laja in Yawuru and Karajarri and Lalin in Bardi and Nyulnyul. The combination of a few dry years followed by big rains in Broome has brought several plants into abundant fruiting and seeding. Sow local native seeds now, they just love

the warmer nights and higher humidity. Fresh seed is best (that which has been collected recently). These wonderful plants, found along the West Kimberley coast from Bardi to Karajarri country, have been showing off displays of flowers fruit and seed over the past few months:



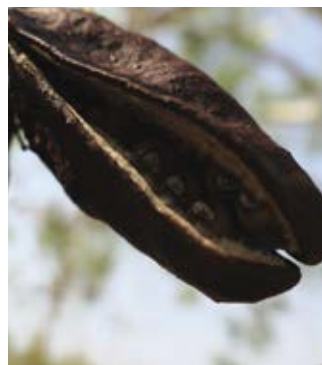
Irrgil (Bardi) (*Hakea arborescens*) and Badarrbadarr (Bardi) (*Mallotus nesophilus*)



Mangarr (Nyulnyul) (*Sersalisea sericea*) and Jirrib (Nyulnyul) (*Ficus aculeata*)



Kalalamburr (Yawuru) (*Tinospora smilacina*) and Minmin (Yawuru) (*Crotalaria cunninghamii*)



Tarlap (Karajarri) (*Brachychiton diversifolia*) and Jikali (Karajarri) (*Bauhinia cunninghamii*)

Kimberley
Community
Seedbank



We need your help

We need a hand to protect the Kimberley again this year — can you help?

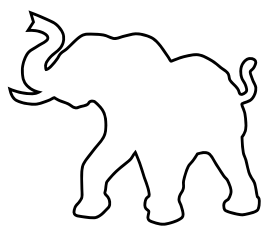
The EK market stall is starting up again at Easter and we are desperately looking for new volunteers!

Can you spare a couple of hours a month for a good cause? We need help on our stall at the Broome Courthouse Saturday markets, or driving the market trailer.

Volunteering on EK's stall is a great way to get to know what's happening in our region and help us inform the community. Anyone can help and training is provided. And it's fun.

If you can help out, please let Tess know: (08) 9192 1922 or admin@envirokimberley.org.au

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Coming together to protect the Night Parrot

Malcolm Lindsay



Until recently the Night Parrot was thought to be extinct in Australia, until a population was confirmed in Queensland five years ago, then another in the Murchinson, WA, and finally a third by the Paruku Rangers in the Great Sandy Desert through a collaborative project with WWF and Environs Kimberley. These

remain the only three confirmed populations in the world so far.

This led to quite the flurry of action to search and find more populations in the Kimberley and Great Sandy Desert. To make sure this is done in the right way, Environs Kimberley helped establish the Kimberley Night Parrot Working Group, along with the Paruku Rangers, WWF, KLC, Broome Bird Observatory, Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and five other ranger groups.

To help share Night Parrot knowledge between Traditional Owners and scientists, the Working Group recently ran a

successful Night Parrot Workshop out at Lake Paruku, hosted by the Paruku Rangers. The workshop was attended by nine Traditional Owner groups from the Great Sandy Desert (Nyangumarta, Karajarri, Nyikina Mangala, Ngurrara, Kija, Paruku, Nyurakayanta, Ngurrapa and Kiwirrkurra) with scientists and support organisations (KLC, WWF, EK, Broome Bird Observatory, Northern TAFE, DBCA and NESP Threatened Species Hub).

It was a fantastic couple of days, with participants sharing knowledge about Night Parrot science and culture, methods of finding and managing them, and the high importance of cultural knowledge and respect. Everyone was engaged and cheerful, despite the 46 degree temperatures, and workshop participants were given the absolute privilege by the Traditional Owners of visiting the Night Parrot site.

Rangers and scientists all left the workshop feeling informed, equipped and inspired to find more Night Parrots. As one scientist remarked, "No doubt more Night Parrots will be found in the Great Sandy Desert because of this workshop."

This event shows how sharing stories and knowledge in a way that gives equal weight to Aboriginal cultural knowledge, expertise and protocols, and western science, is critical to the conservation of many threatened species.

This workshop project was funded by Wettenhall Environment Trust, WWF-Australia, NESP Threatened Species Hub, KLC and the Paruku IPA.



Night Parrot Workshop at Paruku 2018 Group



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Kimberley Seed Packets

Ayesha Moss



Over the last year-and-a-half the Kimberley Community Seedbank (KCS) has been working with the Bardi Jawi Oorany, Nyul Nyul and Karajarri Rangers to develop products to promote and support the work they undertake protecting and managing country.

The Karajarri Rangers (together with KCS) have created native seed packets of two species, Lirringkin and Ngalingmarr. They have been chosen because they are culturally interesting, have sufficient seed reserves for sustainable harvest and are easy to collect.

Lirringkin, or Soap Wattle (*Acacia coleii*) is a fast growing Acacia that has nitrogen-fixing properties, a pretty yellow flower and silvery green leaves. The green pods can be moistened with water to create a soapy lather, hence the common name. The seeds, once cleaned and processed appropriately, are edible. They can be added to baked goods (such as bread and biscuits), sprinkled as a topping on salads or in cereals, and in ice creams and crackers. Nutritionally, wattle seeds are relatively high in protein, carbohydrates and fats. Traditionally, Aboriginal people would collect, roast and grind the seeds into a paste,

shape the paste into a cake or damper and cook it in the coals.

Ngalingmarr or Corkbark/ Dragon Tree (*Sesbania formosa*) is another fast growing legume. It can grow into a medium to tall tree (up to 15 metres) and has large, fragrant, attractive white flowers. The young leaves and flowers are edible either raw or cooked. These trees grow in swampy areas and stand out in sparse landscapes, indicating freshwater swamps and soaks.

The seed packets are intended for tourists and locals who are interested in growing native plants, learning about traditional knowledge and supporting the important work of the rangers. The Lirringkin seed packets can be purchased from the Environs Kimberley market stall for \$9 each. The seed packets are a trial product and, if they prove successful, more will be developed to take to the marketplace in 2019.



Water Corporation clearing Bilby habitat



Martin Pritchard

On December 4th we were contacted about a bulldozer clearing land off McGuigan Road (on the way to Coconut Wells). After some frantic phone calls we found that there was a proposal to clear land but no permit had been issued. Further inquiries revealed that the Water Corporation had contracted the McCorry-Brown bulldozer, using an exemption under the landclearing law that allows 10 hectares of clearing per year for firebreaks and other works. We were shocked to find that, despite knowing that Bilbies were in the area, the Water Corporation chose not to conduct any fauna studies.

We went out to the site and the bulldozer stopped work. After tense negotiation, the Water Corporation agreed to remove the bulldozer. The Department of Environment and Water Regulation is now conducting an investigation.

A government agency wilfully ignoring threatened species is evidence that WA's landclearing laws are failing. We are calling on the Minister for the Environment to remove exemptions for government agencies and departments so that they must at least conduct fauna and flora studies before putting in the bulldozer.



Landclearing of Bilby habitat in Broome by the Water Corporation

New Board Profiles

Rowena Puertollano

Rowena was born in Broome, one of seven siblings. Her family background is Idal-Buru from the Lake Edarr area, which comes under Yawuru Native Title, on her father's side, and Bardi/Jawi on her Mother's side.

Rowena holds a Diploma in Counselling and Psychotherapy and works at Nirrumbuk as the Senior Youth Worker.

She was active in the James Prices Point campaign and fought for the environment, country, culture and family, which mean the world to her.

Rowena has a real connection to her country and culture and is passionate about looking after Broome and the Kimberley environment, culture and wildlife, for her family and all future generations.

Stephen 'Bart' Pigram



Bart is an extremely active Yawuru community member of Broome, and over the past six years has taken part in a wide range of award-winning cultural and arts projects. Bart is a former employee of Nyamba Buru Yawuru and former Yawuru PBC Director. His experience and passion for the maintenance of culture on country by the community in an environmentally sustainable manner is central to his vision for the Kimberley. Bart also independently owns and operates his tourism business, Narlijia Cultural Tours, in Broome, and strongly encourages community members to pursue employment in industries that are culturally, environmentally and economically sustainable.

Richard Hosking



Richard comes from Perth and spent 30 years working in taxation in WA, a time he prefers to forget.

He is active in the economic evolution of 'bush-based' enterprises that give employment opportunities to local communities and preserve the country cared for by traditional owners for tens of thousands of years.

A keen environmentalist, Richard says:

Our evolution towards working with, rather than controlling, nature has begun, especially in the unpolluted land of the Kimberley. It's a place where organisms have adapted over millennia to produce abundant food and materials without pesticides, herbicides, trillions of litres of water, nor landscape-altering practices.

New Staff Member

Phillip Walker



Originally from Melbourne, Phillip spent thirty years working in international aid, primarily in Africa and the Pacific. He holds an MSSC in International Community Development. Phillip's involvement in social justice issues has included the Vietnam Moratorium, the Movement Against Uranium Mining, Aboriginal land rights and the union movement; he

has also been an active member of the Victorian Climate Emergency Network. Since arriving in Broome slightly over two years ago, Phillip has engaged with community sector organisations, volunteered on various initiatives, and been learning about this unique part of the world.

EK Annual Awards

Dirty Socks and Broken Thongs

As the year draws to a close, we are proud to announce the winners of our virtual awards for notable disservice to the environment over the past 12 months.

There is always great competition for these awards and they don't necessarily go to the very worst offenders; previous recipients, however deserving, are not usually nominated in successive years,

although there have been notable exceptions.

This year, the Dirty Sock Award goes to our Environment Minister, Melissa Price, for her memorable assessment of the report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Minister



Price, who is also the Durack representative in Federal Parliament, remarked: 'Coal does form a very important part of the Australian energy mix.' Yes, Melissa, we know that. That's what we are trying to change.

She added, 'We make no apology for the fact that our focus at the moment is getting electricity prices down.' That's what worries us, Melissa.

Ms Price knows better than the 91 scientists who contributed to the IPCC report.

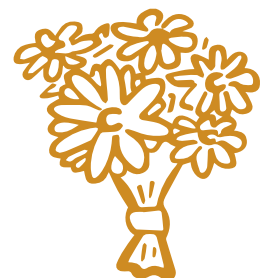
'To say that [coal] has got to be phased out by 2050 is drawing a very long bow.' To draw a long bow (or longbow) is to lie or exaggerate. Someone is drawing a long bow, but I doubt if it is the 91 scientists.

It is with a heavy heart that we award this year's Broken Thong to the recipient of one of last year's bouquets: our Premier, Mark McGowan, for his decision, in the teeth of public opposition, to open the Kimberley to fracking. Yes, there are conditions — it's not quite a free-for-all — but the decision shows that the Premier has less regard for Kimberley residents than he does for the people of Perth and the South West.

Bouquets

We present the first bouquet to our very own Martin Pritchard, on the tenth anniversary of his taking up the directorship of EK, in appreciation of his steadfast and highly effective leadership of our organization.

Our second bouquet goes to our good friend, photographer Damian Kelly, for his dedication to our cause and his self-effacing generosity.



Lights, Action, Seagrass!



Fiona West



In the inky pre-dawn, rugged up in jackets and beanies against the gusty August cold, some of the world's foremost experts on Roebuck Bay and its seagrass ecosystem stood atop a pindan cliff and gazed towards a spot in Roebuck Bay's intertidal zone – a spot called Black Ledge. They had a job to do, and there was no time to spare.

These brilliant minds included Nyamba Buru Yawuru country managers, Yawuru Rangers and the Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park coordinator, Environs Kimberley's marine ecologist and the lead scientist from global seagrass agency Seagrass Watch. In the dark, this high-calibre team climbed down the cliffs and strode out onto the mudflats.

They arrived just in time — just as delicate rays of sun peeked over the watery horizon, lighting up the emerald seagrass, and just as the tide hoisted itself backwards as far as it could, allowing the team the intertidal time and space to do something historic: to assess their location as a fourth monitoring site for the Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring Project. Fascinating discussions began, spanning marine park management inventories, reviews of cultural and scientific information on seagrass patterns, the need for sentinel sites and ground-truthing, logistics, access, tides, capacity and methodology parameters. And the outcome? I am thrilled to announce that Black Ledge got the unanimous tick of approval to become our fourth seagrass monitoring site.

This is huge. It's the first time a new site has been added to our project since its creation a decade ago. It means that our community's long-term data set — already one of the most valuable tools available to coastal managers to look after Roebuck Bay — is now so vital that it will be used to keep the new marine park healthy.

This exciting expedition attracted a film crew, who followed our experts out to Black Ledge, and with the big sky and glistening ocean floor as the backdrop, filmed the important on-country meeting. Director Gary Hamaguchi says the resulting documentary, focusing on Yawuru people and their work with seagrass, will be screened nationally next year.

The microphone boom-sticks and swanky cameras also followed our community volunteers and NBY country managers into the classroom during our popular training event. Seagrass Watch specialists flew into town to train dozens of keen locals in seagrass biology, taxonomy, identification, ecology, mapping, methodology and QA/QC. Volunteers were then assessed for competency during a three-day monitoring event. Someone must have tipped off the bay's turtles that there was a film crew around, because two spectacular green turtles appeared, to the delight of everyone.

Look what our Broome community and its partners have achieved: a successful training event, participation in an exciting documentary film, and a brand-new monitoring site, which will help us look after the marine park. I think you all deserve a big pat on the back! Thank you everyone for all your support over the years. I couldn't be prouder of our Broome community!



Demco volunteer team including Johani Mamid, NBY Country Manager Coordinator.



Sea snake eating fish in seagrass. Photo: Kevin Smith Photography

The Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring Project is funded by Coastwest, Parks and Wildlife Service — Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and Kimberley Ports Authority, jointly managed by Environs Kimberley and Parks and Wildlife Service — Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and supported by project partners Nyamba Buru Yawuru and Seagrass Watch.



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You folks, light your water, you'd better not drink it!
But that's unthinkable? Corporates can think it.

Gaaaaas giant, the planet grows hot
So why'ent you cool it? No conscience or what?

Who drills a farm kills a farm, forest, or mountain
Brings up a whole lot more than a fountain.

Toxicity, sure but there's oceans of profit
Don't come objecting, just get your arse off it.

Gaaaaas giant, earth kind of warm,
So why'ent you cool it? Stop fuelin' a storm.

How free wild and awesome the wide wilderness
A drilling rig paradise, hey? More or less,

Less of your scruples, more of God greed
What's with this multi-national creed?

Gaaaaas Giant, the planet grows hot
Be compliant or go down, no conscience or what?

There's lawyers that surely can manipulate,
Corruption? Well, no but just what is the rate?

Check out the balance sheet, what are the features?
No love of country there, no living creatures.

Gaaaaas giant, earth kind of warm,
So why'ent you cool it? Stop fuelin' a storm.

Gaaaaas giant, the planet grows hot
So why'ent you cool it? No conscience or what?

Leonard Bibby

joomalid@comswest.net.au

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'Painted Country' – A Fundraising Auction of Kimberley Aboriginal Art

Tessa Mossop

Inspired by the annual EK Art Auction here in Broome, Environs Kimberley recently held a fundraising auction at Gallows Gallery, in Mosman Park, Perth.

The one-night event brought together a stunning range of contemporary Aboriginal art from across the Kimberley, and provided a rare chance for art buffs in Perth to experience the diversity and quality of Kimberley Aboriginal art.

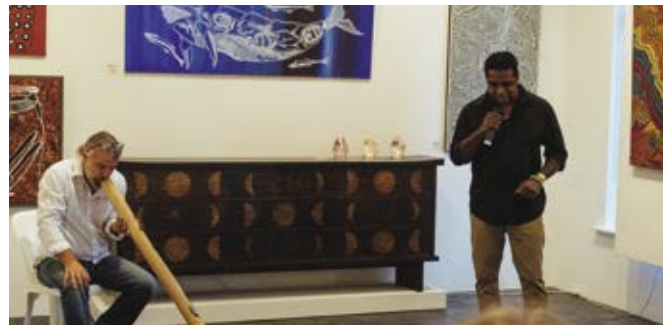
Special guest Clifton Jungurrayi Bieundurry, a Walmajarri artist and musician from the central Kimberley, gave a short speech and spine-tingling performance to open the show.

The auctioned works featured the coasts, savannah woodlands, ranges, rivers and deserts, painted by artists who know the country best. They included pieces by Eubena Nampitjin, Helicopter Tjungurrayi, Nora Wompi, Mable Juli, Donny Woolagoodja, Lucy Loomoo and many more.

EK has been working with Aboriginal people to promote and conserve the natural and cultural values of the remote Kimberley region for over 20 years and we are excited to be able to continue this collaboration through this special occasion.

All funds raised go to support the artists and the work of EK.

We would like to send a huge thank-you to everyone who made this event possible, including our indefatigable auctioneer Chris Maher, who made a special trip from Broome to bring along his expert auctioneering skills; to Marilyn Tabatznik for curating such an impressive show; to all the volunteers who helped out on the night; to all the artists and art centres for generously providing quality works; to Kathryn Stafford and Gallows Gallery for their hospitality; and to everyone who bought a piece of art and generously supported our work.




Opening performance by Clifton Jungurrayi Bieundurry and Paul Boon. Photo: Todd Delfs



The auction in action. Photo: Todd Delfs

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The EK gift fund is a public fund and is listed in the register of Environmental Organisations under item 6.1.1 subsection 30-35 (1) of the income Tax Assessment Act 1997.



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