

NORTHERN TERRITORY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2022 Awards 23 November

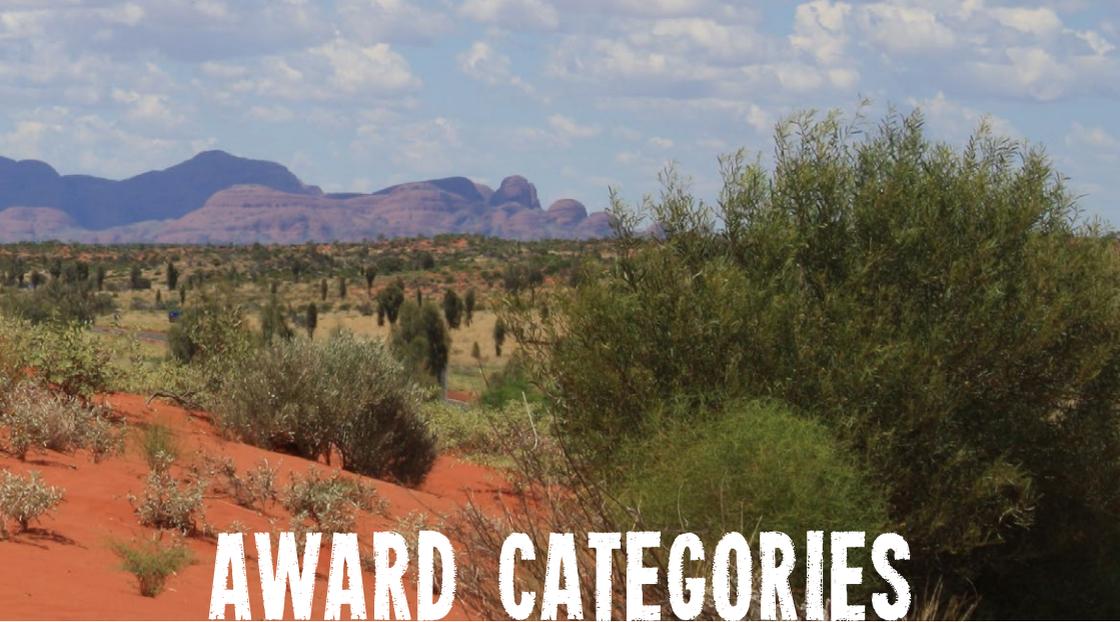


2022 NT NRM AWARD FINALISTS

WARNING: Aboriginal peoples are warned that the following document contains images of a deceased person.



**Territory
Natural Resource
Management**



AWARD CATEGORIES

**Best Collaboration Natural Resource
Management Award**

Resilient & Sustainable Enterprise Award

Ranger of the Year Award

**Next Generation Natural Resource
Management Award**

Farmers & Fishers Sustainability Award

Indigenous Natural Resource Management Award

Environment & Conservation Award

Lifetime Achievement Award

People's Choice Award

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Award finalists

Voting for the People's Choice Award is now open!
Cast your vote here



Anindilyakwa Land and Sea
Rangers

Mr Rioli - Tiwi Resources -
Tiwi Rangers

Berry Springs Primary School

O'Loughlin Catholic College

Charmaine Miningirrigirr -
Mardbalk Rangers (NLC)

Robert Lindsay - Malak Malak
Rangers

David Liddle

Terrah Guymala - Warddeken
Land Management

Digital Women Rangers Group

The Learning on Country
Program

Djurrubu rangers

Eco Humans, O'Loughlin
Catholic College

Tiwi Plantations Corporation

Fergal O'Gara, Northern Tropical
Agriculture

Tropiculture Australia

Umbearra Station

Harvest Hill Orchard

Uriah Crocombe - Thamarrurr
Rangers

Indigenous Carbon Industry
Network

Warddeken Land Management

McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd -
The Rehabilitation Team

Winston Thompson - Yugul
Mangi Rangers / SEAL IPA

BEST COLLABORATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

The Learning on Country Program

The Learning on Country Program (LoC) is a collaborative partnership between the Northern Land Council and the Northern Territory Government Department of Education. LoC brings together remote Indigenous students, schools, Traditional Owners, cultural advisors, ranger groups, government agencies, training providers and community organisations to support a more culturally appropriate model for the delivery of secondary education in remote communities.

The LoC program enables the senior-secondary cohort to engage in a diverse range of cultural and natural resource management activities. Maningrida School has collaborated with Warddeken Rangers and ALFA to teach students about appropriate fire management practices including Traditional and Western burning methodologies. Laynhapuy Homelands School, supported by Yirralka Rangers, collaborates with Macquarie University and the Batchelor Institute to host an annual Biodiversity Survey Camp



BEST COLLABORATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists



which forms part of the practical components for the students' Certificate III in Conservation and Environment Management. While the Galiwin'ku LoC program and Marthakal Rangers have a strong community-based collaboration with Yalu Aboriginal Corporation in the health and art space.

Through the strong partnerships of the LoC program, students help to raise awareness, improve data collection and strengthen on-ground support for a range of environmental and cultural projects that aim to manage the unique biodiversity in the Top End region. The program also brings Traditional Owners and cultural

knowledge into the classroom and helps to get people back on Country through culture camps, research projects and accredited training courses.

Having a cohort of LoC students that are grounded in both Western and Traditional culture and knowledge and informed about conservation and environmental practices and issues will significantly benefit the remote communities in which they live and will eventually work. The LoC program is committed to ensuring this knowledge and a strong sense of identity is passed on to the next generation for the benefit of all.

BEST COLLABORATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

Indigenous Carbon Industry Network

The Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) is the peak industry body representing Indigenous owned and operated carbon projects across Australia. It is owned by its 23 members and overseen by 7 Aboriginal Board Directors. The ICIN works to promote and facilitate an active, innovative and Indigenous-led carbon industry that supports healthy Country and improved livelihoods for Indigenous people.

As Australia's first peak body for the Indigenous carbon industry, the ICIN provides a critical point of coordination to keep its member organisations up to date with the

latest research, market and policy developments impacting upon their carbon projects. They also published 'Best Practice Guidelines for Seeking Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Communities for Carbon Projects' which have now been incorporated into the carbon market's voluntary Code of Conduct, a 'Guide to the Carbon Industry for Indigenous Communities' and a report 'Scoping Opportunities for Carbon on the Indigenous Estate'. This enhanced the capacity of member organisations to make informed decisions about their project and maximise opportunities offered through carbon markets.



BEST COLLABORATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists



ICIN works collaboratively with its members to regularly facilitate workshops and working groups, and it hosts the annual North Australia Savanna Fire Forum, which attracts over 300 Indigenous rangers, fire managers and scientists to Darwin. These events provide important spaces to share knowledge about savanna fire management and the Indigenous carbon industry, and to develop policy positions on key issues such as carbon method development, recognition of Indigenous rights and interests in carbon; savanna fire management practices and climate change.

ICIN member organisations support hundreds of Aboriginal people to undertake critical land and sea management work on their country, across very remote and

vast landscapes. Their work is founded on thousands of years of traditional knowledge and practice, providing additional opportunities to strengthen connections to Country, community, language and culture. Over the past 15 years, member organisations have successfully led and established an Indigenous-owned industry that abates over 1.2 million tonnes of emissions each year, producing Australian Carbon Credit Units valued at around \$53 million a year. This includes active savanna fire management across over 18 million hectares of north Australian savannas.

The ICIN has been critical for helping support Aboriginal cultural enterprise that sustains healthy Country through Indigenous savanna fire management and other carbon methods.

BEST COLLABORATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

Digital Womens Ranger Group

A collective of Indigenous women rangers and researchers collaborated to form the Digital Womens Ranger Group to support Indigenous women to use data and digital technologies to tell stories about monitoring and managing significant species and habitats, and to co-design digital training opportunities that empower women rangers. This project has engaged Indigenous women rangers who are involved in Caring-for-Country activities across northern Australia, including from Warddeken, Jawoyn, Mimal, Kakadu, Crocodile Islands, and Djurrubu rangers.

Through this project, the women rangers have been provided on-Country digital workshops and

training at various sites throughout the Top End. They have learned how to use digital tools including camera traps, drones and video cameras to collect data, and use the data to tell stories about monitoring and managing Country. They have also learned how to work with Elders to ensure cultural protocols are followed when collecting and using data. Participating women rangers have used drones to monitor the impact of fire management practices on Country, produce bilingual reports to share camera trap data with landholders, use camera traps to monitor culturally significant species and use drones to keep Territorians safe from saltwater crocodiles.



BEST COLLABORATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists



The project has also helped Indigenous women rangers identify and develop the capabilities required to effectively collect, assess, and use data for the evidence-based management of Country. Through their Healthy Country AI collaboration (2021-2024), the team has co-designed digital training modules that provide learning opportunities for women rangers to learn collect, analyse, and use data. These training opportunities are improving participants' digital literacy and ensuring they have digital skills to access future opportunities, beyond the current funding and objectives.

The women have also supported each other in sharing their digital stories at workshops and conferences to build their confidence and leadership skills and build connections for future opportunities.

This project enables women rangers to feel empowered and culturally safe to collect, assess, and care for data as part of their efforts to care for the complex environmental issues facing country across the Northern Territory. Through new skills and technology, women rangers can better protect women's areas and sites and preserve significant species and habitats.

RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE AWARD

Award finalists

Tropiculture Australia

Established 45 years ago, Tropiculture Australia is a food plant production nursery, orchard, manufacturer of fertilisers and potting media, and a grower of tropical fruit and vegetable produce. The nursery produces over 400 different varieties of food plants (fruit trees, vegetables, herbs and spices) and the orchard is home to more than 3000 plants that supply produce for farm gate sales and fruit tasting days.

Tropiculture purchase specialised equipment and use local resources to manufacture their organic-based fertiliser, potting mix and soil amendments to increase their self-reliance. They also conduct

independent research to create new local varieties and species for plant and produce selections that are robust to the Territory's harsh and ever-changing climate. These varieties are of great benefit to the local agricultural industry and community.

As the only food production nursery in the Territory, Tropiculture have directly responded to many of the locally based food security challenges in the NT. Their orchard is a critical source of seed and propagation material so they have eliminated the biosecurity risks associated with external imports. They have also responded to two major NT disease incursions



RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE AWARD

Award finalists



(Banana Freckle and Citrus Canker) by reintroducing and supplying over 20 banana and citrus varieties to gardeners and commercial growers. Their efforts have helped protect farmers and backyard growers from various biosecurity threats.

Tropiculture also quickly recognised the need for a local Production Nursery and expanded their business model to assume that role in the NT. Their services now extend to providing advice, consultancy, educational events and fruit tasting days in addition to retailing produce, plants, potting media and fertilisers. Their consulting and advice is offered to commercial growers, individuals, schools, Indigenous communities, community gardens and community

groups. Tropiculture has become a dedicated and reliable source of information and education and it is a space for local industry and community to share knowledge, food and ideas about increasing self-sufficiency through productive food gardens. Their high level of respect for the Territory's natural resources is reflected in their advocacy to customers for the importance of efficient and sustainable management of the NT's natural resources and the protection of the NT's delicate ecosystem.

Through their efforts, Tropiculture have developed a robust business grounded in sustainability efforts and resilience to various threats in an ever-changing environment.

RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE AWARD

Award finalists

Tiwi Plantations Corporation

For more than 40 years the Tiwi people have participated in and led resilient and sustainable forestry enterprises on their own land. Today, more than 30,000ha of plantations exist on Melville Island, 60 kilometres Northwest of Darwin. The board of the Tiwi Plantation Corporation makes decisions to continue to secure the economic future through sustainable business in a self-determined and culturally appropriate way.

With commercial partners, regular harvesting and shipments of Acacia mangium wood chips are being made supporting a sustainable enterprise that employs 17 Tiwi Islanders.

Tiwi Plantations Corporation is leading a collaboration between the forestry industry and university and government agencies as part of a four-year program to research improved species that will be highly productive and suitable for high-value markets without negatively impacting the surrounding environment. The research is focused on identifying the *Eucalyptus pellita* genetics and trialing these to create a resilient and sustainable forestry industry based on an Australian native species. The research will help improve soil preparation practices, plantation management and harvesting



RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE AWARD

Award finalists



processes. The direct application of this research will also support resilience and sustainability in a commercial enterprise. The outcomes of the 'Maximising northern tropical forestry-linking communities and cutting-edge technology' collaborative project will help diversify and strengthen forestry production for the next 40 years.

Managing the threats of fire, weeds and erosion are ongoing activities that are undertaken to protect both the plantation and the surrounding country. Tiwi Plantations Corporation

and commercial partners continue to research tree species, refine control burning regimes and weed control activities to protect forestry assets. Harvesting activities, transport of woodchips and management of harvested areas is also carefully managed to prevent erosion.

Tiwi Plantations Corporation continually improves their practices and processes to lift the sustainability of the enterprise and prepare for a potential 2nd rotation planting which will underpin forestry for the next 40 years on the Tiwi Islands.

RANGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Award finalists

Charmaine Miningirgirr, Mardbalk Rangers (Northern Land Council)

Over the past 12 years, Charmaine has dedicated her time and effort to Mardbalk Rangers becoming a pillar of strength within the ranger team. Charmaine has consistently stepped up to take on more responsibility, progressing from a ranger to an Assistant Coordinator with a career goal of becoming Coordinator of the Mardbalk Rangers. She actively advocates for the rangers to the community and regularly consults with Traditional Owners, stakeholders and community members.

Charmaine is involved in all aspects of land management with Mardbalk Rangers. She has acquired qualifications including a Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate, conducted aerial and on-ground burning, managed the Junior Ranger Program with the Warruwi School, and completed Governance training to manage ranger compliance on Country and participates in all day-to-day ranger activities and duties. As Assistant Coordinator, Charmaine has great responsibility within the ranger group.



RANGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Award finalists



She is an excellent role model to her fellow rangers and actively engages with the rangers to ensure they are working and progressing as a team.

Charmaine takes great pride in her work, especially when engaging with Mardbalk Traditional Owners. She understands how important ranger activities are for maintaining healthy Country and is eager to share her knowledge with Traditional Owners to help them maintain a close working relationship the rangers. She also works with stakeholders outside the ranger group by attending ALFA meetings and pre-season fire season planning sessions, assisting facilitation on behalf of

HCP consultants and has regular teleconferences with women from various other ranger programs.

Charmaine's progression over the past year from Senior Ranger to Assistant Coordinator is an inspiration to her fellow rangers and local community. She has been instrumental in facilitating the Mardbalk Rangers to undertake natural resource management activities, strengthened the relationship between the ranger group, Mardbalk Traditional Owners and community, and inspired rangers, community and the next generation to look after country.

RANGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Award finalists

Terrah Guymala, Warddeken Land Management

Terrah is a Bordoh clan member and Traditional Owner of the Ngorlkwarre estate within the Warddeken Indigenous Protected (IPA) Area. He has been with the Warddeken Rangers since 2007 and is currently a Senior Ranger at the Manmoyi Ranger Base. Terrah has been a Director of Warddeken since its inception, an Alternate Director at the Karrkad Kandji Trust, Director of the Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA), and board member for the Warddeken WAKADJAKA evaluation committee.

As a Senior Ranger, Terrah is involved in the planning and implementation of core land management operations across the Warddeken IPA. He led fire consultations with Warddeken IPA landowners and played a key role in implementing strategic early dry season prescribed burning. He is an important facilitator of ecological and cultural land management programs, including the Mayh (species) Recovery Project and the Rock Art Project. He also leads meetings and planning sessions with Warddeken support staff, rangers, and the community to help deliver all projects in the right way.



RANGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Award finalists



Terrah is a senior knowledge holder and helps co-design ecological research projects in a two-way process. He contributes his traditional ecological knowledge in conjunction with modern survey tools. This year he co-designed the White-throated grasswren (WTGW) survey in partnership with TNRM. He has also independently implemented and managed his Placename Project. Through this project he has used knowledge from Traditional Owners and himself to document names of places, which he then used to create a network of placename locations in google earth coded by clan estate in the eastern areas of the IPA. He also documents, creates and sets up signs on the roads and tracks in the IPA. His vision is to create digital tools to transfer the knowledge of places to the next generation and he aims to expand the project to West Arnhem.

Terrah has shown an outstanding commitment and willingness to facilitate face-to-face consultations as part of the company's operations and projects. This is often a huge amount of work with travel across the Top End to provide landowners with the right information, gain informed consent for land management works, and facilitate their decisions. He also regularly engages with Traditional Owners to hear their needs and concerns and share knowledge. He also guides younger rangers in the expectations of excelling in land management and has always had a strong passion for education on-country through his work with Nawarddeken Independent Schools and Charles Darwin University.

His passion, dedication and contribution to the organisation and the Nawarddeken people is exceptional every year through his on-ground work, decision-making, and engagement with the community.

RANGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Award finalists

Uriah Crocombe, Thamarrurr Rangers

Uriah is a Senior Ranger with Thamarrurr Rangers and over the past 8 years he has dedicated his time, knowledge, and skills as a strong leader to the ranger group. He has used his in-depth knowledge of the ranger groups systems, people and resources to help maintain consistency and a steady workflow during various staff changes, all while overseeing ranger activities across 18,000 sq km of Country and 240 km of coastline.

Uriah takes a lead role in all aspects of day-to-day ranger activities in addition to his other responsibilities. He is the lead local ranger coordinating the Western

Top End savannah fire management project and the leader in practical work undertaking early burning and assists with fighting late season fires. He also supports community consultations across 25 language groups and is a lead support person for project partners ILSC and NLC amongst others. He is also a skipper undertaking fishery compliance training and leads boat patrols, compliance, maintenance and works directly with NTG fisheries to undertake surveys, monitoring and patrol reporting. He also undertakes various weed management activities including conducting herbicide training sessions and working



RANGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Award finalists



to control the spread of Mimosa and gamba grass throughout the region. Uriah is also responsible for equipment management and maintenance.

Uriah is fluent across local languages and cultural protocols and central to rangers and stakeholder engagement. He is a valuable support person for trainers and acts as an interpreter during ranger training sessions to improve training engagement and success. He also supports ranger managers, scientists, NRM agencies, school teachers and many other visitors with inter-cultural knowledge and language translation. He is an

expert at knowing who the right people to talk to are, whose country they are planning work on, who needs to be consulted, cultural protocols that need to be observed, as well as knowing how to access country and sites and interpreting with elders.

Uriah's gentle, generous and respectful manner coupled with his language, cultural and practical knowledge and skills make him an excellent role model to the other rangers, and a central part of the ranger groups operational, project planning and implementation and consultation activities.

NEXT GENERATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

Berry Springs Primary School

Berry Springs Primary School students undertake many activities aimed at raising community awareness and improving sustainability practices within their local community. All initiatives are student-led with the support of staff at Berry Springs School and the Territory Wildlife Park (TWP). Either student leaders or individual classes have come up with environmental issues that they would like to address.

In 2012, the school partnered with the TWP to strengthen sustainability teachings in the school's curriculum and together, have since establish a Plastic Maker Space at the TWP. This

space repurposes hard plastics by melting plastics down and moulding them into new usable items for the TWP and other community groups to use.

Students also initiated a war on waste within the school grounds and have placed recycling bins for paper, food, plastic and general waste throughout the school for appropriate sorting of waste. Food waste is also repurposed and fed to the school's animals.

Containers are also collected and recycled in a 10-cent scheme, where proceeds are donated to Green Kids NT.



NEXT GENERATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists



Our students are strong advocates for the environment and see themselves as the 'voice' for threatened, endangered or vulnerable species, flora and the world around us since they cannot speak for themselves. Students have created community awareness campaigns for threatened, endangered or vulnerable species including the Atlas Moth, Black Footed Tree Rat, Native Bees and Northern Quoll. Students developed resources to share with other students, attended conferences and news interviews, created interpretive signs at the TWP, developed a

book and song and raised funds to purchase equipment, such as night-vision cameras at the Territory Wildlife Park to support the breeding program of the Black Footed Tree Rat.

Through their efforts, students have adopted sustainable practices, identified NRM-based economic opportunities, minimised their ecological footprint, supported the protection and management of threatened, endangered and vulnerable species, and advocated for improved knowledge and engagement in environmental issues within our community.

NEXT GENERATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

Eco Humans, O'Loughlin Catholic College

The Eco Humans (Ecoh) group was established to address environmental concerns throughout the school and is open to all students from Grades 7-12. The Ecoh group identified and addressed issues with the school's waste management. To initiate change they undertook a waste audit by taping the rubbish bins closed for a day and instructing students and staff to dispose of waste on a tarp on the oval. This activity helped raise awareness of the large quantities of plastic and food waste produced at the school.

This audit led to the implementation of blue wastepaper bins in every classroom and office to collect paper recyclables. Soft plastic and mixed recyclable bins have also been placed in the Food Technology Room for appropriate management and distribution of waste. The soft plastics from these bins are then collected by Ecoh students and placed in the Woolworths Collection bins. The soft plastics from these bins are then collected by Ecoh students and placed in the Woolworths Collection bins. The Ecoh students also collaborated with the RE Coordinator to implement the collection and sorting of the 'Cash for Containers Scheme' as part of the school's RE Curriculum.



NEXT GENERATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists



The Ecoh students are directly involved in Term planning for the Ecoh group with their Teacher. Students elected to raise awareness of the impacts of the school's water waste and carbon footprint. The Ecoh students also participated in the annual Christmas Tree Challenge, fashioning a tree out of recycled materials. They also took ownership of their environment-conscious goals by delivering a presentation at the school's staff meeting about improving sustainability initiatives

within the school. Students also share their knowledge and skills with their family, friends and local community members at every opportunity.

Due to their efforts, school waste generated is being better redirected into appropriate waste categories and recycled more efficiently. The Ecoh group is also striving to establish a School Environment Management Plan (SEMP) to ensure progress within the Ecoh group and the school both in the present and in the future.

FARMERS & FISHERS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Award finalists

Harvest Hill Orchard

Since acquiring their 42-acre property, Harvest Hill Orchard, in 2013, Vuong and Lisa have introduced tailored, innovative solutions developed on-farm to create new sustainable agricultural and aquacultural practices to grow their mangoes and dragon fruit. Their focus has been on improving the soil health and biodiversity of their property to address production issues from the ground-up, rather than treating the symptoms. They also maximised productivity through the use of night lights to induce dual cropping.

A key step forward to improving the health of their soil was the production of their own biochar and bio-fertiliser from on-farm green waste and other by-products from other local industries to reduce waste, such as the use of commercial fish carcasses to create a fish emulsion fertiliser. This change vastly improved the soil health of their property, resulting in reduced pressure from insects and disease, less reliance on chemical interventions and larger produce yields. They also mulch their dragon fruit plants which has improved water efficiency and soil health.

They are committed to maintaining zero disturbance of a native remnant vegetation zone along a shared boundary with the neighbouring property. The property serves as a natural windbreak and supports the established microclimate for soil, habitat and insect biodiversity on the property.

They have diversified their crops to include less water-reliant produce, like dragon fruit, resulting in less water irrigation and reduced water use. They also installed solar energy to bring a renewable energy source to their operation and minimise their ecological footprint.

Through these practices they have managed to diversify their crop composition, preserve the property's biodiversity, improve their utilisation of their on-farm green waste and produce their own biochar and bio-fertiliser, all of which have improved the soil health and biodiversity of their property and created better quality produce.

FARMERS & FISHERS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Award finalists



FARMERS & FISHERS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Award finalists

Fergal O’Gara, Northern Tropical Agriculture

Fergal is a long-term practitioner and advocate of conservation farming, especially the use of minimum or no-till sowing and plant establishment practices in cropping systems and improved pasture.

As an agronomist, he is passionate about sharing his knowledge of crop production, soil control and soil management for Top End conditions. He has personally visited most farmers in the Top End and regularly attends field days and farm walks. He is dedicated to helping Territory farmers adopt sustainable cropping and conservation farming practices to

be the best they can be. His advocacy and efforts are important as no-till farming increases the resilience of the NT’s natural resources and farming industry through risk mitigation in our Top End variable climate.

Fergal was also recently successful in achieving a Smart Farms Small Grant funding for ‘Evaluation of legumes sown no-till into standing pastures to improve pasture quality, soil health and cattle production for sustainable conservation farming practices in the Top End’. His aims are to minimise removal of soil cover associated with cultivation, to improve pasture quality



FARMERS & FISHERS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Award finalists



for better livestock production using natural nitrogen fixation, rather than reliance on inorganic fertilisers (e.g. urea), and to improve soil health and biodiversity. He has completed the initial year of this project, with positive results and extension with various farmers as case studies.

He also authored one of the most practical and informative resources for sustainable farming in the

Top End; 'Striking the Balance' Conservation Farming and Grazing Systems for the semi-arid tropics of the NT. This publication provides valuable information about balancing production and natural resource protection in farming systems, and since its release in 1998 has served as a practical farming 'bible' for the protection of the soil resource and for water conservation under Top End conditions.

FARMERS & FISHERS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Award finalists

Umbarra Station

The McKays have been actively caring for the land at Umbarra Station since it was purchased in 1962. The McKay family at Umbarra have been committed to sustaining the land in the best possible condition through evidence-based land and grazing management principles, which have subsequently demonstrated long term, continued success both financially and environmentally.

Their success comes from their use of conservative stocking rates, a rotational paddock system and developing infrastructure to gain control of grazing pressures. Between 10-15% of their property is destocked

of cattle at any given time and their practices have resulted in improved vegetation condition, increased soil health and higher quality livestock.

Their practice has established well managed grasses that are able to reproduce and regenerate with reduced chance of overgrazing and impact on perennial species. Conserving these native grass species ensures pasture composition remains constant over time. Their management methods have also resulted in increased groundcover bulk and coverage, and continuous weed and feral animal control has seen an increase in the density of native tree and shrub species.



FARMERS & FISHERS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Award finalists



The family are proactive in their property management, actively working to reduce pests and declared weeds, halt soil erosion and rehabilitate degraded areas throughout the property. They also fenced out and permanently excluded cattle grazing from 1,200 hectares of spectacular granite outcrop country as a private conservation project. This was a personal commitment that received no external funding and demonstrates the family's commitment to the conservation of the natural environment in which they work and live.

The McKays have greatly influenced the central Australian pastoral industry as their property management methods are widely considered 'best practice' and have been adopted by their peers throughout the district. They also frequently share their knowledge and time and founded the Southern Beef Producers Group, which has a 20+ years' history of sharing knowledge, data and expertise across a vast area of the Alice Springs district for the betterment of the land, the livestock and the people who reside there. Their efforts, practices and influence has greatly improved the natural resource management outcomes of the pastoral industry in the Northern Territory.

INDIGENOUS NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

Anindilyakwa Land & Sea Rangers

Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Rangers have been proactively undertaking pollution management projects and activities throughout the archipelago region.

They were the first Gulf based ranger group to engage with the Indigenous Ranger Coastal Clean-up Project (IRCCP), a large-scale project to remove ghost nets and marine debris from Sea Country. Anindilyakwa Rangers have driven clean-up efforts through the project by developing innovative monitoring techniques and collaborated with other ranger groups to establish a regionally focused marine pollution management

approach across the archipelago with outstanding results. They also successfully secured grant funding to employ a dedicated coordinator and purchase equipment to support clean-up efforts.

As part of the project, Anindilyakwa Rangers volunteered to be involved in a Ghost Net GPS tracker trial to locate Ghost Nets. They have utilised a helicopter to survey the archipelago for Ghost Nets, increasing the effectiveness of project resource allocations to target and retrieve Ghost Nets. They also coordinated with the local Indigenous community, Government and Industry bodies to



INDIGENOUS NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists



safely and effectively remove a large Ghost Net (more than 4 tonnes) from Groote Eyelandt. They arranged for Barge operators to backload recyclable plastic and organised a trial for plastic recycling of bottles collected from beaches.

The rangers also coordinated a highly successful community clean-up event where 150 people removed more than 20 cubic meters of marine debris. They facilitated a highly successful collaboration between rangers, Traditional Owners and community members to come together to clean-up Sea Country. The team have also presented their work on this project at various forums, and they have shared their knowledge and learnings with other organisations.

To date, the rangers have removed more than 100 Ghost Nets from the environment and collected more than 8 tonnes (2 ½ semi-trailer loads) of marine debris from Sea Country. The efforts of the Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Rangers have inspired groups across the Gulf to become more active in marine pollution management, and almost all gulf-based ranger groups are now engaged with this project. They have also raised the profile and interest of marine debris and highlighted the successes of the hard work of Indigenous rangers and Traditional Owners in protecting Sea Country.

INDIGENOUS NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

Djurrubu Rangers

The Djurrubu Rangers address threats to natural resource assets on the Mirrar Estate, which is situated within the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park.

Over the past 3 years, the Djurrubu Rangers have focused on a project aimed at eradicating a historic Gamba grass infestation near Jabiru. Through the project, they have conducted an aerial grid survey to identify hot spots in the landscape and ground-truthing to record exact gamba grass patch size and accessibility. From this, they devised a wet season spray program utilising a helicopter to access affected areas and undertake regular

treatment and monitoring of affected areas to ensure gamba grass patch eradication.

The Djurrubu Rangers have also focused their efforts on their project to protect the Mount Brockman outlier and its associated sandstone complex ecological community from the impacts of late season fires. The rangers identify key fire entry points and conduct early burning in these areas. They also hold fire camps to create fine-scale burnt breaks across the valley floor within the outlier and research fire sensitive species in the area.



INDIGENOUS NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists



In addition to this, the rangers collaborated with TNRM to conduct surveys and monitor habitat for threatened species in sandstone Country. They also worked to protect the Territory's water resources and waterways by rearing and releasing a biocontrol agent to treat *Salvinia* (water weed), detecting and reporting *Ludwigia leptocarpa* (a foreign plant) on Mirarr floodplains and collaborating with a scientist to monitor the water supply at Baralil Creek.

The Djurrubu Rangers have partnered with many different agencies to undertake their NRM activities on Mirarr Estate, and in doing so have

shared their indigenous perspective of land management with many non-indigenous organisations, increasing awareness of the challenges, as well as demonstrating what it means to look after country with the purpose of retaining and improving its condition, to protect environmental and cultural assets.

The rangers use annual camps on country to provide Traditional Owners and rangers' families with opportunity to see the work that the rangers are doing on country. The rangers also regularly showcase ranger work through their cross-cultural program with visiting Caulfield college classes.

INDIGENOUS NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

Warddeken Land Management

The Mayh Recovery Program, alongside the Warddeken Biodiversity Monitoring program, was established in 2017. Through this program Warddeken Land Management Limited (WLML), with Traditional Owners and rangers, implemented long-term monitoring, ecological research, and adaptive management to recover fauna in the stone country region.

In partnership with TNRM, WLML has conducted targeted threatened species management to determine appropriate survey methods for the white-throated grasswren (WTGW) and successfully detected the exclusive species through a combination of past detections and

traditional ecological knowledge. This year the program also established a second camera density grid to understand the density and movement of feral cats in the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) in areas of high ecological and cultural importance. Rangers and landowners are actively involved in the collection, processing, and reporting of ecological data to assist landowners in making informed decisions for biodiversity management on their own estates.

Threatened species data was utilised in strategic early dry season prescribed burning consultations this year with landowners considering areas of potential priority habitat for



INDIGENOUS NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists



white-throated grasswrens, northern quolls, and the northern brushtail possum. Strategic burning aims to retain the presence of >4 years of unburnt vegetation in a 4km radius across 80% of the IPA. In addition, Warddeken continues to meet the aims of >30% of sandstone shrubland heath remaining unburnt within 5 years and 40% of upland woodlands remaining unburnt for 3 years for biodiversity management.

This year the Mayh Recovery program also facilitated on-ground fine-scale fire breaks to protect key threatened species' habitat on the Barradj Clan estate with traditional landowners. The integration of landscape scale and fine-scale management works are beyond 'business as usual' and represent the desire of landowners to undertake interventionist action to support threaten species populations.

The Mayh Program is a project directed by and for Nawarddeken people. All ground works of the program facilitates the participation of traditional landowners from the region in the Warddeken IPA. Rangers are active in the collection, processing and reporting of data, processing images with species names in a bilingual databases, identifying individual feral cats, and creating poster reports for landowners. The program is committed to equity to employ at least 50% of women across all program activities. Warddeken Rangers excel in their digital skills to collect, analyse, and tell stories with their data but are also committed to continuing to learn and apply their skills in caring for country. By collecting data and sharing it with landowners and partners, they inspire each other to continue the challenge in conserving their endemic species in the stone country.

ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION AWARD

Award finalists

O'Loughlin Catholic College

For the past 3 years, Year 12 students at O'Loughlin Catholic College have been participating in local conservation projects aimed at increasing native vegetation in both onsite and offsite locations throughout the local environment. Through these projects students have learned about the restoration, rehabilitation, sustainability and conservation of local habitats participated in project management and undertaken on-ground activities (planting, weeding, mulching, maintenance etc.). The students also undertake an annual review of their efforts and undertake future planning to improve on their efforts in the following year.

The students have inspired their school and local communities through their ownership of, and dedication to their project sites, while also being inspired by seeing the outcomes of their efforts and hard work. Students have also been inspired to join local conservation groups in their communities where they have been involved in community planting and weeding and other community engagement projects with the Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group and the Rapid Creek Landcare Group.



ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION AWARD

Award finalists

Their efforts have resulted in the successful revegetation of three key sites, enhanced beauty of the College grounds, reduced erosion around the sporting areas and improved presence of native bees in the local area. Through their individual work on these projects, students have obtained new knowledge and skills, and gained valuable insight into habitat revegetation and conservation, the role of native vegetation, and planting for various soil conditions.

Students' plans for the future involve the inclusion of an additional 4 project sites on the College grounds for habitat revegetation, expanding the project to include Year 11 Outdoor Education students, building small wildlife habitats around the College grounds, identifying additional offsite locations within their local community and inviting industry experts to share their knowledge to improve the students' understanding of Land Management Practices. This initiative will ensure the benefits of these projects are maintained and improved upon for years to come.



ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION AWARD

Award finalists

Dr David Liddle

David dedicates his time to, and shares his knowledge and experience with many organisations dedicated to the conservation and management of the Northern Territory's natural environments. He volunteers as Convenor of the Environment Centre NT (ECNT), where he assists with strategic planning and development initiatives, obtaining project objectives and managing governance processes. His influence and participation extends to various local groups including the Casuarina Coast Reserve Landcare Group, Gamba Grass Roots, Top End Native Plant Society, NT Field Naturalists and Climate Action Darwin, amongst others.

Through David's participation in these organisations and his role as a Committee Member on the Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee (GGWAC), he has assisted in the mapping and removal of Gamba Grass throughout the Top End in the Northern Territory. He also regularly speaks at workshops aimed at reducing the spread and impact of Gamba Grass to share maps and information with critical stakeholders and inspires others to join the fight against Gamba Grass. He also acts as the middleman between the

GGWAC and local community. He has also inspired other landcare groups to

replicate these projects in their areas. Through his efforts, David enhances the communication, collaboration, planning, reporting and outcomes for various Gamba Grass projects throughout the Territory.

In addition to his own hard work and dedication, David is also passionate about inspiring others to improve their skills and knowledge so they can better look after their local environments. He leads guided walks, sharing his love and knowledge of local landscapes flora and fauna. He participates in information-sharing videos on the ECNT Youtube Channel. He also advocates for the continuation or creation of different projects focused on protecting the Territory's natural environment.

His greatest achievement is his willingness to motivate, inspire and lead quietly by example throughout all of his endeavours to look after the Northern Territory.



ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION AWARD

Award finalists



ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION AWARD

Award finalists

McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd – The Rehabilitation Team

The McArthur River Mine's (MRM) Rehabilitation Team has undertaken an extensive revegetation program along a 5.5km diversion channel, the McArthur River Diversion Channel. The team adhered to the Rehabilitation Management Plan to implement a robust revegetation strategy involving the operation of an onsite tube stock nursery capable of producing over 150,000 tube stock annually.

The MRM Rehabilitation Team successfully plant up to 120,000 plants annually including 18 key species of grass, shrubs, and trees

representative of the surrounding environment, with most grown from locally collected seed. They also implemented a seed collection program and a specialist monitoring program to ensure revegetation works are effective and improving. Revegetation success was also achieved through the installation and operation of a large irrigation system.

The MRM Rehabilitation Team employs 14 residents, two of whom are local Indigenous community members, and collaborates with local Traditional Owners and members of the local community



ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION AWARD

Award finalists



to guide revegetation efforts. The team preferentially uses NT-based suppliers for all supplies including potting mix, fertilisers, fencing equipment, steel fabrication, transport, erosion control and civil services.

Since 2010, approximately 815,000 plants have been planted as part of this program. The efforts of the MRM Rehabilitation Team have resulted in a significant improvement in the habitat surrounding the McArthur River Diversion Channel. Monitoring has indicated that the distribution of riparian bird species is improving

and moving closer to that of regional reference sites. Furthermore, acoustic monitoring of freshwater sawfish indicated that passage through the diversion channel is unimpeded, in addition to an increased diversity and abundance of aquatic fauna with improved habitat structure and quality.

Revegetation sites are visited by community members and organisations, state and federal government and industry regulators to demonstrate the environmental impacts, progress, and future plans for the revegetation program enacted by the MRM Rehabilitation Team.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

Robert Lindsay, Malak Malak Rangers

Rob Lindsay has lived on Malak Malak land along the Daly River since the 1980's and has become a trusted member of the Malak Malak community. Rob worked in many roles within the region and was involved with the 1992 Malak Malak Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT) hand back. Rob witnessed and shared many concerns of the Malak Malak Traditional Owners regarding the poor state of some areas of the ALT. Malak Malak Traditional Owner, Albert Myoung recognised the many environmental problems caused by introduced animals and weeds, which resulted in starting the Ranger Land Management programs in 1998.

Rob has recently retired from the role as Ranger Coordinator and leaves behind an effective ranger group and the aspirations of senior Malak Malak Traditional Owners for future land management captured in the Malak Malak Healthy Country Plan. Rob has been a trusted torchbearer for many years, leading the Malak Malak Rangers and working closely with key partner organisations such as Wangamaty Landcare, the NTG Weeds Branch and Bushfires NT to effectively mitigate the key threats of bad fire and weeds on the Malak Malak Land Trust and beyond.



The Malak Malak Ranger group owes its success to Rob being the glue that holds everything together. He has successfully nurtured the next generation of rangers into senior roles within the group. Rob has not only dedicated his time to Land Management over the many years he has lived in Daly River, but has also been one of the key members of the Malak Malak Community and has represented them on many forums. Rob works tirelessly with the Malak Malak elders to ensure they are well represented and well-informed on ranger matters and of the positive changes that have occurred with consistent management over many years.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award finalists



Rob always thinks of everyone before himself and is never too busy to help no matter how big or small the issue. He is well respected by all people within the Daly River Community and is loved and cherished by the Malak Malak people. Anyone who knows Rob will tell you he is a dedicated, hardworking, honest man who has spent a lifetime deserving of such an award as the “life time achievement award”.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

Mr Rioli, Tiwi Rangers

Mr Rioli was a proud Munupi man and inspiring leader who led the Tiwi Ranger Program for 14 years until he sadly passed away in July. He was one of the first rangers appointed to the program in 2006 and demonstrated such leadership potential he became the Supervisor and Mentor in 2008.

Through his expert fire management, knowledge of country, management of environmental programs and research support, he made a significant contribution to the protection of the Tiwi Islands' exceptional environmental and cultural values. His passion for fire management

and strong communication skills led him to play a lead role in the Tiwi Carbon Study, chair the Bushfires NT Arnhem Region Council (2016-2022) and become a director and founding member of the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network Steering Committee (2018-2022).

As well as leading fire management on the ground with the Tiwi Rangers, Mr Rioli played a lead role in the Tiwi Carbon Study which informed the development of the Australian Government ERF's savanna burning methodology that takes into account carbon storage in ecosystems, rather than just considering non-CO2



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award finalists



emissions in smoke. The Tiwi Carbon Study was a partnership between Tiwi Rangers, Tiwi Land Council and CSIRO. He also led the field work testing the impacts of different fire management options on Tiwi biodiversity.

Mr Rioli was a Director and founding member of the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network Steering Committee which oversaw the development of the network as Australia's first peak body for the Indigenous carbon industry. He was passionate about uniting people from across Australia to provide exciting opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

He was an extraordinary role model for young Tiwi people. He championed the Junior Ranger

program with Tiwi College and loved talking to students across the islands about the importance of caring for country and keeping culture strong. He was a passionate advocate for burning the right way - fire management to keep country healthy, protect biodiversity and reduce carbon emissions. He felt strongly about the importance of passing knowledge down to the next generation and led numerous school and community fire engagement activities over the years. Mr Rioli was forever making time for others and very passionate about providing opportunities for young people and future generations. He was also a great conduit between the Tiwi people, rangers and researchers undertaking scientific research on the Tiwi Islands.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

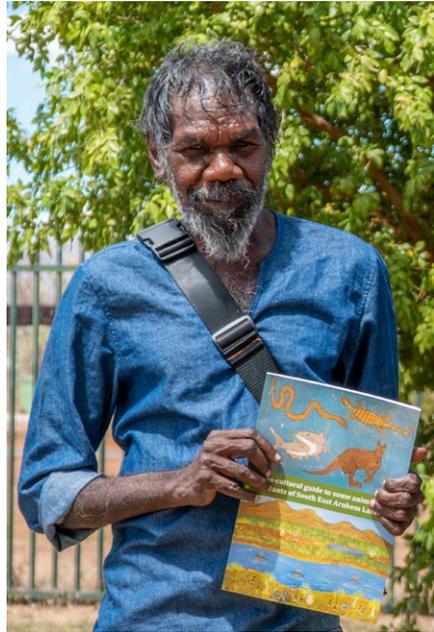
Award finalists

Winston Thompson, Yugul Mangi Rangers / SEAL IPA

Winston Thompson, Ngandi Traditional Owner, senior cultural advisor, ranger, role model, mentor, teacher and bush professor, has had a substantial impact on conservation and preservation of ecological cultural knowledge in south east Arnhem Land and the Top End.

Starting his journey teaching in the remote community of Ngukurr, Winston then championed the beginning of the Yugul Mangi Rangers when they first started operating in 2008. Going on to become the Yugul Mangi Assistant Coordinator he was integral to the development of the South East Arnhem Land (SEAL) Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) and continues to be on the IPA Steering Committee and now continues his hard work as the Cultural Advisor for the Yugul Mangi Rangers. In this role he has been vital to the continuation of the Junior Ranger Program and has strengthened the delivery of the Learning on Country Program.

His passion for teaching Indigenous cultural and ecological knowledge to the next generation and the community is not new, for many years Winston has contributed to



numerous published works, including interpreting eco-cultural knowledge and has worked alongside research institutes to produce numerous key documents, including the maiden Yugul Mangi Faiya En Sisen Kelenda (the Yugul Mangi Seasonal Fire Calendar).

Winston's contributions to land management are extensive and his knowledge has been shared across

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award finalists



Australia. Being the driving force and a foundational steering committee member behind the successful SEAL Fire Abatement program, his knowledge of right-way fire management and cultural knowledge propelled the development of the Seasonal Fire Calendar.

His extensive fieldwork experience on biodiversity surveys to develop baseline data with CSIRO has paved the way for changes to scientific data collection and research with Atlas of Living Australia, to support Aboriginal knowledge, language and the interconnections between biodiversity, people, place and culture.

Winston's passion for transfer of ecological knowledge and land management in south east Arnhem Land has reverberated across the landscape and has inspired future rangers and Traditional Owners.

This passion for developing young people and teaching them two-way Indigenous Cultural Knowledge is reflected in his consistent support for, and involvement with, programs that directly contribute to land management and conservation. This includes the Junior Ranger Programs and Champion of the Learning on Country Program in Ngukurr where he has become the driving force of engaging with young people.



THANK YOU

We sincerely thank all of you who nominated individuals and groups for these awards, to help recognise and bring attention to the achievements of the many Territorians who are dedicated to the sustainable management of our land, waters and biodiversity.

Each year we receive many strong nominations and this year is no exception. An independent panel of judges has undertaken the difficult but exciting task of assessing nominations across the eight Award categories. Territory Natural

Resource Management wishes to thank the judges – Adele Pedder, David Liddle, Glenn Durie, Jaemie Page, Jamie Lewis, Jasmine Jan, Jenny Davis, Michael Finey and Sally Clayton – for their time and diligence in assessing this year’s nominations.

The annual Northern Territory Natural Resource Management Awards is fortunate to have the support of many generous sponsors. We sincerely thank you for your investment and for making the event one we are all very proud of.

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