

NORTHERN TERRITORY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2023 Awards 22 November



BEST COLLABORATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

Australian Wildlife Conservancy in collaboration with Northern Territory Government (Flora and Fauna division), Alice Springs Desert Park and Tjoritja National Park

Australian Wildlife Conservatory (AWC), Northern Territory Government Flora and Fauna division, Alice Springs Desert Park (ASDP), Tjoritja National Park, and Traditional Owners worked together to develop and successfully deliver the translocation of the critically endangered Central Rock-rat (*Zyomys pedunculatus*). Translocated took place from 3 locations: (1) from Tjoritja NP to Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary, AWC, (2) from Tjoritja NP to a captive breeding program at ASDP, (3) from captive breeding program at ASDP to Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary AWC.



Central Rock Rat *Zyomys pedunculatus*

The translocation program has proven to be a success to date with follow-up monitoring confirming the successful introduction into the 9,450 Ha feral predator-free safe haven, at Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary, AWC. Appropriate land management is supported to encourage population growth and food resource production, particularly through targeted fire management.

The collaborative work between the listed organisations has ensured the protection of the critically endangered Central Rock-rat.



NTGs Translocation lead, Alistair Stewart

BEST COLLABORATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AWARD *Winner*

Award finalists

Waanyi Garawa Rangers in collaboration with Bush Heritage Australia, Robinson River School and Ground-up Ecology

Garawa Rangers, Waanyi Garawa Rangers, Traditional Owners, and Bush Heritage Australia (BHA) have worked together for the past 7 years to support land management activities to promote the health of the Country through biodiversity surveys and Culture Camps.

2022 saw over 60 people camp together on Rhumbarriya Country to engage in activities including cultural activities (painting, singing, weaving, storytelling, and others), recording of cultural knowledge, initiating the development of a seasonal calendar, setting up camera traps, and participating in on-going biodiversity surveys. Culture Camps prove to be a great way to get people back on



Camp attendees displaying their paintings at the 2022 Camp

Country and create safe spaces for intergenerational sharing. The camp saw both Traditional knowledge and Western science work together to discuss 'good' fire management, protection of the rich biodiversity in the area, and impacts from feral animals.

The 2022 camp could not have gone ahead without the support of Bush Heritage Australia, Robinson River School, NT Museum, Parks and Wildlife, Ground Up Ecology, Traditional Owners, Custodians, Elders, Rangers, NLC Support staff and, of course, the school kids.



Rachel McDinny, Kelly Retief (BHA), Karen Noble, and Hazel Godfrey weaving baskets at the 2022 camp.

FARMERS & FISHERS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Award finalists

Garry Riggs, Lakefield Station

Gary has shown an ongoing commitment to the conservation and restoration of Lakefield Station, within the Mataranka region and the greater Sturt Plateau biome. Lakefield Station has maintained a Territory Conservation Agreement with Territory NRM for the past 10 years and has recently continued this commitment for a further 10 years to help protect important wetlands.

Garry and the Riggs family's efforts in conservation have proven to ensure vegetation and landscapes are protected on the active cattle station.



Lakefield Station cattle

Gary uses adaptive grazing structures to maintain healthy landscapes that do not result in overgrazing and land degradation. His focus on animal welfare, weed, and fire management all contribute to the improved vegetation complexity and wide range of biodiversity.

Lakefield Station remains a profitable enterprise, and its dedication to conservation proves you can sustainably manage land whilst protecting its biodiversity.



Garry Riggs in the field

FARMERS & FISHERS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Award finalists

Munro Hardy, Mutual Food and Fibre

With a focus on soil health and smart climate operations, Munro Hardy, along with his partner Grace McLeod, are committed to maximise farm efficiency and expanding operations for long-term sustainability in the recently acquired Carbeen Park, located within the Katherine region.

Munro has implemented multiple management practices and trials to support their hay production to the local feed mill, including; composting trials, minimum-till system, crop rotation, multi-species pasture, grazing rotation, and soil testing.

Munro and Grace's commitment to sustainable farming practices and their vision for long-term sustainability extends beyond their farm and brings wider benefits to the industry and community by continuing to engage and share their learned knowledge within numerous platforms.



Crop germination on Carbeen Park



Munro with Hay ready for baling

FARMERS & FISHERS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Award finalists

Winner

Young and Lisa Nguten, Harvest Hill Orchard

Young and Lisa Nguten, over the past 10 years, have been committed to improving farm sustainability and environmental outcomes across their property, working towards their 'zero waste' target. The team has diversified their traditional mango monoculture practice into a polyculture of mangoes, jackfruit, and dragon fruit with the aim to improve the overall farm biodiversity, soil protection and increase water sustainability.

Young and Lisa have also incentivised using their green waste for the production of biochar, reducing on-farm carbon emissions, builds healthier soil by improving the nutrient and water holding capacity of soil and re-investing into the increased yields. On-farm bio-fertilisers have significantly reduced their reliance



Vuong showing some Biochar

on synthetic nutrients supporting improved soil health, microbial biodiversity and a reduction in disease and insect pressures.

Young and Lisa's sustainable agriculture practices illustrate a holistic approach that enhances the responsible use and protection of natural resources in the Northern Territory. The production methods they have implemented often complement one another and serve to improve the sustainable use of several resources at once.



Harvest Hill Orchard polyculture cropping

INDIGENOUS NRM AWARD

Award finalists

Djurrubu Rangers

Djurrubu Rangers have been exponentially increasing their capacity in the past years to care for Country in the Mirrar Estate, within Kakadu National Park. They engage in numerous NRM projects, such as targeted fire management in stone country, threatened fauna species surveys and monitoring, and feral animal and weed management amongst others.

2022/23 saw Djurrubu Rangers undertake a large scale gamba grass eradication effort within the historic Mudginberri infestation. They brought together key organisations and funding to ensure that a targeted, informed and operational eradication program was established. Djurrubu Rangers have been instrumental in the development of an eradication methodology which allows early



Djurrubu Rangers and Territory NRM conducting gamba monitoring

season detection with follow-up treatment to happen in the same season before seeding and fire. They have navigated and adapted techniques to ensure that the eradication program is fit for their region and ensuring best chance for a successful eradication program. Djurrubu Rangers then treated all identified sites within their treatment area, with their efforts being critical for the eradication of gamba grass from Kakadu National Park.

The Djurrubu Rangers continue to work with Traditional Owners and support organisations to ensure they are well informed to Care for Country.



Djurrubu Rangers spraying gamba grass

INDIGENOUS NRM AWARD

Winner

Award finalists

Tiwi Resources / Tiwi Rangers

Tiwi Rangers are committed to looking after Country and want all Tiwi people to understand the threat cats pose to the Tiwi Islands unique wildlife. Tiwi Rangers have developed a community led project, identifying feral cats as a key threatening process to their unique biodiversity.

Traditional Owners and Rangers have engaged in numerous activities to build their capacity and understanding of feral cats on the Tiwi Islands. Tiwi Rangers have engaged specialist ecologists and participated in Ranger exchanges to trial a range of methods for feral cat management including trialling satellite tracking collars to observe their movements



Tiwi and Anindyliakwa Rangers displaying warning sign for baiting

in the landscape, spotlight shooting, trapping and felixer grooming traps. Analysis of stomach content from destroyed cats further gave the Tiwi Rangers and Traditional Owners insight into the detrimental impact feral cats may be posing to the wildlife on the Tiwi Islands.

This Tiwi-led cat project will benefit numerous Tiwi threatened species and protect the Islands' unique biodiversity values for future generations. Tiwi Rangers are now armed with appropriate training, knowledge and equipment to implement their feral cat management program.



Tiwi Ranger Derek Puruntameri setting up a Felixer on Melville Island

INDIGENOUS NRM AWARD

Award finalists

Werenbun Aboriginal Corporation

Werenbun Aboriginal Corporation work alongside Kakadu National Park to ensure their natural resources and waterways remain free from invasive species to promote healthy habitats.

Werebun operates over the Southern Entry and Western boundary of Kakadu NP, they are the first line of defence in protecting the World Heritage Area from the threat of invasive animals and weeds.

Werebun have continued to engage in ongoing treatment and monitoring of threats to Country.

They operate over 3 Jawoyn clan estates and are frequently engaging in community consultations and engagement to ensure Rangers are operating with well informed and community led decisions.

Werebun is dedicated to ensuring their Country is healthy and cared for in a safe and practical way, incorporating Traditional Knowledge and methods on how Country is managed to ensure that Traditional Owners and future generations can enjoy and continue cultural activities on Country.



Senior Ranger, Billy, standing next to a 4m high gamba tussock

NEXT GENERATION NRM AWARD

Award finalists

Milkwood Steiner School

Milkwood's commitment to embedding Traditional Knowledge taught by Aboriginal elders into all subject areas, with a strategic focus on Sustainability from has resulted in the development of their Lippa Lippa project (canoe making). Milkwood's strategic plan involved consultations with over 100 students who identified their desire to engage in outdoor learning about Country, caring for the school's native bush block through the lens of sustainability, water and its importance. Traditional Owner Laurie Baymarawanga and her family were engaged to lead the Lippa Lippa project, focusing on the sustainable harvest of natural resources, cultural pride and preservation.

Milkwood children were involved in all stages of this project, from identifying



Milkwood students learning to make string for canoe-making.



Laurie Baymarawanga with students from Milkwood Steiner School with the finished canoes

NEXT GENERATION NRM AWARD

Winner

Award finalists

Mimal Land Management / Bulman School

Mimal Land Management, Bulman School, its students and community members of Bulman and Weemol work together to support their independent Learning on Country Program. The program supports intergenerational transmission of local Indigenous knowledge and exposure to present day land management practices and work opportunities to inspire students to engage with the education system and participate in work ready activities.

The program's content is developed by a community led steering committee made up of Elders, students, rangers and school staff. Community meetings allows for students to present what they have



Mimal Ranger, Leon, teaching students how to use fire sticks.

been doing and the community to hold ownership of the program.

A key focus is for learning to be inspired by getting youth and Elders, rangers and other expert's on Country together to share stories about Country and Culture and how to look after these assets into the future.



Students learning about fire preparation on a Country camp.

NEXT GENERATION NRM AWARD

People's Choice
Winner

Award finalists

Parap Primary School ECO Warriors

Parap ECO Warriors are led by students, teachers and families that have showed great dedication to the ECO Schools program to recycle, reuse and reduce and to promote a sustainable and environmentally conscious living upon the future generations.

The school is committed to engaging students and the wider community in their strong culture for sustainability and actively engage in community events to promote their ethos. Parap ECO Warriors promote their targets by engaging in social events such as Clean-Up Australia Day and assisting with the clean-up after the Parap Village Shops and Saturday Market Area, they have implemented their own internal programs such as 'Nude Food Day' and 'Nude Food Week',



Parap Primary ECO Warriors

ECO Challenge hours, no printing for teachers and big school clean-ups, which is largely run by students.

The Parap School ECO Warriors have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Eco-School for their continued effort, from both students and teachers, to make a positive impact to support greener living and continue to strive to support students in their own leadership and confidence within this space.



Parap Primary ECO Warriors

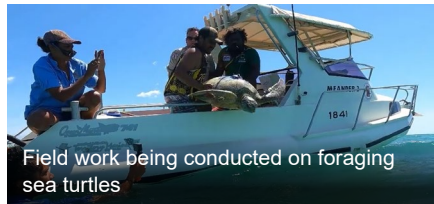
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH FOR NRM AWARD

Award finalists

Larrakia, Kakadu, Cobourg, Marthakal, Mardbalk, Tiwi and Kenbi Ranger Groups, and the Marine Megafauna Project, Charles Darwin University in collaboration with Garig Gunak Barlu National Park, Parks and Wildlife Commission NT

Charles Darwin University has partnered with numerous Indigenous ranger groups across the Top End to deliver a collaborative project to provide fundamental information on the ecology of northern Australian marine megafauna, to design and support baseline regional biodiversity monitoring programs that inform effective environmental management.

The project aims to create standardized ways of observing marine megafauna and promote teamwork between different groups such as Traditional Owners, Sea Rangers, scientists, and the Government, use seascape genetics to determine species presence



Field work being conducted on foraging sea turtles

to assist in developing methods for monitoring and management, and identify key habitat areas for these species for conservation management.

The project has been successful in bringing organisations together through cross-cultural communication for Aboriginal and western scientific knowledge to assist in Ranger

exchanges, knowledge sharing and capacity building to strengthen Indigenous Ranger groups, and increase the relatively unknown movements and ecology of marine megafauna in the Top End waters.



Rangers and researchers in a planning meeting

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH FOR NRM AWARD

Award finalists

Winner

Li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers in collaboration with Charles Darwin University, James Cook University and Parks and Wildlife Commission NT

Charles Darwin University, Li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers, Marra and Yanyuwa Traditional Owners and custodians, James Cook University and NT Parks and Wildlife Commission, have collaborated together to provide the basis for developing a culturally-driven framework for protection and management of values in the Marra's Limmen Bight Marine Park and Yanyuwa Sea Country.

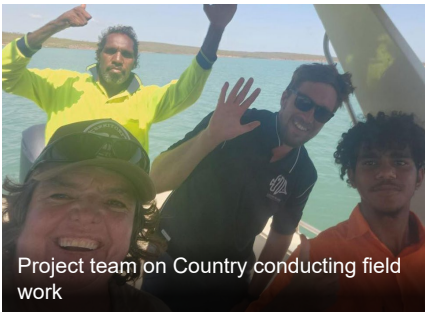
The project involved the mapping and documentation of marine benthic habitats through aerial and boat based surveys, compiling significant datasets on environmental and cultural values to improve Indigenous-led sea country management and



Sea Rangers using drop cameras in the field for monitoring

protection. The project has led to the implementation of on-Country identification and protection of important and endangered species. These habitats and species face multiple threats including climate change impacts, threats to upstream water quality and other land degradation activities.

Researchers and the Marra and Yanyuwa people collaborated in all aspects of development and implementation of the project, such as survey design and on water surveys, building capacity and skill of land managers to ensure on-going management.



Project team on Country conducting field work

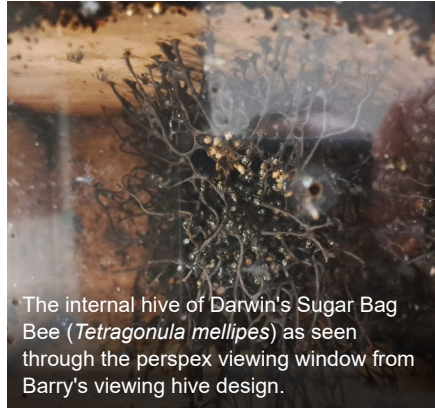
ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION AWARD

Award finalists

Barry Conde, Native Stingless Bees Leanyer

Barry has become the 'go-to' man when it comes to native stingless bees in the greater Darwin region. Barry has worked tirelessly to increase public awareness of native bees, their importance in the ecosystem and to encourage native bee keeping within the community.

Barry has fostered his love for native bees through volunteering his time at workshops and events to be able to support the local bee community. The development of his own, interactive bee hives allows for better community engagement, local purchasing of equipment and maintenance. With land development and habitat loss



The internal hive of Darwin's Sugar Bag Bee (*Tetragonula mellipes*) as seen through the perspex viewing window from Barry's viewing hive design.

being a major threat to our native bees, Barry's hive designs along with the next wave of bee keepers play an enormously important role in supporting healthy bee colonies to develop, grow and thrive in local habitats.

Barry continues to present at workshops and engage at community events, using his viewing hives and home collected honey to help inspire the next generation of meliponists (bee keepers) and help raise awareness of the importance of our native stingless bees in the ecosystem and help drive their conservation.



Barry presenting at a Land for Wildlife workshop

ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION AWARD

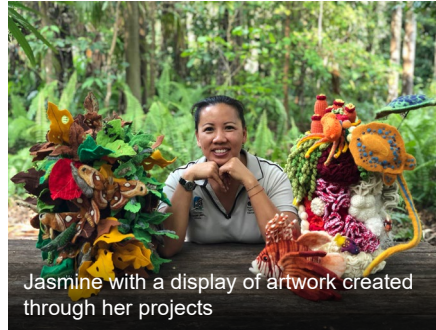
Award finalists

Winner

Jasmine Jan, Territory Wildlife Park

Jasmine has managed and grown the Territory Wildlife Park's Artist in the Park and Community Arts Program since 2011. Over the past 12 years Jasmine has involved hundreds of participants in community education programs, bringing together scientists, researchers, schools and the public to raise awareness around various conservation projects.

Topics that Jasmine has covered through these projects include global warming, climate change, coral bleaching and coral reef degradation, plastic pollution, threatened species, protection of aquatic ecosystems and the impact of invasive weeds on NT native flora and fauna to name a few.



Jasmine with a display of artwork created through her projects

Jasmine draws on her established networks to bring together established artists, novice artists and community members to increase knowledge and understanding of environmental issues. Anyone who enters the Territory Wildlife Park are privy to the work and her on-going commitment to conservation and the environment.



Volunteers participating in the Atlas Moth Felted Forest Project

ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION AWARD

Award finalists

Pauline Cass, Gamba Grass Roots

Pauline has been the face and driver of Gamba Grass Roots (GGR) since its conception. Gamba grass is recognised as one of the biggest environmental threats currently faced by the Top End. GGR established from a partnership between The Pew Charitable Trusts and Environment Centre NT, aiming to bring people together to share stories (both success and struggles), agencies/land care groups and advocate for better management, awareness and outcomes for protection of the Top Ends unique flora and fauna.



Pauline engaging with the community at Fred's Pass Markets

The advocacy work Pauline and GGR has been instrumental in highlighting community concerns around gamba grass and raising these issues to a local and ministerial level to help facilitate initiatives that have been committed to the ongoing fight against gamba grass.

Pauline is always actively engaging and volunteering her time with the community through field days and workshops, community events and market stalls, focusing on up-skilling landholders and sharing stories, methods and examples of how people have/are managing gamba.



Pauline in the field with land managers and partners

RANGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Award finalists

Cleveland Kantawara, Central Land Council

Cleveland has demonstrated great enthusiasm and dedication to the Ranger programs he supports within the Central Land Council. Cleveland has demonstrated great investment into his own career as a Ranger over the decades, changing careers to invest and protect Country for himself as a ranger and Traditional Owner.

Cleveland has been particularly instrumental in the planning and execution of the first-of-its-kind surveys for the critically endangered Central Rock-rat, resulting in an increased knowledge of their home range, this information has then been used to inform fire management and other land management activities to protect the critically endangered species.

Cleveland has grown from a part time ranger into a regional project



Cleveland at a Central Rock-rat planning meeting

officer for the Central Land Council, supporting several Ranger programs and support staff to improve land management actions. Cleveland has shown great investment into people and their development within this space, his style of leadership supports and encourages others to perform to the best of their ability has greatly improved the land management outcomes, and inspired other rangers to strive to their abilities.



Cleveland in the field for threatened species surveys

RANGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Award finalists

Jennifer Hunter, Parks Australia

Jenny has been an active Ranger within Kakadu National Park for the past 30 years, she has maintained a significant role in managing and protecting Kakadu's natural and cultural heritage.

Jenny actively engages in the advocacy for the health of Country through her community engagement, whether it is through guided tours or teaching and strengthening cultural knowledge with the local school. Jenny leads a team of Indigenous women and child engagement programs offering mentorship, nature camps, and hands-on experiences to help encourage and build confidence for women within the NRM space. Jenny goes above and beyond by



Jenny collecting native seeds

propagating her own nursery of native seedlings that can then contribute to the restoration of landscapes. Jenny displays unwavering commitment, deep cultural knowledge, and extensive experience in land management. Jenny's dedication to passing on and strengthening cultural knowledge and land management techniques to young Indigenous women and school-based children in the Jabiru community is a testament to her passion for preserving and sharing her heritage.



Jenny working with female rangers on Fire management techniques

RANGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Winner

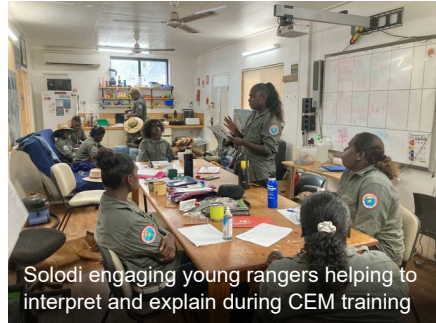
Award finalists

Solodi Buthungguliwuy, Crocodile Island Rangers

Solodi is a key leader within the Crocodile Island Rangers and in her community, working with, mentoring, engaging Rangers and community to achieve targeted NRM outcomes, looking after the protected lands and seas of Maringa Country.

Her contribution to keeping the ranger team strong and functioning provides resources (boats, barge, tools and equipment) for Traditional Owner's and broader community to access and maintain cultural connections and practices across the remote islands. Her contributions in all these areas have contributed greatly to the recent (July 2023) granting of an Indigenous Protected Area over the Islands.

Solodi's knowledge of the country, the people, the issues, the language,



Solodi engaging young rangers helping to interpret and explain during CEM training

combined with her communication and engagement skills, inspires and drives the rangers as well as providing a much needed focal point and enabler for others who work/ research in the region to understand and respect Yolngu values and aspirations.



Solodi surveying shorebirds with Birdlife Australia and Larrakia Ranger.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

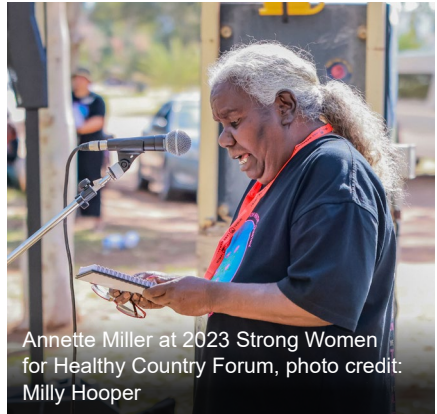
Winner

Award finalists

Annette Miller, Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation

Annette Miller is a Rembarrnga and Dalabon Elder from the Marananggu clan in Central Arnhem Land. As a Traditional Owner of the Bigedi homelands, she has been caring for her Country all her life.

Annette began her career as a school teacher where she committed herself to educating the next generation of custodians, advocating for languages and culture to be incorporated into the school curricula. Through her dedicated work, Annette became the deputy principal at Bulman School until her retirement.



Annette Miller at 2023 Strong Women for Healthy Country Forum, photo credit: Milly Hooper

Annette has been instrumental in the development and birth of the Strong Women for Healthy Country Network that today, is widely known and fostered among Rangers, Traditional Owners and Custodians, next generation and others.

Through Annette's leadership, Mimal Land Management can support and host the Strong Women for Healthy Country network, giving women time to collectively design the governance and processes that would work for them. Since then, hundreds of women have gathered over the past 3 years across the Territory to map out their strategy and put their priorities into action to support women on Country.



Annette Miller at 2023 Strong Women for Healthy Country Forum, photo credit: Milly Hooper

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

Colin Kerinauia, Tiwi Resources / Tiwi Rangers

Colin has worked as a Tiwi Ranger for 18 years, and although recently retired continues to support the Rangers as a cultural advisor, attending meetings and other consultations where he continues to contribute his invaluable knowledge of Tiwi Island Culture and Country.

Colin's expertise and contributions have been acknowledged in publications in multiple scientific papers concerning natural resource management. Colin is often the 'go-to' person when scientists and other research bodies wish to engage in projects on the Tiwi Islands. Being involved in numerous projects from fire management, native species monitoring and management and



Colin undertaking biodiversity surveys.

threat mitigation, all ensuring the projects are applicable for best practice land management on the Tiwi Islands.

Colin has been a strong role model for his fellow Tiwi Rangers and wider community and is actively involved in the two-way communication between rangers, researchers, other organisational bodies and the wider community.



Colin assisting CDU scientist check cage traps

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award finalists

Mary Blyth

Mary has worked a variety of roles during her life and career to support natural resource management. Mary started her ranger career through the Kakadu National Park training program in 1985, Mary was one of the first female rangers to go through this program and gain successful employment as a Ranger with Kakadu NP after her graduation.

Mary continued her career in NRM by moving into Rock Art Management through the Cultural and Natural Resource Trust, recording, documenting and storing of previously unrecorded Cultural histories within Kakadu NP, contributing to the research and recognition of traditional management.



Mary at the Learning on Country Camp 2023

Most recently Mary has been employed with the Northern Land Council in various positions, including ranger training and other Cultural Advisory positions. Mary continues to support Rangers on-ground by advocating for on-Country ranger driven activities, improving WHS

and training conditions, assisting with consultations and Healthy Country Planning to ensure rangers and Traditional Owners are supported on Country.

Mary continues to significantly contribute to the growth and the caring of her family Country as a Miniaga Traditional Owner.



Kakadu, Murganella & Garig Gunak Barku training exercise 1986 (image courtesy of Ian Morris)

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Award finalists

Annette Miller, Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation

Australian Wildlife Conservancy in collaboration with Northern Territory Government (Flora and Fauna division), Alice Springs Desert Park and Tjoritja National Park

Barry Conde, Native Stingless Bees Leanyer

Cleveland Kantawara, Central Land Council

Colin Kerinaiua, Tiwi Resources / Tiwi Rangers

Djurrubu Rangers

Garry Riggs, Lakefield Station

Jasmine Jan, Territory Wildlife Park

Jennifer Hunter, Parks Australia

Larrakia, Kakadu, Cobourg, Marthakal, Mardbalk, Tiwi and Kenbi Ranger Groups, and the Marine Megafauna Project, Charles Darwin University in collaboration with Garig Gunak Barlu National Park, Parks and Wildlife Commission NT

Li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers in collaboration with Charles Darwin University, James Cook University and Parks and Wildlife Commission NT

Mary Blyth

Milkwood Steiner School

Mimal Land Management / Bulman School

Munro Hardy, Mutual Food and Fibre

Parap Primary School ECO Warriors *Winner*

Pauline Cass, Gamba Grass Roots

Solodi Buthungguliyuy, Crocodile Island Rangers

Tiwi Resources / Tiwi Rangers

Young and Lisa Nguten, Harvest Hill Orchard

Waanyi Garawa Rangers in collaboration with Bush Heritage Australia, Robinson River School and Ground-up Ecology

Werenbun Aboriginal Corporation

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Platinum Partners



Gold Partners



Silver Partners



Bronze Partners

