

Ngangkan Culture and Survey Camp

19th – 30th July 2012



Who was there?

- ✓ Rangers of the Warddeken IPA from the Manmoyi, Kamarrkawan and Kabulwarnamyo ranger bases, with their families and lots of kids as it was the school holidays
- ✓ Rangers from the Djelk IPA
- ✓ IPA Scientist Alys Stevens and extra help from Stuart Young from Biodiversity Conservation (NTG)
- ✓ Volunteer James Kapui
- ✓ Paul Josef – Consultant working on use of kunmayali in land management
- ✓ Murray Garde – Linguist
- ✓ Skinny Fish guys making video documentary of healthy people, healthy country for Nabarlek band
- ✓ Nina Brown - Warddeken LML



Where and Why?

Our camp was on Ngangkan
in Ngulkwardde country,
in the Warddeken IPA
on the western Arnhem Plateau,
Northern Territory.

The elders chose Ngangkan for
the families to camp because it is
a peaceful place, away from town,
with lots of bush tucker; a place
to bring back memories to share
and a place for kids to learn about
cultural knowledge.



Honouring the past

We were remembering and honoring our past leaders Wamud Namok, Kodjok Nawurrban and Ngarridj Nadjordi, and we were spending time with our leaders who are still here, the old women Mary Naborlhborlh, Mary Kalkiwarra, Lillian Guymala, Leonie Guymala, Deborah Nabarlambarl and Leanne Guymala.

We did mayh survey in this area as it is part of our mayh and feral cat project over Kodwalewale, Ngolkwarre and Bolkgok areas.



What did we do?

1. Cultural activities including;
 - ✓ gathering (bushtucker, cultural materials like pandanas, digging sticks),
 - ✓ knowledge sharing in evenings,
 - ✓ corroboree with singing and dancing,
 - ✓ traditional cooking,
 - ✓ making music with traditional instruments,
 - ✓ knowledge sharing everyday as part of life.



What did we do?

2. Terrah, Sarah, Jamie and Sylvia worked with Paul Josef to learn the skills to interview the elders about how traditional knowledge is used in the Warddeken Plan of Management.



3. With the help of Alys and Stuart, we did an animal survey putting 5 different kinds of traps (cage, elliot, pitfall, funnel and motion sensor cameras) in 18 sites - that's 240 traps over 10 days!





What we found on survey

A very exciting find - 2 chameleon dragons – *ngalbangurru* which is the totem for the Nabarlarmbarl family. People were really happy to see this dragon again because it had not been seen for a long time.

Ngalbangurru is the Kunwinjku name, and *walwalnguru* is Kune.

Check out <http://bininjunwok.org.au/2012/ngalwalngurru-chameleon-dragon/>

We also found more populations of the *yirlinkirrkirr* white-throated grasswren, which is an indication of good fire management

We caught 6 different kind of native mammal including common and Arnhem rock rats - *wumbu*, Melomys, pale field rat - *dokkorn* and western chestnut mouse - *murlbbu* and *Pseudantechinus* – different kind of *wumbu*.

We did catch some town rat, but only in low numbers and we caught more native rats and mice than non-native. We observed a total of 11 native mammals and 4 introduced: buffalo, pig, feral cat and black rat.

We observed 6 species of native frog and 29 species of native reptiles. A full species list can be found at the end of this story.



What we found on survey

We are starting to use our motion sensor cameras well. We got photos of *kalawan/ burarr* (*Varanus mertensi*), different kinds of rats, reptiles and birds.

We also 'captured' feral cats on cameras which had been left out for ~ 3 months

We have a project to try and drop their numbers starting in 2013.



What's next for the stone country mayh project?

We will be finalizing the method of use of camera traps to give us the best information from these tools. After multiple surveys over 2.5 years establishing 39 fauna plots we will make a decision over the final network for long term monitoring as part of our feral cat project.



Thoughts on the next big on country event

It's a big effort to organise, but the outcomes are so great that we will strive to continue the Warddeken IPA commitment to multi-faceted living and working on country activities for health of the country.



Species List

A species list of all mammals, reptiles and frogs either trapped/photographed or unequivocal signs observed. Colours: **Feral species**, **endemic species** and **threatened species**.

All Kunwinjku names taken from Garde dictionary (in prep.). Please note, in Bininj Kunwok some species have multiple names based on sex, lifestage and behaviour; the names chosen here are hopefully the most common and collective term.

Group	Family	Scientific name	English common name	Kunwinjku
Mammal	Bovidae	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>	Swamp Buffalo	
	Canidae	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Dingo	dalkken
	Dasyuridae	<i>Pseudantechinus bilarni</i>	Sandstone Antechinus	
	Felidae	<i>Felis catus</i>	Feral cat	
	Macropodidae	<i>Macropus agilis</i>	Agile Wallaby	kornobolo
		<i>Macropus antilopinus</i>	Antilopine Wallaroo	karndayh
		<i>Macropus bernardus</i>	Black Wallaroo	barrk
		<i>Macropus robustus</i>	Common Wallaroo	wolerrk
	Muridae	<i>Melomys burtoni</i>	Grassland Melomys	
		<i>Pseudomys nanus</i>	Western Chestnut Mouse	murlbbu
		<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Black Rat	town rat
		<i>Rattus tunneyi</i>	Pale Field-rat	dokkorn
		<i>Zyzomys argurus</i>	Common Rock-rat	wumbu
		<i>Zyzomys maini</i>	Arnhem Rock-rat	wumbu
	Suidae	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Pig	
	Tachyglossidae	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	Echidna	ngarrbek
Frog	Bufonidae	<i>Rhinella marina</i>	Cane Toad	djaddi - kodbolbok
	Hylidae	<i>Litoria bicolor</i>	Northern Dwarf Tree-frog	djaddi - kodbolbok
		<i>Litoria coplandi</i>	Copland's Rock Frog	djaddi - kodbolbok
		<i>Litoria nasuta</i>	Rocket Frog	djaddi - kodbolbok
		<i>Litoria wotjulumensis</i>	Wotjulum Frog	djaddi - kodbolbok
	Myobatrachidae	<i>Crinia bilingua</i>	Bilingual Froglet	djaddi - kodbolbok
		<i>Uperoleia arenicola</i>	Jabiru Toadlet	djaddi - kodbolbok

Group	Family	Scientific name	English common name	Kunwinjku
Reptile	Agamidae	<i>Chelosania brunnea</i>	Chameleon Dragon	ngalbangurru
		<i>Diporiphora bilineata</i>	Two-Lined Dragon	madjandemed
		<i>Lophognathus gilberti</i>	Gilbert's Dragon	madjandemed
	Colubridae	<i>Boiga irregularis</i>	Brown Tree Snake	balbardbarra
	Gekkonidae	<i>Gehyra australis</i>	Northern Dtella	moloborndok
		<i>Gehyra nana</i>	Northern Spotted Rock Dtella	moloborndok
		<i>Gehyra pamela</i>	Arnhem Land Spotted Dtella	moloborndok
		<i>Heteronotia binoei</i>	Bynoe's Gecko	belerrk
		<i>Heteronotia planiceps</i>		
		<i>Lucasium stenodactylum</i>	Crowned Gecko	
		<i>Nephurus sheai</i>	Northern Knob-tailed Gecko	boywek
		<i>Oedura marmorata</i>	Marbled Velvet Gecko	boywek
		<i>Pseudotoecadactylus lindneri</i>	Giant Cave Gecko	boywek
	Pygopodidae	<i>Lialis burtonis</i>	Burton's Legless Lizard	dird
	Scincidae	<i>Carlia amax</i>	Two-Spined Rainbow Skink	burndjingh
		<i>Carlia gracilis</i>	Slender Rainbow Skink	burndjingh
		<i>Carlia munda</i>	Striped Rainbow Skink	burndjingh
		<i>Cryptoblepharus cygnatus</i>	Swanson's Snake-eyed Skink	burndjingh
		<i>Cryptoblepharus metallicus</i>	Metallic Snake-eyed Skink	burndjingh
		<i>Ctenotus coggeri</i>	Cogger's Ctenotus	riokrlök
		<i>Ctenotus inornatus</i>	Plain Ctenotus	riokrlök
		<i>Ctenotus quirinus</i>		riokrlök
		<i>Ctenotus vertebralis</i>	Scant-Striped Ctenotus	riokrlök
		<i>Glaphyromorphus douglasi</i>	Douglas' Skink	riokrlök
		<i>Lerista karlschmidtii</i>	Karl Schmidt's Lerista	dird
		<i>Notoscincus ornatus</i>	Ornate Snake-Eyed Skink	burndjingh
	Typhlopidae	<i>Ramphotyphlops diversus</i>	Northern Blind Snake	
	Varanidae	<i>Varanus mertensi</i>	Mertens' Water Monitor	burarr
		<i>Varanus scalaris</i>	Spotted Tree Monitor	bikku





Northern
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For more information on the Northern Australia hub go to
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National Environmental
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