



NCAC News October 2017

NGAANYATJARRA
COUNCIL (Aboriginal Corporation) ICN: 101



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: Debbie Watson

Hi, I am Debbie Watson, the Chairperson for Tjirrkarli Community and a Director of Ngaanyatjarra Council.

I am married with five children and four grandchildren. I live in Tjirrkarli and am pleased to be living there. Working with the Council and wishing to learn more about the Council, all

though all of my Uncles have passed away. I grew up here watching, how those that have passed away ran this little Community.

I am here to do my best and listen to the Council, doing the best for my people on the Lands.

I feel it is good to work with everyone on the Lands.



STAFF PROFILE: *François Mazieres*

My name is François Mazieres... I know, it is a bit hard to say so people call me Franco, Franck and sometimes they do get the right way!!! I have been the Warakurna Rangers coordinator for three years now. I am working in Warakurna with Mr Bennett, Devon Yates, Patrick Reid and now Cedric Laidlaw. I have been learning some bush ways with them and more tjilpis as we did a fair bit of work across the lands from Kulkurta to Rurrur and Mitjuna.

I come from France. My family is all there in the South of France, not too far from Spain. My parents used to speak the old farmer's language and I always heard different languages at home, more often when they were upset!! Sometimes I do get upset too, but "sorry for my



English" - even if I can speak 3 different languages!!

I used to live near the forest spending most of my time as a kid in the woods. I made my own didgeridoos using chestnut trees when I was 17 and a bad teenager... Music and the didgeridoo changed my life.

Later on, I worked in a lot of different countries as I wanted to travel to learn more about people and different ways of life. I used to do lot of different jobs, like Secondary teacher in France and Australia at Lombadina, North of Broome. Otherwise my main job is Archaeologist. I like looking at old sharp stones (jimari) and grinding stone (juwa) as well as all artefacts and rubbish that people used to drop behind them in the old times. As an archaeologist, I worked almost everywhere in WA from Manjimup to James Price Point and the Martujarra Country, six years ago. That was the first time I met a Ngaanyatjarra man from Punmu, Nieri Morgan.

After that my partner, the Warakurna Tjanpi lady, saw that Mr Knight and Bryony were looking for someone to work on the Lands, so we decided to move together in Warakurna after I got the job.

When I was teaching at Lombadina, the school supervisor used to make us do in advance a "10 lessons plan", after a while I understood that it was very very hard to follow a planning in the bush.

Now I became more flexible. My "ranger" work is more symptomatic of this strategy where you might have an idea of what you could achieve every day but you can only do what you can do with all the contextual drama, help and needs of people around you.

Normally, we do a lot of driving around, looking after threatened species across the Rawlinson ranges, even emus sometimes. We look after the bores around communities from Tjukurla, Wanarn and Warakurna. We clean and check the tracks like the Gunbarrel Highway and a lot of back tracks as well. We try to maintain as many rock holes as we can every year and do as much as burning as possible to make the country green and happy for kuka. We also do collaboration with tourist expeditions and sometimes consultation jobs with mining mobs coming over.

The jewel of this job, in my view, is to actually work with people like Mr Bennett who can work "2 ways" - in achieving what we can and want- with the right blokes and at the most appropriate moment. Sometimes things are pulling apart and you feel like you don't succeed much but the real deal is that we, as a group, remain together, supporting each other's in our own ways.

*Photos: George Serras,
National Museum of Australia*



LAND AND CULTURE: Tjitji Kutjara School Trip

by François Mazieres

After several months of discussion and preparation in between the Warakurna School, NPY Youth Program and the Warakurna ranger team, we all finally met up at Tjitjikutarra, NW of Warakurna on the North side of the Rawlinson Ranges.

The camping trip went on for only one night but it was an intense meeting with

constant work from the young Bush Ranger in the field as much as at the base camp near the Tjitjikutarra place.

This location was chosen by senior rangers Mr Bennett and Mr Newberry as a very good place to tell the Tjukurrpa of the two young men travelling near their Home town of Warakurna. "This tjukurrpa is now your tjukurrpa" as Mr

Newberry told the entire Bush Ranger group that morning.

All organisations participating are quite honoured by the dedication of the Bush rangers during this trip (field work, Base camp chat sessions and overall general behaviour). They are also pleased to let the words of the Bush rangers themselves touch you now:



Keenan Jackson, Year 7:

On Monday the high school boys went to Tjitikutarra for stories. We went walking and listened to stories. My favourite part was listening to stories because they were good stories. I learnt how to make a fire and look after country.”

Shawn Lewis, Year 10:

“On Monday the High School Boys went camping at Tjitikutarra. We went and visited Yirriya after. We went to circus water, which is a water hole and Mr. Newberry from Wanarn told us stories. At night time we watched a movie about the Weather Station and ate beef stir fry then went to sleep. At Yirriya we saw the water snake and the big house.”

With such great outcomes, hopefully, we can all meet up to do it all over again in order to look after the country by knowing more about its stories and adding to it our shared experiences!!

Please see below all the Warakurna kids’ names who helped us having a great time:

Karni Lewis - Year 6

Keenan Jackson - Year 7

Bradley Mitchell - Year 7

Delray Mitchell - Year 7

Clarence Newberry - Year 7

Kimpton Giles - Year 8

Aziah Smythe - Year 8

Justin Stevens - Year 9

Germaine Cooke - Year 10

Shawn Lewis - Year 10

Isaiah Newberry - Year 11

Farren West - Year 10



LAND AND CULTURE: Nyinantu and Walyipi Rockholes

by Dulcie Watson and Lalla West

The Trip to Nyinantu and Walyipi Rockholes (26th – 28th September)

Dulcie Watson:

When Clancy came the next day we took her out to Piyul and we was looking for Warru for the Warru Survey. We did see some kuna (poo) and they hopped away, some of them, but we left a camera there. (Here Dulcie is talking about the Rock wallaby survey conducted a couple of weeks prior to the

Nyinantu trip).

Another time, we went out to Walyipi and saw there was no water there in the rockholes, full up dirt. When we saw that we went to Ninantu, travel long way had a sleep at night. Travelled a long way round, we saw two rock Ninu’s sitting down (referring to the two rocks in Figure 1 who are said to be father and son ninu/bilby).

When I saw that I knew it was a gateway to Niyantu and I was happy. We cleaned that sacred site up and we kept going to Ninyantu and the men got down they were going to clean it out – pump the water out. We said ‘no’ – leave the water for the birds (nyii-nyii/ zebra finch).

So they dug it out. Every time they were digging the water was coming up more and more. Then we came

all the way back on the same road and the fire we lit the other day to burn the spinifex it was right around us so we had to sit down in the clearing and wait wait wait until there was a gap for us to go through. That was a big fire we was burning.

Making a big track to find all the forgotten rockholes. Came back to Warburton, had one night then we came back to Walyipi. We cleaned rockholes. The ladies had a big rockhole and the men had two rockholes. They must be full now, we should go back to look at them. We

did a good job, thank you.

Lalla West:

First trip we made was to Ninyantu. That's where that Ninu lady was digging for honey ants. It's a big rockhole and it had water in it. Water all the time.

Then we came back and had a look, the fire was still burning from the fire we lit the other day. Still going around the next day. Then we waited waited waited and we had lunch; we couldn't cross the fire yet. We had lunch at the sand hill,

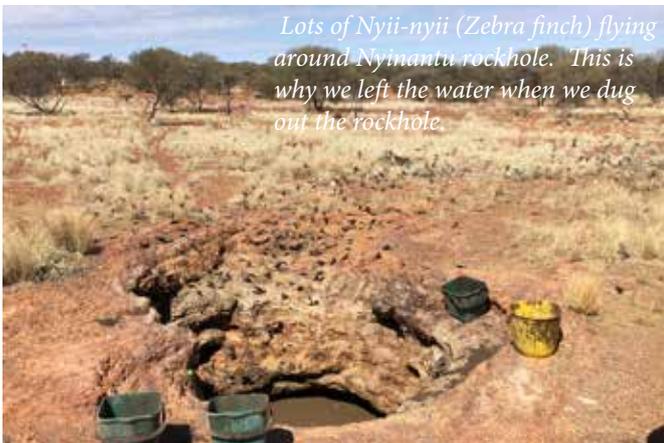
waited until the fire crossed and we went through then, to Walyipi. So, we got to Walyipi and by the time we got there a couple of men was a little bit tired – they wanted to go back to Warburton. The men were tired because they had been digging that Ninantu rockhole. That made us go back to Warburton and we came back the next day with some more men and ladies to dig it out – to clean the rock hole. It was dry so we dug it all out. In a couple of days, we had this rain. Lovely rain we had, to fill up the rock hole. It was a good timing, too. That's it.



*Dulcie Watson, Emily Robinson
Clive McArthur at the Father and
Son Ninu rocks sacred site*



*Dulcie Watson, Emily Robinson,
Alberta Robinson and Marlene Reid.
Working hard to dig out the big
rockhole at Walyipi.*



*Lots of Nyii-nyii (Zebra finch) flying
around Nyinantu rockhole. This is
why we left the water when we dug
out the rockhole.*



*Lalla West and Dulcie Watson in-
specting the rockhole at Nyinantu.*



*The Nyinantu rockhole before we
cleaned it out.*



*The Nyinantu rockhole after we
cleaned it out.*

CDP: Warakurna

The CDP garden in Warakurna has had some attention paid to it recently. Months ago some people tried to start a garden with not much success.

With the beginning of spring and energies renewed we decided to give it another go. Fixed the shade house, filled up garden beds, set up irrigation and planted seeds. We fixed the irrigation

that didn't quite work after our first go and we planted vegetables donated by François from Land & Culture (pumpkins, capsicums, tomatoes, eggplants, zucchini, cabbages, some herbs and some flowers). Also some watermelon seeds.

The garden is looking nice and hopefully the CDP participants can harvest

some veggies in a few weeks and take them home for their families.

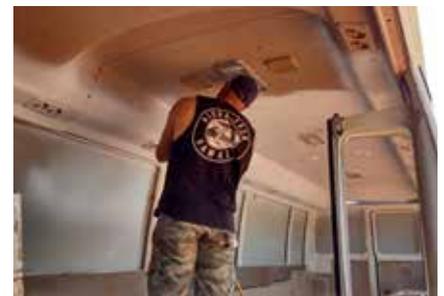
The participants have learnt about the different types of soil, about how to install irrigation and how to plant seasonal vegetables.



We have also started working on a very exciting project: refurbishing an old bus that couldn't be repaired and turning it into a waiting room/ business lounge for the airstrip. CDP participants are excited about it and the whole community

seem to think it's a great idea. So the ideas are flowing.

So far we have cleaned all the glass, pressure washed the inside, removed all the seats and bits and pieces, and spray painted the ceiling.



The Warakurna Roadhouse also has a new sign at the 30k mark, thanks to Kresley Williams



CDP:Jameson

Marlin Johnston and his partner, Tamika Jackson, have created some wonderful pieces of furniture. Marlin is so creative and really thinks outside the box to make these unique pieces, using all sorts of recycled scrap from around the community.

Once he has finished his masterpiece, Tamika decorates it with her stunning artwork. Their furniture has been the

talk of the town and I see a great avenue for their own little furniture making business. Many people have already shown interest in purchasing one of their creations and they just keep coming up with more.

In the pictures you can see a table with fold out seats, sourced from a vehicle, Marlin even added new cushioning to the seats. On the orange chair he used

bike handle bars for the back of the seat and then the purple table has a see through middle thanks to a bit of Perspex he found. Such wondrous inventions and the best part is that they both really enjoy the activity, often returning in the afternoons to finish projects and even having to be ushered out the door at home time. Look forward to seeing what comes next.



CDP:Blackstone

Craig Morrison has a new Perspex window on his car, thanks to the Blackstone CDP mob.

Mervin giles has learnt to weld and we

are making new church steps for the stage. Mervyn is also engaged making and decorating furniture. As are Travis Brown and Susan Mitchell pictured

with a fantastic chair made from recycled materials.



NGAANYATJARRA SPORTS

What are people talking about? Ngaanyatjarra Sport is what people are talking about.

“Who won the AFL Premiership at Wanarn?”



Well, it was victory to the Warakurna Roos, narrowly defeating Wanarn Crows by nine points in an exciting game. Kumanara (Jake) Robertson, the Roos centreman, was awarded Best Player and Revis Ryder (Coach) and Leroy Yates (Captain) held the Premiership Cup high, while the whole of Warakurna Community celebrated.

“... and who won the softball?”



Papulankutja Power defeated Wanarn Crows after both teams were drawn and required an extra innings for Power to eventually claim the Premiership Cup, winning by one run (Power 17 to Crows 16 runs). Sonya Ward (Wanarn Crows) was voted the Best Player as she scored three runs and was an outstanding pitcher under extreme pressure. Sonya capped off a wonderful season of sport being awarded Ngaanyatjarra Sports Best and Fairest Softballer for Season 2017.

“If Sonya Ward was the Best and Fairest Softball Player, who were Runners-up?”



Sonya Ward finished on 11 votes and three players tied on 10 votes as Runners-up Best and Fairest: Phillipa Butler (Tigers); Mantuwa Watson (Crows); and Griselda Reid (Crows). Deandra Leo (Kungkas) finished third with nine votes.

“Is Deandra Leo really the Softball Leading Runscorer with 20 runs?”



Deandra Leo (Irrunytju Kungkas) is only 14 years old and was the outstanding runscorer in Season 2017. She was selected in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands Desert Storm representative softball team. Mantuwa Watson (Wanarn Crows) was one run behind on 19 runs and Amanda Nelson (Kungkas) and Azaria Foster (Kungkas) shared third place, scoring 16 runs for the season.

“What about the AFL Best and Fairest presentations held at Jameson Community?”



Tony Nelson (Wanarn Crows) won the AFL Best and Fairest Player with 25 votes with Delson Lane (Mantamaru Magpies) 24 votes and Granville Westlake (Warburton Tigers) 23 votes.

Leading goalkickers were: Isaac Junior Bates (Wanarn Crows) 35 goals; Steven Tigar (Mantamaru Magpies) 18 goals; and Mason Foster (Warburton Tigers) 14 goals.



“Why was the Desert Challenge 2017 postponed?”

APY Thunder had too many obstacles to assemble their softball and AFL teams during October. Many Sorry Camps, funerals, road closures due to flooding as well as Men’s Business and a meningococcal outbreak led to a decision to reschedule the Desert Challenge 2017 contest to be played at Warburton as the opening game of Season 2018, on 28th April. Ngaanyatjarra Sports intends to retain the same Desert Eagles and Desert Storm teams as announced in 2017. An agreement has been made with APY Thunder to play the 2018 Desert Challenge in Amata in July, when Desert Challenge team selections will be revised.

“What has been different this year compared with Season 2016?”



In Season 2016 we had 340 members registered as players or officials and this year we had 448 members. More games of AFL and softball were played in 2017. Junior Sport, particularly Junior AFL, was established as a weekly event before senior games. In 2016 there was no Junior sport played and this season there were 25 Junior AFL games and three Junior Softball games conducted. Senior Captains and Coaches umpired and organised the juniors. This year our registered officials expanded from 53 to 92 umpires and coaches in AFL and softball.

“Looking back on Ngaanyatjarra Sports Season 2017, are there memorable highlights?”



Definitely, a highlight was the way both Grand Finals in softball and AFL were contested within our Code of Conduct of Respect and played with a high standard of skill. Comments from everyone, who supported the finals, mentioned how entertaining the games had become. Softball was played at a much higher standard this year, mainly due to fitter and younger women being selected in community teams. Interestingly, a motion was tabled at a Ngaanyatjarra Sports Meeting for softball finals to be separated from AFL finals as men were finding the softball exciting to watch and wanted to spectate the entire game.



An unforgettable day was the AFL game played between Manatamaru Magpies and Papulankutja Demons on the flooded Jameson Oval in July. Players were covered in red mud as they slid into contests, with water spraying sideways from the bodies of players. Under atrocious conditions, Magpies played their finest game, kicking 15 goals 5 behinds and defeated the Demons by 10 goals.



Seeing Wanarn Community embrace the hosting of the Grand Finals for 2017 was uplifting. The community prepared their ovals and improved facilities to present their playing fields in excellent condition for the event. The whole community celebrated the occasion of having both their softball and AFL teams as Grand Finalists and decorated their store, oval and homes in team colours of red, yellow and navy blue. Everyone seemed to have their Crows colours displayed on face paintings.

Recently, a lot of satisfaction has been obtained from talking to aged people across the Nganyatjarra Lands and beyond, who have appreciated being able to listen to the Ng Media Sports News radio broadcasts and enjoy listening to the Ng Media Grand Final broadcasts and viewing the game. Talking to Mason Phillips and his Tjuntjuntjarra family, who were in Kalgoorlie receiving medical and dialysis treatment, all about Ngaanyatjarra Sports Season 2017 and finding out how they had followed the sport during the season through Ng Media's broadcasts reinforced the benefit of sport, even to those who were unable to physically be at games. These people could not travel to the games but found happiness to be involved by following the sports news.



Linked with the growing interest in Ngaanyatjarra Sports is the amazing increase in our softball and AFL Facebook pages with over 8,000 views on each page per week. Comments on Facebook posts were few and far between in 2016 but over 80 comments per week have been responded to this season. All comments are positive and supportive and Facebook has become the primary way of communicating sporting news.

Several communities established a Sports Fund, managed by CSM's, to budget for travel and the provision of uniforms, which improved the image of teams and provided subsidies for players and officials to travel to away games. Fundraising at Game Day provided a source of income to assist Wanarn to purchase softball uniforms, Blackstone to purchase preschool educational equipment, Warburton to buy playgroup equipment, Ngaanyatjarra Lands School to obtain equipment for a Desert Roadshow Project, and the purchase of goods for Junior Sport.

Community CDP has assisted the development of sport by improving softball and AFL playing conditions: preparing playing surfaces; marking grounds; constructing softball backstops; repairing boundary fencing; building scoreboards; establishing seating and shelters; painting and straightening goal posts; providing barbeques; and setting up for game days.

“Will Granville Westlake coach Warburton Giants next year?”

It's almost certain Granville Westlake and Rowen Scott will launch Warburton Giants next season. Warburton Tigers might become the Patjarr Tigers. Leslie Giles is recruiting players in the off-season and will try to convince Ngaanyatjarra Sports that Tjurkurla has a viable team.

It has been a great Season of Sport in 2017 and everyone is talking about next year.

MEETING CALENDAR 2017

FEBRUARY

*15th Council Members
16th Council Directors*

MARCH

*15th Council Members
16th Council Directors*

APRIL

MAY

*17th Council Members
18th Council Directors*

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

*16th Council Members
17th Council Directors*

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

*25th***Council AGM***
26th Directors/Services
Finance SC*

NOVEMBER

*15th Council Members
16th Council Directors*