

YAWURU MARINE AND CONSERVATION PARKS

ANNUAL OVERVIEW 2024



The Yawuru parks are special places

They are home to many important plants and animals and include so many of Broome's favourite spots to enjoy beautiful Yawuru country.

It's lucky we have such a special team of people working to look after our Yawuru parks, every single day in 2024.

We hope you enjoy this little taster of what has kept us busy this year across the marine park and the three conservation parks. It's been tough at times but we are built of tough stuff!

Thank you to the Yawuru & wider Broome community for getting behind us and helping us work to keep our special places special in 2024.

And as always a big thank you to our Yawuru and Shire joint management partners for supporting us!

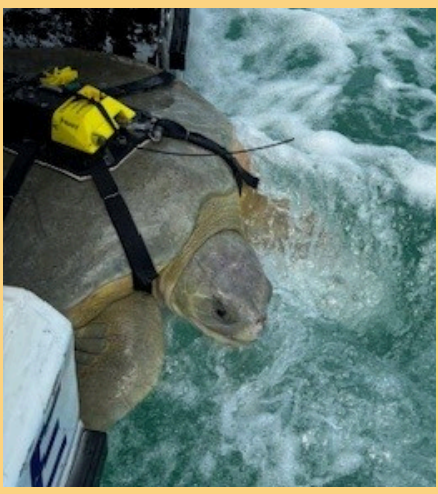
Wil Bennett

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Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park



Busy year in nagulagun marine space

It's a busy year in nagulagun marine space. I moved from Minyirr ranger to Marine ranger earlier this year. Some of the projects I have been involved in are our ongoing flatback turtle research, nganarr (dugong) monitoring with a drone, and the massive joint research project Yagarrajalajalan nagula buru (we all care for saltwater country). In August we also installed our first lot of acoustic array receivers to support research projects into the future. We also had a call out for a sick gurlibil (turtle) - fortunately we were able to locate it, capture it and bring it to our friends at Native Animal Rescue.

Jaz Cook



Installation of Gurlbinwila marine park signage

The aim of the Gurlbinwila signage is to provide visitors with marine park (Yawuru, DBCA), fishing (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development / DPIRD) and safe boating information (Department of Transport / DoT). The large sign (took four rangers to lift!) was installed next to a pull over bay for ease of viewing.

Mick Fong



Installation of customary netting signage

The Yawuru Customary Netting Accord acknowledges traditional laws and customs and the role of DPIRD to improve management and protection of fish and sea country. There are a set of guidelines for netting on Yawuru country. As part of this joint project between Nyamba Buru Yawuru and the DPIRD our team alongside the Yawuru Country Managers installed the signage which indicate the Yawuru netting boundaries.



Yagarrajalajalan nagula buru project (we all care for saltwater country)

This project aims to integrate Yawuru knowledge & western scientific knowledge systems to provide information and tools to improve management. We started researching gurlibil (turtle) & nganarr (dugong) by tagging this year, as well as supporting interviews for how people use the bay. We've welcomed new PhD students and are providing strong support and direction to them to help us in the marine park.



Yawuru Minyirr Buru Conservation Park



Birndany viewing platform grating replacement

A portion of grating on the Birndany viewing platform was burnt and required replacing. The replacement was sourced from China and took 3 months for delivery. It was a great achievement to finally replace after 6 months of the job being lodged.

Jason Fong



Woods Drive Reserve rubbish blitz

The team spent two days clearing rubbish from the Woods Drive Reserve in January. A total of 5 tonne of rubbish was removed! We did it all again in November. Thanks to our helpers! Hopefully it stays clean this time with the fence now up.

Jason Fong



Simpson Beach staircase maintenance

A large amount of pindan had accumulated at the bottom of the Simpsons Beach staircase. Kanichi, Micky and Mon used shovels, rakes and a water pump (using the saltwater) at high tide to hose down majority of the pindan.

Jason Fong



Minyirr (Gantheaume Point) upgrade

Planning and consultation for Minyirr (Gantheaume Point) has continued this year. Over 30 consultation sessions have been held with joint management partners (Yawuru, Shire of Broome), the Broome community and stakeholders (including Dinosaur Coast Management, Broome Visitor Centre, and commercial tour operators). Further consultation for final designs of an information shelter, toilets and viewing platform will continue into 2025, with construction commencing thereafter. For more information see page 11.

Luke Puertollano



Yawuru Birragun South



Man-galagun Road management

Large tides and seasonal rains have impacted the Man-galagun Road, in particular the section toward Bundurr Bundurr sites near Crab Creek. This provides challenges for the community to access key areas for fishing and connecting with country. We have had the road graded and repaired a section to continue access. Further works and realignment are being investigated for the future.

Todd Quartermaine



New boundary signage installation

This year with the help of the Warmijala Murrgurlyayi rise up to work crew we installed 3 new boundary signs in the Birragun Conservation Park near Coconut Wells. We installed 2 new signs on both sides of the road heading south into Buckleys Plain from McGuigan Road and 1 heading north from McGuigan Road onto the fire break. These were installed to promote awareness that people are entering Yawuru parks.

Kanichi Shioji



Yawuru Birragun North and Guniyan Binba



Squatters camp clean up

Cleaning up this old squatters camp on Buckleys Plain has been a big job. The first step was consulting with everyone who has had connections here, second step was getting enough funding to tackling this big project and third step was planning the removal of 2 large buses, 10 rusted vehicles and all the rubbish and rusted metal laying around. The Yawuru team has worked consistently on this project. The next stage to finish off this project is the removal of the unstable infrastructure which will be completed soon, and then tackling the established weed trees.

Kanichi Shioji



Coconut Wells lagoon carpark project

A lagoon car park upgrade was completed in August 2024, with the installation of 53 new plastic bollards and 10 new concrete wheel stops. The aim of the project is to create defined parking spaces near the lagoon recreation area to get the most bays in. More will be needed in future when funding can be found. This is because of the increasing amount of visitors using the lagoon area and needs to be safe for visitor use. We are also installing picnic tables to give visitors an area to sit and enjoy the view.

Kanichi Shioji



Additional operations

Support for Warrmijala Murrugulayi Program

A highlight for me this year was being able to support Yawuru's Warrmijala Murrugulayi Land and Sea training program (Rise Up to Work). It was good to interact with some young people keen to develop their conservation, land and sea management skill sets and knowledge. The team was instrumental in rolling out a few new boundary signs and helping to promote awareness of the Yawuru parks.

Jason Richardson



Fire management

In January I had the opportunity to travel to Perth to gain valuable fire experience at three separate fires down south. Fires were located at Gingin, Wandoo National Park and Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve. It was interesting to see the different habitats of the area and witness the differing fire behaviours in various fuel types. We put some early fire into Minyirr Park to reduce spinifex fuel and later in the hotter part of the year responded to several wildfires. Also in the fire space, we helped support prescribed burning in the Yawuru IPA area on Gumaranganyjal in March. Its always good to collaborate with the Yawuru land and Sea Unit and country managers and be able to work on other parts of Yawuru country, outside of the conservation parks.

Jason Richardson

Additional operations



Linygurra management

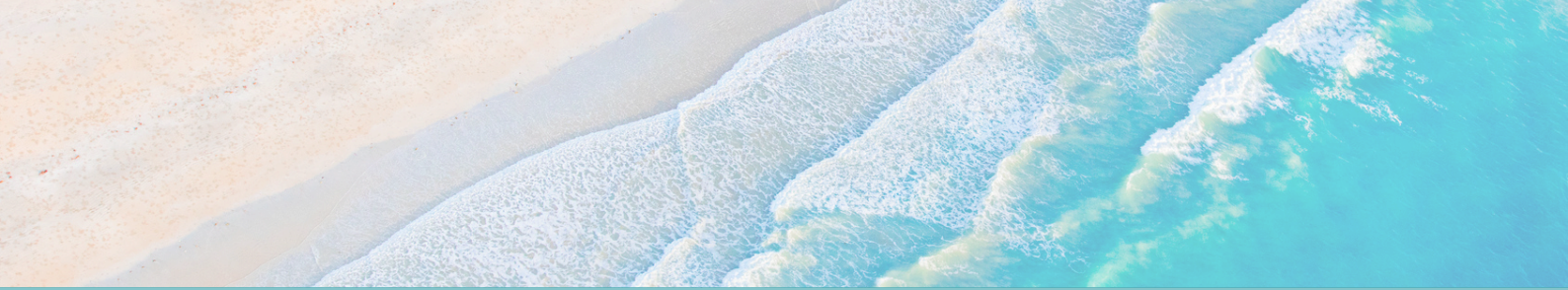
Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles are managed within the Broome Crocodile Control Zone for public safety. This area runs south of Willie Creek to Fall Point near Crab Creek and extends 1km offshore. Yawuru rangers complete routine spotlight patrols, particularly in Dampier Creek. As of November, there were five confirmed crocodile sightings in this area this year. The team also play a massive part in the removal of crocodiles when required.



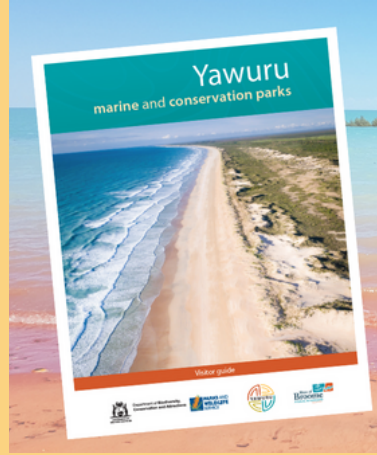
Community education

Over NAIDOC week and the school holidays the team delivered several community engagement events including a bushtucker walk in Minyirr Park with local primary schools, and Town Beach visitor information session promoting the Yawuru marine and conservation parks which had a huge turn out.

Todd Quartermaine



Operations officers



Yawuru marine and conservation parks visitor guide

The Yawuru parks first visitor guide was launched this year with over 4500 copies distributed locally! The guide contains a range of information on the parks and a large removable park map. Grab your copy at our office or online via Explore Parks.

Jesse Kelly



FENCING PROJECT
DEMCO - Yawuru Minyirr Buru Conservation Park

To protect the cultural and environmental values of Yawuru Minyirr Buru Conservation Park the bushland adjacent to the park (outlined below) will be fenced. Pedestrian access pathways and gates will be provided at the locations outlined.

The fence will protect the park from illegal activities such as camping, rubbish dumping and 4x4 driving.

Construction will commence in August 2024 and include temporary closure of sites. The Yawuru Park Council (DBCA, Yawuru Native Title holders and the Shire of Broome) with support from the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage and the Water Corporation appreciate your patience during the construction period.

Key
 Blue circle: State and pedestrian access
 Yellow line: Fence line
 Red area: Conservation Park

For further enquiries contact the DBCA Broome office on 08 9195 5500

DEMCO and Woods Drive fencing project

This year I assisted Luke and the team with communications for a big fencing project at DEMCO and Woods Drive. I contacted stakeholders, developed a social media post and developed temporary signage to communicate the purpose of the fences to the public. Installation of the fences took place in September after more than a year of planning. The fences will stop cars coming in and protect the parks from illegal driving, camping and rubbish dumping, and still provide for walking in the conservation park.

Jesse Kelly



Operations officers

Reddell Carpark upgrade

This year has been as busy as ever for capital projects in the Yawuru parks. The Reddell Beach civil construction works to upgrade car parking and drainage was completed at four sites with positive feedback from the public. Ongoing management for those sites include joint patrols with Shire of Broome Rangers to move on campers and general site maintenance like rubbish removal and minor maintenance to signs and bollards as needed. News signs will be installed in 2025.

Luke Puertollano



Minyirr (Gantheaume Point) upgrade

A massive amount of planning and consultation has continued into this year for the Minyirr (Gantheaume Point) project. The scope of the project is to remove and upgrade existing infrastructure including the interpretation shelter, toilet, car park and path. A proposed elevated viewing area would also protect the lighthouse base from erosion. This will assist in managing the protection of natural and cultural values for the area by allowing a safer alternative to viewing and providing new interpretive information. We continue to work closely with our joint management partners, Yawuru and Shire of Broome to ensure what is proposed is the best use of the space given constraints around impacts to significant values on site. A design has been finalised for the civil works construction of the car park, with stakeholder consultations to continue for planning and design for the shelter, toilet and viewing area.

Luke Puertollano



The Yawuru parks team

The Yawuru Joint Management team currently employs ten Yawuru community members, that's a record! Our team are always sharing our skills and experience, including with our two dedicated trainees. Across the team we have people holding or undertaking Certificates 2, 3 and 4 in Conservation and Ecosystem Management, Coxswains 2, 1 & vessel master, and other specialist training in fire management, compliance and enforcement, remote first aid, whale disentanglement, project management, and the list goes on.

We are proud to have three Yawuru people in team leadership positions and to see all our staff showing leadership at work in the Yawuru parks every day. Yangarrngany wirriya liyan!

Big shout out to our Shire Ranger and Yawuru IPA/Country Manager colleagues! See you in 2025!



Wil Bennett
Yawuru Parks
Coordinator



Jason
Richardson
Senior Ranger



Todd
Quartermaine
Senior Ranger



Jason Fong
Yawuru
Ranger
Mentor



Luke
Puertollano
Operations
Officer
(capital works)



Kanichi Shioji
Yawuru
Ranger



Jaz Cook
Yawuru
Ranger



Preston Manado
Yawuru
Conservation
Employee



Jesse Kelly
Operations
Officer
(projects)



Monica Edgar
Yawuru
Ranger



Mick Fong
Yawuru
Ranger



Peter Roe
Yawuru Trainee
Ranger



Daithi Wade
Yawuru Trainee
Ranger

More information:

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To view the visitor guide and for more information
visit exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au

