



Karrkad
Kanjdi
Trust

For Country, culture and community



We live and work on Aboriginal land.



The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust (KKT) is a philanthropic trust that was established by Traditional Owners of the Warddeken and Djelk Indigenous Protected Areas in 2010, to support their vision for healthy Country. As custodians of much of West and Central Arnhem Land—one of the largest Indigenous estates in Australia—they innovatively recognised the potential strength and increased freedom and flexibility of alternative funding sources.

Today, KKT is a shared resource to eight First Nations community-controlled organisations in Arnhem Land, supporting the preservation and revitalisation of culture, and the conservation of over 50,000 square kilometres of land and sea Country.

**We pay our respects to all Elders, past
and present, across the nations we work.**

Above: Djelk Indigenous
Protected Area coastline
Photo by Stacey Irving

Cover: Nawarddeken Academy
students on Bininj Manbolh
Photo by Cody Thomas

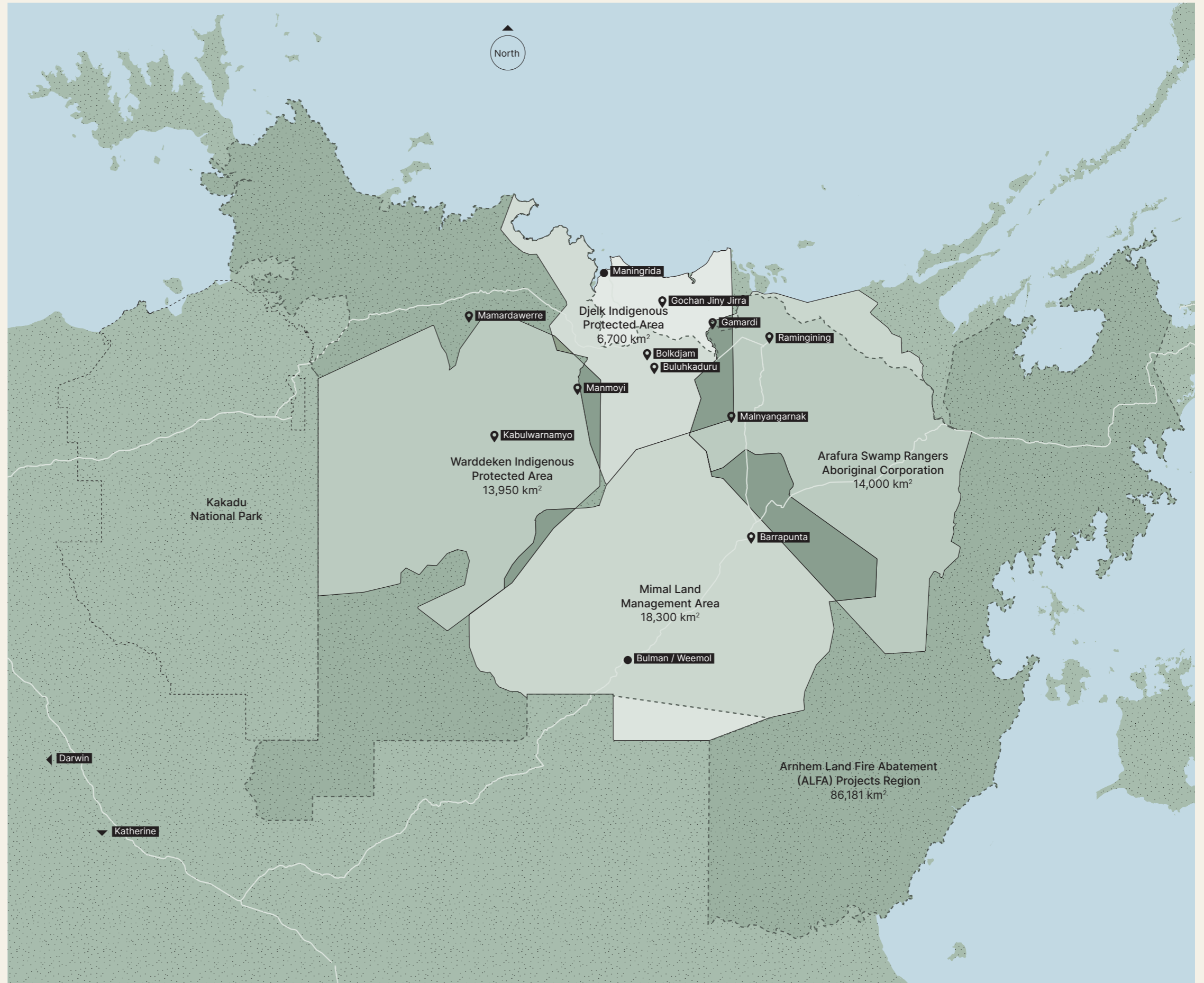
Central and West Arnhem Land

Extent indicator



Key

- Town
- 📍 Remote community
- ◀ Nearby locations
- Main road
- - - ALFA Projects Region
- Indigenous Protected Area boundaries



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Karrkad Kanjdji (pronounced 'gada-gut guny-jee') are Kunwinjku words from the Bininj Kunwok language that refer to Arnhem Land's Stone Country highlands—karrkad ('gada-gut')—and savanna lowlands—kanjdji ('guny-jee')—that we work together to protect.

Above: Warddeken daluk rangers, Tinnesha Narorrnga and Alexandria Namarnyilk
Photo by Kane Chenoweth

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Origin story



Dean Yibarbuk
(Co-Chair)

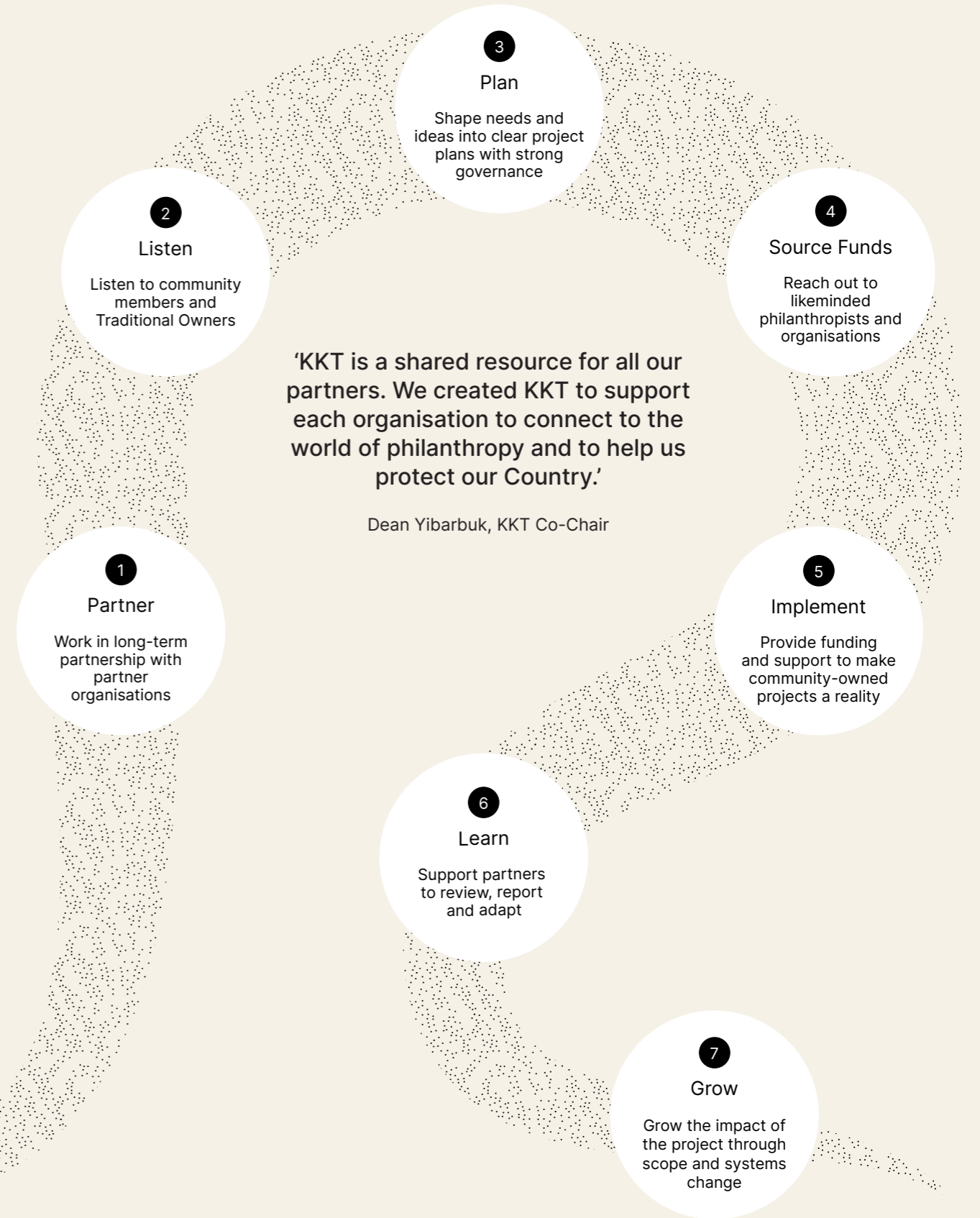
KKT was created by Traditional Owners and innovative leaders representing Aboriginal community-controlled organisations from across Arnhem Land.

As the initiative has grown, the founding partners have invited Aboriginal community-controlled organisations across the region to join. Collectively, we govern KKT by nominating members to the KKT board and working alongside the other experts we bring in to walk beside us.



Founding partners

Expanding partnerships



Board of Directors

Every project that our board elects to fund is designed, owned and led by communities.



Dean Yibarbuk
(Co-Chair)

Dean is a Traditional Owner of Djinkarr. He is Co-Chair of the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network and Warddeken Land Management and has a wealth of experience in complex community-based projects and has been involved with KKT since its inception.



Justin Punch
(Co-Chair)

Justin is an experienced environmental investor focused on climate change and the energy transition. He is the Chair of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, a Director of Tasman Environmental Markets and a co-founder of Assembly Climate Capital.



Cindy Jinmarabynana
(Director)

Cindy is a Traditional Owner of Ji-bena. She is also the Learning on Country Coordinator and Pre-school Teacher at Maningrida Community College. She has served on numerous boards and is dedicated to sharing her knowledge of culture with the next generation.



Margie Moroney
(Director)

Margie has worked as a finance industry professional for almost 30 years with both global banking organisations and a range of government and semi-government investment vehicles. She was Chair of a CSIRO Advisory Committee and was the inaugural donor and fundraiser for the Nawarddeken Academy, of which she is now also a Director.



Otto Campion
(Director)

Otto is a Traditional Owner of Malnyangarnak, as well as an educator and senior ranger. He is also the Chair of Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation (ASRAC), a Director of Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NT) and the Founder and Director of Aboriginal Research Practitioners' Network.



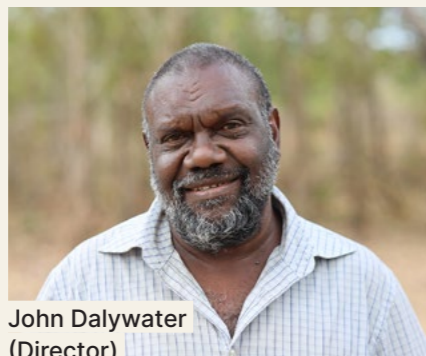
Teya Dusseldorp
(Director)

Teya is the Executive Director of Dusseldorp Forum, an independent foundation with a 30-year history of increasing the life opportunities of children and young people. Before this, she worked as a human rights lawyer and documentary filmmaker. She is also an Honorary Associate of the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney.



Frederick Hunter
(Director)

Fred is a Traditional Owner of the upper regions of the East Alligator River and a long-term park ranger at Kakadu National Park—in 2020, he became the first Aboriginal person to be appointed Chief Ranger. He has also served as the Chair of Warddeken Land Management for which he is now a Director.



John Dalywater
(Director)

John is a Traditional Owner of Namarr Kaworowk. He is also the Chair of Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation and a Community Development Employment Projects mentor, working as a liaison for local community members and government departments.



**Emeritus Professor
Jon Altman AM** (Director)

Jon is a global leader among scholars exploring alternative futures for Indigenous peoples; his research has been grounded in Arnhem Land since 1979. He was Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University, where he is an Emeritus Professor at the School of Regulation and Global Governance.



Annette Miller
(Alternate for Mimal)

Annette is a Traditional Owner of Bigedi and has been a Director of Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation since 2017. She spent her working life as an educator and was the Deputy Principal of Gulin Gulin (Bulman) School. She was also the founding advocate for the Strong Women for Healthy Country Network.



Conrad Maralngurra
(Alternate for Warddeken)

Conrad is a Traditional Owner of Kudjekbinj and a senior caretaker for the Mamardawerre outstation. He is also the Chair of the Nawarddeken Academy and a Director of both Warddeken Land Management and Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NT). In all of his roles he is passionate about passing on his depth of traditional knowledge to the next generation.



Terrah Guymala
(Alternate for Warddeken)

Terrah is a Traditional Owner of the Ngorlkwarre estate within the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area. He has worked as a ranger since 2007 and is now a senior ranger at the Manmoyi outstation. He is also a Director of both Warddeken Land Management and Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NT).

From the KKT Co-Chair

Dean Yibarbuk



Bu Warddeken ngarrimarnbom yimerranj kadberre manbu organization Warddeken wanjh ngarrikurdyawarrinj bu mardababba kunwok ngarringalke baleh wanjh, ngarridjawaydjawayhme bu ngad Bininj nawarddeken bu ngarridjare kabirrimdurndeng ba ngarridjarrkni kured ngadberre, ba ngarridjarrkbolknahnan ba bu ngarridurrkmirri job ngalengarre bim-kenh, mayh-kenh, mak manwurrk-kenh mak mayh yiman nganabbaru, bikbik manmawu manwarre ngarrinahnan. Yiman yimerranj land management ngalengarre movement, wanjh marnburrinj important job created ngariyime ngad Warddeken, mak Djelk wanjh ngarrihnan ngarridjarrkmarnbom ngalengarre Karrkad Kanjdji Trust (KKT), ba bu ngarrikurrmeng Bininj kore kumarrmo ba kabirrinahnan.

Kuhni yimerranj wanjh ngarrihnan kamak rowk wanjh ngarrire yeledjyeledj ngarrihnan manbuyihbuyika job ngalengarre. Yiman bu ngarrimarnbun partnership kore Bininj Kunwok Regional Language and Culture Centre wanjh mani mankarre mandulumuk kore shared resource ngariyime yiman bu birriwern kadberre partners.

Mak mani school-kenh ngarridjare kadjalre kadi ngarrinan priority, wardi ngarridjare wurdurd kadberre ba bu school kabirrire dja kabirriborlbme boken kunmayali balanda-kenh kunmayali dja Bininj-kenh kunmayali. Wanjh korroko ngarrimarnbom Warddeken dja Nawarddeken Academy bolkke yiman birriwern Bininj kabirridjare independent school kadi bedberre yiman Djelk remote community school establish birriyimeng wanjh mankudji nawu mankerenge partner organization Djelk Homeland school company. Wanjh kuhni yimerranj birrimarnbom bedberre mankerenge Board dja committee kabirrikarrme, mak njalehnjaleh mak kabirridjare ngalengarre school wanjh dedjdjimgmey.

Bolkke wanjh ngarrihnan ngarrimarnbom Bush Uni. Mahni ngalengarre initiative marnburrinj kore Warddeken dja Mimal. Wanjh Bush Uni ngarribenmey boken staff bonj bedda benehwanawam birrinang dja bindimarneyolyolmeng ranger groups kore Arnhem Land bu bindibengdaykeng yiman bu mandjewk nabuyika ngad kadberre Bininj wanjh karrikarrme boken kunmayali land management mak education dja training ba kabirriborlbme kore kured. Ylman bu karrinan birribuyika university kabirrinan wanjh kabirriyime 'yoh mani kunmayali Bininj birribarnbom ngalengarre Bush Uni wanjh kabirriburlume ngalengarre kunmayali Bininj-kenh'.

Bolkke ngarrihnan kadjordmen company kadberre yeledjyeledj kudenge karrihre. Kadberre Bininj directors dja communities korroko ngarridedjdjimgmey bu ngarrinan boken kunmayali kadjordmen. Yiman boyenka ngandidjawan birrikukbele mak birrikukbulerri bu KKT ngalengarre 'kunmayali baleh-beh?' ngaye ngayime 'mani kunmayali Bininj birrimarnbom, KKT trust'.

Djarre yungki kaluk bu karrinan ngalengarre program fundraising-kenh. Yiman bu ngarrinan company kamak rowk karlobme, wanjh ngarridjare ngarrinan Bininj birriwern kabirrimdurnderrang ba ngarridjarrkni ngarridjarrkbolknahnan. Wanjh ngarrihnan success ngalengarre KKT moving forward kunukka wanjh ngarriberrme. Kunukka wanjh kolhdeno ngarridudjeng manwern wanjh ngarrinan kadjordmen, wanjh ngariyime 'kamak rowk kunmayali ngalengarre boken yiman kore KKT dja kore ngad Warddeken'.

Dean Yibarbuk
Co-Chair
October 2024

'By growing slowly, walking slowly and talking slowly, our Bininj directors and communities have really started to see a difference—to notice how when we design specific projects, they work well for us.'

Before we established our own organisations, we were struggling with bringing people back to the landscape, to live and work and have that success: employment and education on Country. But the growth of the land management movement has created important jobs on our homelands, and this has been because of what we initiated ourselves: Warddeken Land Management, Djelk Rangers, and then when we together founded the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust (KKT). We have put people back on Country, to look after it and manage it.

This year has been another good year for KKT. We've been moving forward, getting things done. And we've built a new partnership too, with the Bininj Kunwok Regional Language and Culture Centre, an organisation that is an important, shared resource for the rest of our partners.

Education has also continued to remain a priority, because we want our children to learn two ways: traditional education and Western education. We have achieved this in Warddeken with the Nawarddeken Academy, and now a lot of others want to set up their own independent schools, like the Djelk remote communities that established one of our newest partner organisations, the Homeland School Company. This year, they formed their board and committees and everything else they need to get their schools started. I am looking forward to seeing them share the same success as the Nawarddeken Academy, to watch as their children also start to learn about ranger work, fire management, biodiversity monitoring and rock art surveys.

The first stages of the Bush Uni, an initiative created by Warddeken and Mimal, has been another really important milestone. This year, the Bush Uni employed its first staff members who have been travelling to make sure other ranger groups in Arnhem Land know about it as well. By next year, our people will have access to two-way land management education and training that will be taught on Country. I hope that other universities will see it and say that idea came from Bininj, that Bush Uni.

Overall, by growing slowly, walking slowly and talking slowly, our Bininj directors and communities have really started to see a difference—to notice how when we design specific projects, they work well for us. And the same can be said for KKT, when people ask me, where did this KKT idea come from? I always say it came from Bininj ideas, which is why it is something that Bininj can trust.

Looking forward, it's still a long road for all of us. While we are returning to our homelands and making it a success, there are still a lot of needs and we need more people to be engaged. So, I am looking forward to seeing where else KKT can invest, where else we can offer support. We will plant a seed here and we will plant another seed there, and we will make sure those seeds keep growing.

Dean Yibarbuk
Co-Chair
October 2024

From the KKT Co-Chair **Justin Punch**



2023–24 was a difficult year for many with whom we work, the year in which the Voice proposal, intended as an act of both symbolic and practical recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, failed to gain majority support from wider Australia. The Bininj directors on KKT's board spoke extensively about the proposal and consulted with our partner organisations, and as a consequence KKT elected to support the proposal if it gave voice and assistance to remote Aboriginal communities.

If Australia's 1999 republic referendum is any guide, we might expect that any national reconciliation and recognition process is unlikely to progress for some time. Indeed, the year since the referendum has been characterised by a lack of new policy initiatives, other than perhaps in the area of the energy transition. In this post-referendum world it seems apparent that there will be no near-term solutions from any kind of national reconciliation process. What I have instead observed is far-sighted communities taking charge of as many of the institutions that govern their daily lives and futures as possible, a trend which I believe will be the shape of self-determination and "closing the gap" progress in this period ahead.

For KKT, supporting Indigenous-owned and led organisations has been the focus for many years now: land management groups, community-led bi-cultural schools, institutions that preserve and propagate

Indigenous environmental and cultural knowledge, carbon organisations, and so on. In the building of such bodies, just perhaps we will find more bipartisan support than we expect, and we will make progress within the region on the myriad of challenges faced by both Aboriginal people and the precious landscapes they care for.

Notwithstanding this backdrop, KKT had another year of outstanding growth, development and impact. We grew our major donor base and increased funds raised to \$8.6 million from \$5.3 million a year earlier. When viewed over a two-year period the growth was not quite as spectacular, however we do continue to grow income and funds available for our partners and projects at over 30% per annum, which is outstanding given our growing scale.

We provided support to two new partners: the Homeland School Company, an organisation aiming to deliver bi-cultural, community-led education to children residing in the Djelk Indigenous Protected Area—replicating the achievements of the Nawarddeken Academy; and the Bininj Kunwok Regional Language and Culture Centre, a vital and long-standing institution preserving language and culture in West Arnhem Land. We look forward to supporting the impact of these organisations on the environmental management and cultural fabric of West and Central Arnhem Land.



KKT now provides funding to 20 distinct projects across the region, delivering high impact and often pioneering results. But one is worthy of particular mention this year—the establishment of the Bidwern Butj Uni, an adult training and education joint venture between Warddeken and Mimal. The project is the realisation of the 30-year dream of my KKT Co-Chair Dean Yibarbuk, and I remain inspired by the strength and consistency of his vision.

All of what we achieve is a function of the extraordinary people and organisations we have the good fortune to work with: our partner groups and their CEOs, boards and management teams, our talented and dedicated team, led by our incomparable CEO Stacey Irving, and our thoughtful, purposeful and deeply knowledgeable board. It is a pleasure to work with each and every one of you.

Justin Punch
Co-Chair
October 2024

Above: Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area



Kuwarddewardde (Stone Country)
Photo by Kane Chenoweth

From the KKT CEO

Stacey Irving



This year, we have witnessed extraordinary progress in our journey toward sustainable and culturally rich land stewardship in the Top End. We have united a growing community of philanthropists, businesses, families, and individuals to support the Indigenous land management movement—a movement that places the knowledge and care of the world’s oldest living culture at the forefront of action against some of Australia’s most urgent environmental and social issues. Together, we invested \$6.4 million in donations into community-led organisations—a remarkable 70% increase from the previous year—ensuring the continuity of our work and securing further funding for the future.

These community-controlled organisations—our founders and partners—continue to deliver exceptional outcomes. They preserve and practise cultural heritage, operate two-way conservation programs and share traditional knowledge essential to sustaining healthy Country in Arnhem Land. These initiatives are nationally significant, yet without KKT, they would be heavily dependent on inconsistent government funding. While Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) comprise half of Australia’s National Reserve System, only 6% of the conservation budget is allocated to their protection and management—therefore philanthropic support remains essential.

A highlight for me this past year has been witnessing our Co-Chair, Dean Yibarbuk’s, vision for a Bush University take shape. Called the Bidwern Butj Uni, this initiative supports adult, on-Country learning and professional development for rangers and their communities. In its first year, Bidwern Butj Uni is consolidating conservation land management training

across the region, developing custom units for the management of cultural heritage sites and mapping career pathways.

Additionally, our support for the Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation (ASRAC) has grown substantially. ASRAC cares for Gurruwiling (Arafura Swamp), the largest freshwater ecosystem across Arnhem Land, protecting critical habitats for 27 nationally listed threatened species.

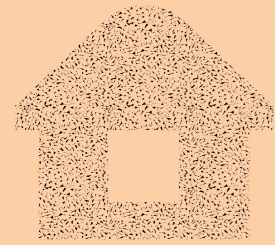
In 2022, KKT’s board set an ambitious five-year organisational strategy. With two years underway, we are thrilled to have completed 80% of our action items focused on enhancing the impact of Indigenous land management in Arnhem Land and 75% of our goals for expanding partnerships across Australia and internationally. Looking ahead, we are excited to share the unique model our board created for KKT: two-way philanthropy. This approach fosters a respectful, mutually beneficial exchange between Indigenous wisdom and philanthropic support, ensuring that both sides shape a legacy that will endure.

From the rangers who tirelessly protect Country, to the communities keeping culture alive, to each of our supporters who share our mission, my deepest thanks go to all of you. Together, we are part of something profoundly important, amplifying Indigenous-led stewardship in ways that are creating a healthier future for Country and for all of us.

Stacey Irving
CEO
October 2024

Context

Understanding the wide context KKT partners work across



8

Aboriginal community-controlled organisations KKT partners with

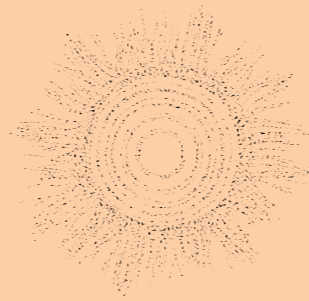


974

Traditional Owners or Djungkay represented as members of KKT partner IPAs

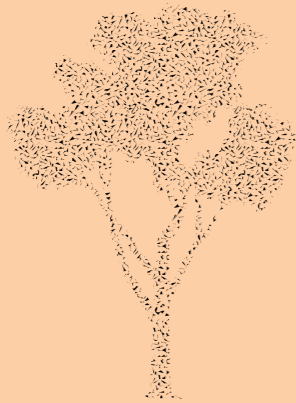
163

clan groups across the region KKT supports



#1

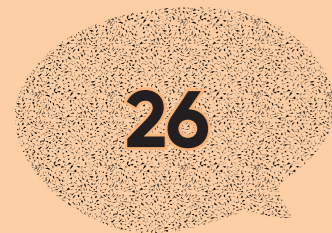
The plateau of Western Arnhem Land is the most significant region in the NT for biodiversity



53,600

km²

protected across the region KKT supports through IPA program



26

languages spoken across the region KKT supports

4

IPAs declared and in development across the region KKT supports



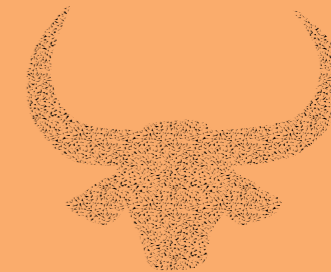
Impact

Celebrating the collective impact achieved through KKT partners



226

at-risk plant and animal species supported across the IPAs⁽¹⁾



32

feral and invasive species managed to support healthy Country

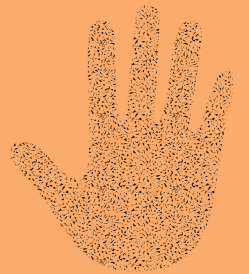


112

professional development and certified training opportunities provided to rangers

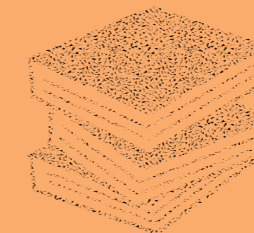
895

Traditional Owners, Djungkay and community members involved in consultations and intergenerational knowledge transfer⁽²⁾



212

young people accessing education opportunities on Country



412

First Nations women supported in their caring for Country career

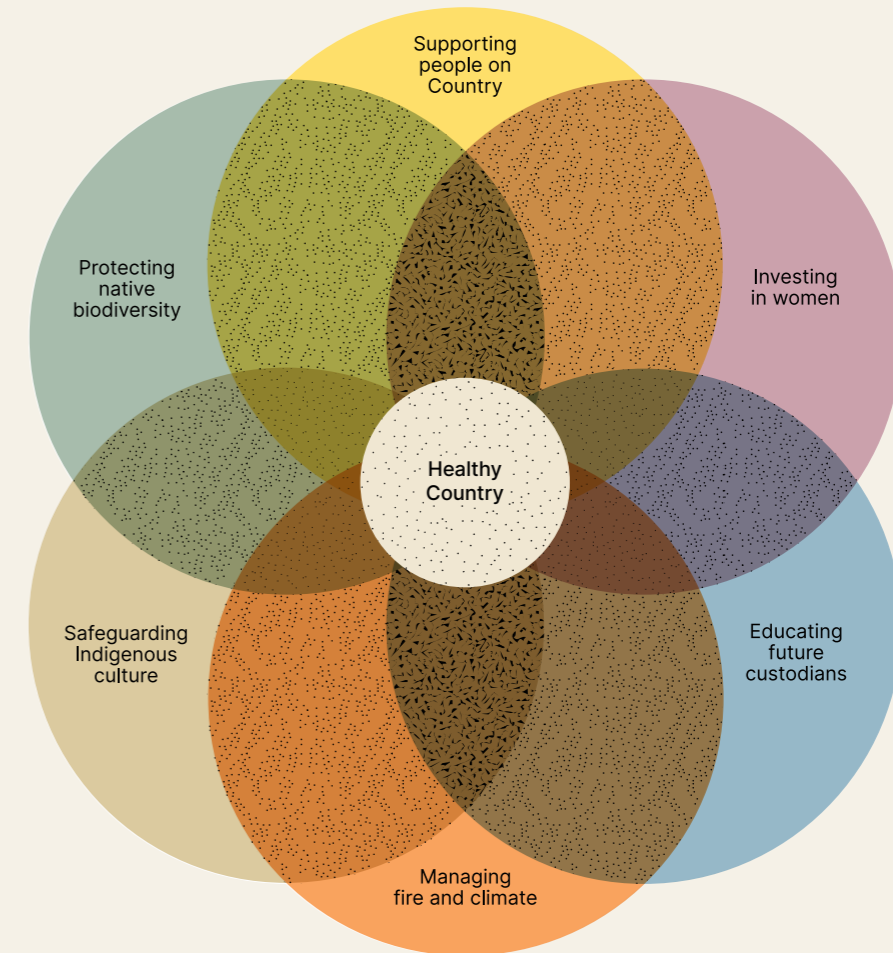
1. At-risk means all Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, and Critically Endangered flora and fauna species within the IPAs.

2. Made up from a wide range of committees, consultations & events occurring across KKT partners.



Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area
Photo by David Hancock

Our pillars



A First Nations-led approach to safeguarding vital ecosystems for future generations

Protecting native biodiversity



Arnhem Land is one of the most biodiverse regions in Australia. With the support of ranger programs, First Nations peoples here are able to continue living and working on Country, blending Indigenous ecological knowledge with Western science to control threats and support native species to thrive. These rangers are at the frontline of our global fight to halt nature loss.

Before European colonisation, the continent of Australia teemed with native, endemic and culturally-important species. In 2019, researchers collated Australian and international lists of threatened species and determined that 100 Australian endemic species have become extinct or extinct in the wild since 1788. This represents around 6 to 10% of global extinctions since the sixteenth century. The Top End is particularly overrepresented in threatened mammal species, with a presence of 4 of 10 mammals listed as most at threat of extinction in 2018. The situation for native flora is equally dire—between 1995 and 2017, the size of threatened Australian plant populations shrank by 72%.

This is a global trend: we are rapidly losing irreplaceable habitats and ecosystems and there is growing recognition that this is jeopardising human wellbeing, climate goals and sustainable development. In most continents around the world, the main cause of this is urban development. However, in Australia, significant declines in biodiversity have occurred in remote areas, far from large towns and cities. Here, the most common causes of biodiversity loss are the incursion of invasive plants and feral animals, and lapses in land management.

Unmanaged land is referred to as 'empty' or 'orphaned' Country: land without its people. This happens when people are unsupported to live on their homelands and are forced to move away; when fine-scale fire management is disrupted; when feral animals and invasive plants are left to outcompete native species; when land management knowledge is not passed down from one generation to the next and when cultural connections are lost.

The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust supports community-owned and led projects that have been designed to protect native species and regenerate native biodiversity, as well as centre critical First Nations ecological knowledge.

Left: Warddeken daluk ranger, Aspelita Guymala, setting camera trap in the Warddeken IPA
Photo by Kane Chenoweth

This year, the projects we have supported in this pillar include:

Anbinik Protection Program
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Growing Berrhno and Mininyburr Project
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Mayh Recovery Program
page 20

Protecting endemic rainforests

Partner: Warddeken
Project: Anbinik Protection Program

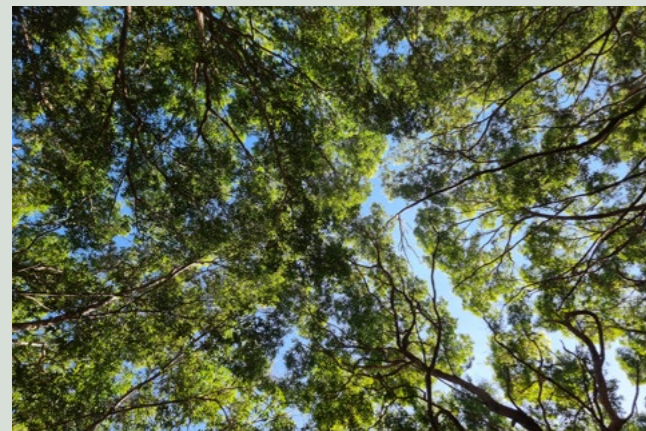
The Anbinik tree (*Allosyncarpia ternata*) has been described by Nawarddeken Elders as being from ‘the very beginning’. It is the only species in its genus, having diverged from a common ancestor of the widespread eucalypt trees. While once widespread, today the tree is found only in the Arnhem Plateau. Its remaining populations grow in dense monsoon rainforest communities, forming pleasant cool areas in an increasingly hot climate, as well as providing critical habitat for native animal species.

Anbinik is also a very slow-growing and fire-sensitive tree, making it greatly vulnerable to unmanaged wildfires. This is why Warddeken established the Anbinik Protection Program, to ensure the survival of the patches of rainforest that remain. Since 2011, Warddeken rangers have conducted yearly on-ground and aerial prescribed protection burns around the perimeter of these patches. They have also installed mineral earth firebreaks to assist with the prevention of any nearby wildfires from entering these fire-sensitive rainforest patches.

In 2024, a team of 15 rangers and two ranger coordinators created firebreaks at nine Anbinik patches near the Makkalarl seasonal ranger base—some of which had not been tended to in several years and had become overgrown, while others were well maintained.

Meanwhile, at the Kunbambuk seasonal ranger base, a group of 24 rangers—18 bininj (men), two daluk (women) and four Bawinanga rangers—worked together to create strategic firebreaks at eight different Anbinik patches. Importantly, this partnership with the Bawinanga Rangers is expected to continue in future conservation efforts where the boundaries of the two Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) overlap.

In total, 17 Anbinik patches were targeted for protection during this season. Excitingly, at many of these patches the firebreaks were extended to allow more saplings to grow, an initiative that Warddeken has been gradually developing over the past few years.



With the support of donors who appreciate both the ecological and cultural importance of these rainforests, KKT provides ongoing operational funding for the Anbinik Protection Program, securing the future of this critical work.



Left: Anbinik canopy in the Warddeken IPA

Monitoring savanna woodlands

Partner: Mimal
Project: Growing Berrhno and Mininyburr Project

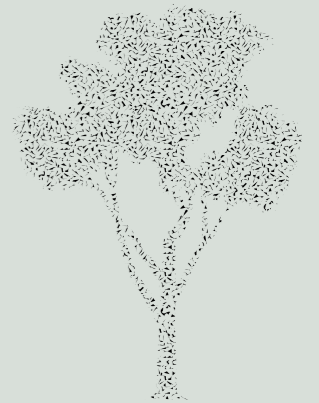
It is estimated that of the 150,000 feral water buffalo in Arnhem Land, 30,000 are living in the Mimal Land Management area. Since their introduction, the buffalo, alongside herds of feral cows and horses, have continued to cause serious damage to the landscape—they strip the ground vegetation bare, impact the growth of juvenile trees and greatly disrupt freshwater places.

In 2023, Mimal established three 25-hectare feral herbivore exclosures (alongside three unfenced control sites) with the aim to measure the fine-scale impact these introduced species are having, particularly on the health of savanna woodlands. Since then, one of the ways that Mimal has been measuring the habitat regeneration within these exclosures has been through LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) surveys: remote sensing technology used to measure the three-dimensional structure of the land and vegetation.

After establishing an initial, baseline biodiversity assessment with CSIRO, a group of Mimal rangers returned to the sites in 2024 to both deploy a suite of motion sensor cameras and conduct another follow-up survey. Once the LiDAR data has been processed, they will be able to visually identify the changes to the vegetation levels. This is particularly significant for savanna woodland areas, where foliage and ground cover constitute a critical habitat component for a number of the at-risk small mammals within the region, including the savanna glider and the northern brushtail possum.

As Mimal continues to develop a long-term strategy to manage the number of buffalo, this data will also be used as an important tool to communicate to Traditional Owners and communities the difference between Country ravaged by buffalo and Country given the opportunity to recover.

With the support of donors who believe in investing in the capacity of remote ranger groups, KKT supported Mimal to purchase their own LiDAR survey kit and to train the rangers to use it, ensuring that they will be able to independently build this dataset for years to come.



Mimal ranger, Nicky Sattler, conducting LiDAR scan



Recovering native animal species

Partner: Warddeken
Project: Mayh (Species) Recovery Program

The Mayh (Species) Recovery Program was established by Warddeken in 2016 as a targeted response to the steep decline in the populations of native animal species that inhabit the Western Arnhem Plateau. It is now a permanent fixture in Warddeken's land management strategy, operating year-round to monitor and protect the vulnerable, threatened and endangered species within the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), in particular the yirlinkirrkirr (white-throated grasswren); djabbo (northern quoll); and djebuyh (northern brushtail possum).

The monitoring element of the program occurs through the routine deployment of motion sensor cameras and song meters. These are strategically placed across the IPA by Warddeken rangers to gather data about both the health and location of populations of at-risk species. This year, a total of 140 cameras and 23 song meters were deployed.

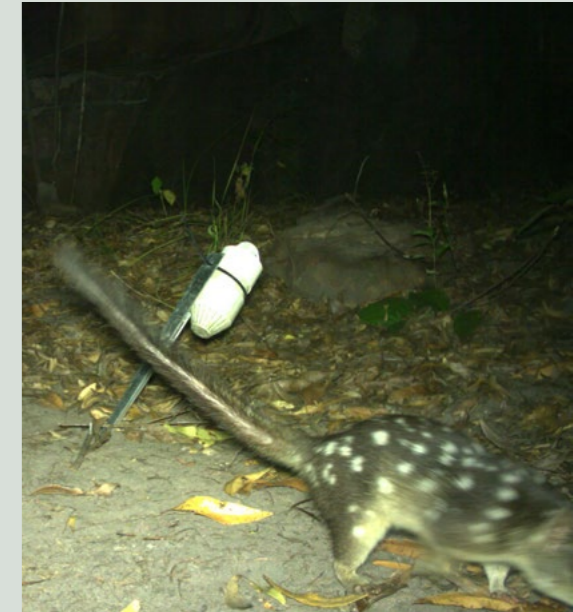
These devices are then routinely collected by the rangers and the images and recordings are processed. In the case of the images, the rangers catalogue each of these in both English and at least one dialect of Bininj Kunwok, though sometimes multiple. At the end of 2023, the program reached the extraordinary milestone of having processed over 100,000 images. This work was largely undertaken by daluk (women) rangers, who are heavily involved in the program due to the specialised ecological knowledge that they hold.

'Within this program, it is possible for us to find animals that have hardly been seen.'

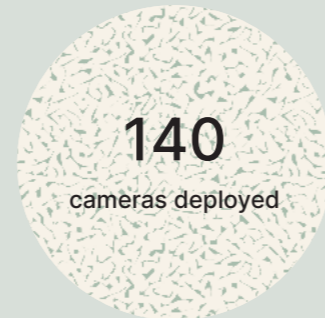
Conrad Maralngurra,
Traditional Owner of Kudjekbinj,
director of Warddeken and
alternate director for KKT

One of the other highlights for this year was the first detection of the djabbo within the Warddeken IPA since 2019; thrilling evidence that this endangered species is still persisting on Country. This kind of critical data informs the other major element of the program: conservation activities that both protect the habitat of vulnerable and threatened species, as well as manage the nearby populations of their introduced predators. This includes conducting cool burns around areas of spinifex which ensures the ground-dwelling yirlinkirrkirr's habitat remains safe from wildfire; setting Felixer traps near known populations of small native mammals to prevent predation by feral cats; and reducing the number of invasive herbivores living within the IPA, whose hooves and wallowing particularly impact the health of freshwater habitat.

With the support of donors who share Warddeken's commitment to the protection of at-risk native animals, KKT provides ongoing operational funding for the Mayh Recovery Program, guaranteeing that this vital conservation work can continue into the future.

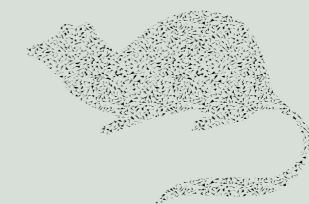


Djabbo (northern quoll) caught on camera in the Warddeken IPA
Photo by Warddeken Land Management



'We believe that animals... They will feel the footsteps of the right people walking on their Country and they will come back.'

Terrah Guymala, Traditional Owner of Ngolkwarre,
Warddeken ranger, director of Warddeken and
alternate director for KKT



Warddeken daluk rangers, Tinnesha Narorrnga and Alexandria Namarnyilk, setting camera trap in the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area

Managing fire and climate



Since time immemorial, the First Peoples of Australia have utilised fire as a traditional land management tool to protect culturally and ecologically significant sites. Their burning methods often create ‘paddocks’ that strategically prevent wildfires from spreading into adjacent areas.

After European colonisation, traditional fire management practices declined. This led to an outbreak in late season wildfires—something we are continuing to witness today, especially with global temperatures rising each year. Fire continues to produce 50% of the Northern Territory’s overall emissions, the majority of which are caused by these uncontrolled late season wildfires.

Managed, early season fires reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 52% and contribute to the protection of vulnerable flora and fauna. This is because fires burn at a cooler temperature when there is a higher water content in the fuel load. So, by shifting when the burning takes place, the intensity of the fires is reduced, which in turn reduces the amount of greenhouse gases released.

Across northern Australia, more than 23 million hectares of savanna woodlands are burned in a managed way every year. For over a decade, starting in Warddeken, groups of Traditional Owners have been recording the consequent reduction in emissions through the Climate Solutions Fund. This is facilitated by Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA), which was established to support the engagement of rangers and Traditional Owners in the carbon industry.

The financial return from selling carbon credits provides an independent source of income for ranger groups, helping them to sustain fire management practices. The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust is proud to provide additional support for individual ranger groups and ALFA, particularly towards the high upfront costs associated with project establishment, registration and renewal, training and capacity-building.

Left: Alfred Rickson, Mimal ranger and board member, demonstrating fine-scale cool burning using a traditional drip torch
Photo by Stacey Irving

This year, the projects we have supported in this pillar include:

ALFA NT
Capacity
and Training
Program
page 24

Feral buffalo
carbon project
page 25

Fire Support
Officer
page 26

Building capacity for savanna burning practitioners

Partner: Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA)
Project: ALFA NT Capacity and Training Program

Since 2013, Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA), an Aboriginal-owned and led carbon farming business, has been supporting First Nations ranger groups working across Arnhem Land to not only reinstate their customary fire knowledge and practices, but to also participate in the carbon economy.

For over a decade, a growing number of ranger groups have received financial recognition for their carbon emissions work, and have consequently been able to support Traditional Owners to undertake fire management work on Country with the guarantee of both meaningful employment as well as increased investment in other community-led projects.

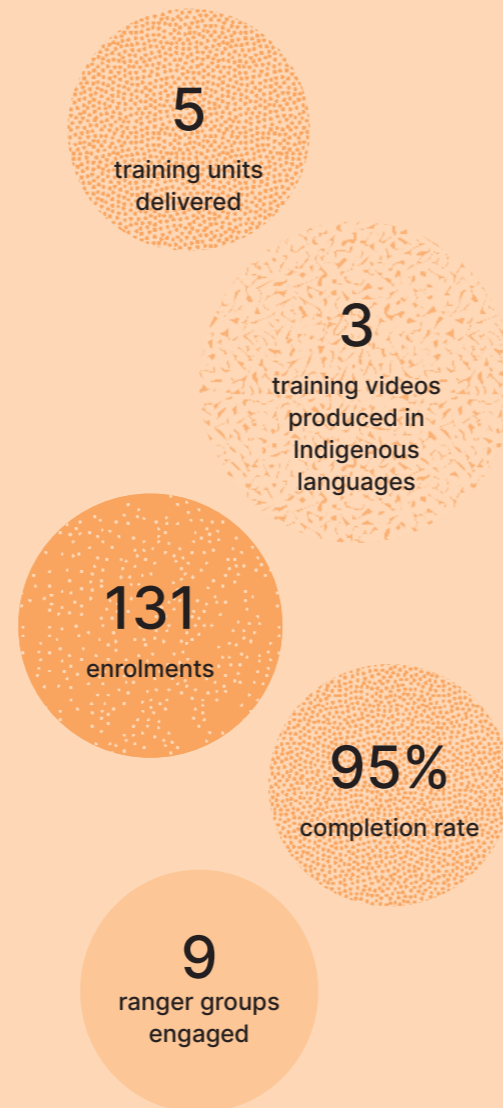
In line with ranger aspirations, in 2021 ALFA's annual early dry season meeting included a session on accredited fire management training delivery. There, rangers from ALFA's partner organisations were asked how ALFA could enhance its impact and further its service provision to its partners. This feedback from the ranger groups helped guide the development and design of what became the ALFA NT Capacity and Training Program, which successfully operated as a pilot program from 2021 to 2023 and is now embedded in business as usual operations for ALFA.

Over the three-year pilot, the Program's foremost goal was to further the capacity of First Nations rangers engaged in savanna burning operations across Arnhem Land. This goal was attained through the development of a training delivery and assessment model tailored to the needs of local First Nations fire practitioners—providing an alternative to existing training delivery that was less in tune with particular cultural norms and sensitivities.

This model fused on-the-job training and the delivery of accredited units that focused on: working safely around aircraft; operating aerial ignition practices; preventing injury; responding to wildfire; and assisting with planned burning. To support this delivery, three training videos were developed and narrated in three distinct languages/dialects spoken within Arnhem Land.

Suffice to say, with the knowledge that Indigenous land management is now the fastest growing sector for First Nations employment, alongside a growing recognition that Indigenous knowledge is crucial to our collective response to the climate crisis, programs of this nature have never been more vital.

With the support of a donor dedicated to creating and enhancing opportunities for First Nations peoples, KKT and the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation jointly funded the pilot Capacity and Training Program, and ALFA is now in a position to build the delivery of the program into its core operations.



Developing a new carbon methodology

Partner: Mimal
Project: Feral buffalo carbon project

In addition to the extensive damage feral water buffalo inflict on native habitats and biodiversity (see page 19), these introduced species are also a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions. Across much of northern Australia, feral buffalo emit potent methane gases from enteric sources and a range of other greenhouse gases from both their manure and the damage they cause to carbon-sequestering vegetation and soil. The enteric methane emissions alone are estimated to be around 1.6 tonnes per head per year. For the herd living in the proposed Mimal Indigenous Protected Area, this equates to an annual amount of around 48,000 tonnes of methane.

Over recent years, Mimal has identified a carbon market-based solution to incentivise a regional shift away from the marginal commercial harvest of these animals and a move towards conservation and nature capital. To facilitate this, the organisation has developed a near-finalised feral livestock accounting method: 'A method to quantify the reduction in feral livestock individuals, populations, methane emissions and other benefits that result from responsible management intervention.' This draft method provides a robust path for Mimal's next steps and will result in a verified impact for early market investment, while also positioning them to take advantage of emerging schemes beyond carbon. Once finalised, it will be eligible for registration under voluntary verification schemes, after which Mimal can begin pilot projects in collaboration with other ranger groups also grappling with the impacts of feral livestock on their Country.

With the support of donors invested in addressing the climate and nature loss crises, KKT is funding the ongoing development of Mimal's feral livestock methodology, which will eventually lead to a management approach that is better for Country but still guarantees income for ranger groups and communities.



Feral water buffalo
Photo by Stacey Irving



Sustaining landscape-wide planned burning

Partner: Warddeken
Project: Fire Support Officer

The Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) presents a significant challenge for savanna burning projects due to its vast size and diverse ecosystems, each requiring distinct fire management approaches. The landscape comprises savanna woodlands typical of the Northern Territory's Top End, but also threatened sandstone shrublands, ancient fire-sensitive Anbinik forests, and fragile wetlands, each needing unique fire strategies.

In administering their multi-faceted fire program, one of Warddeken's primary goals has been to maintain the cultural integrity envisioned by the Elders and Professors who initiated it. As many of these key figures have passed, a new generation of cultural leaders has taken on this responsibility.

The Fire Support Officer's role provided additional support in several key areas. They attended critical pre-season planning meetings, facilitated consultations with Traditional Owners, and supported the execution of the early dry season burning program. This included managing logistics for aerial prescribed burning (APB), maintaining the IPAs road and track networks, and enhancing the overall effectiveness of fire management efforts. Importantly, the Fire Support Officer ensured Traditional Owner involvement in burning decisions, emphasising the need for Traditional Owner agency in partnership with modern, map-based fire management techniques.

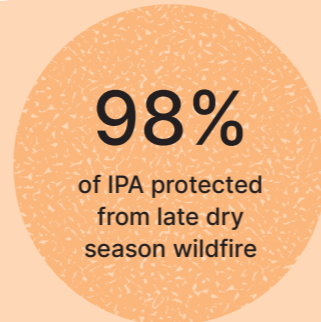
The outcomes of the Fire Support Officer's involvement have been substantial. A successful APB program saw the participation of 30 Traditional Owners, while improved access to remote areas contributed to effective community consultations and on-ground burning. The Fire Support Officer also worked with Warddeken's ranger coordinators both to support their learning about the Warddeken fire program, as well as allow them to focus on other critical activities during the busy dry season.

Overall, the Fire Support Officer's involvement was an important part of the team that delivered a comprehensive, Bininj-led fire program that successfully protected natural and cultural assets, respectfully engaged stakeholders, and preserved Traditional Owner fire knowledge across the Warddeken IPA.



Cool burning in the Warddeken IPA

With the support of donors who are committed to the revitalisation of traditional fire management, KKT funded the salary of the Fire Support Officer, maintaining the efficacy and integrity of Warddeken's leading fire program.



Warddeken ranger leading aerial prescribed burning route



'My Country's that rocky and remote, the only way to get there's in a chopper. Old Lofty [Bardayal Nadjamerrek] showed me my Country for the first time a long time back, and I'll always be thankful. When the fire project started, I got back out there every year to burn in the early dry season.'

Fred Hunter, Traditional Owner of Bolmo Dordokkiyu and director of Warddeken and KKT



Investing in women rangers



Across the world, research has shown that greater involvement of women in local decision making leads to better land management and conservation outcomes. In Australia, the presence of First Nations women in ranger workforces has proven to be integral to the holistic protection and regeneration of Country and culture.

Over 57% of Australia is recognised as part of the Indigenous estate, and the majority of this is managed through First Nations ranger programs that blend precise Indigenous ecological knowledge with cutting-edge technology. Prior to the last decade, the ranger programs within Arnhem Land predominantly consisted of men, whose roles were centred around the management of feral animals and re-establishing a regime of early burning to prevent the outbreak of wildfires.

Since then, several leading First Nations land management groups have designed their own women's ranger programs that recognise and value the specific ecological knowledge that First Nations women hold, as well as their exclusive access to certain sites and areas. These programs allow the women to work alongside the men, while also ensuring that their role is flexible and culturally appropriate.

Ultimately, not only do the women's programs ensure that the most comprehensive management of Country is administered, but they also guarantee that younger women and girls can identify strong female role models within their communities, and that they can inherit the invaluable knowledge and practices of the rangers and Elders.

Despite recent election promises, the allocated funding from government remains insufficient in meeting the task of running multi-faceted ranger programs in very remote areas—particularly for women. This is why the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust supports core and additional costs associated with the Warddeken and Mimal women's ranger programs, as well as the operational costs of the Strong Women for Healthy Country Network that is working to grow the movement.

Left: Mimal women rangers completing weed ID training

This year, the projects we have supported in this pillar include:

Warddeken Daluk Rangers Program

page 30

Mimal Women's Ranger Program

page 32

Strong Women for Healthy Country Network

page 33

Daluk rangers caring for the Stone Country

Partner: Warddeken
Project: Daluk Rangers Program

Since 2016, Warddeken has delivered a dedicated daluk (women's) ranger program that runs in tandem with the bininj (men's) ranger program. The creation of the program was prompted in part by a strong, community-wide desire to create a suitable workplace environment where daluk felt comfortable participating in the local workforce. This ambition was then propelled by the opening of the independent, community-owned school, the Nawarddeken Academy, which not only guaranteed Nawarddeken children access to full-time, bi-cultural schooling, but also afforded daluk greater accessibility to local employment opportunities.

From its inception, the Daluk Rangers Program has supported women to spend each day out on Country, applying their ecological knowledge, caring for their special places and passing this down to the next generation. The Program has also deliberately remained both highly flexible and adaptable, accounting for the many other familial and cultural responsibilities that the daluk carry.

This year, one of the highlights for the Program included a freshwater monitoring initiative that evaluated the impact of the removal of feral animals from ecologically and culturally significant places across the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). This involved the collection of both soil and water samples to determine the overall health of these freshwater sites. To build upon their baseline results, the daluk rangers intend to continue this work into next year, as well as introduce routine drone flying as an additional form of monitoring.

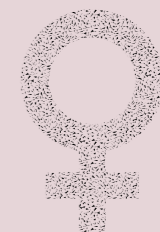
Another highlight saw three daluk rangers attending the regional savanna fire forum where they were able to learn about new technologies and emerging land management practices; hear from different ranger groups and share their own knowledge and stories. Then, at the beginning of the dry season, one of the senior daluk rangers at Mamardawerre led an aerial prescribed burning flight path over the Country she is the djungkay (ritual manager) for. She also operated the aerial incendiary machine for the first time after satisfying all of her training requirements and received support from a fellow daluk ranger as the navigator. This meant that this flight path was entirely staffed by daluk rangers—a milestone that cannot be understated given that daluk rangers only began to participate in Warddeken's fire management program less than a decade ago.

Overall, while daluk constituted 46% of Warddeken's ranger workforce, this translates to only 32% of actual ranger hours worked, providing a fuller picture and the effort still required to reach true gender parity.

With the support of donors who understand the value of investing in equal opportunities for women, KKT provides ongoing funding for Warddeken's Daluk Ranger Program to support a thriving, culturally appropriate workplace.



Above: Warddeken daluk ranger creating firebreak in the Warddeken IPA
Left: Senior Warddeken daluk ranger, Suzannah Nabalwad
Photo by Stacey Irving



Supporting women rangers in Central Arnhem Land

Partner: Mimal
Project: Women's Ranger Program

In 2018, Mimal established its flourishing Women's Ranger Program that has since become a leading force within the region. It offers purposeful, culturally relevant employment for First Nations women living within the Mimal Land Management area, which, depending on the individual's preference, can be full-time, part-time or casual. Over the years, the Program has sustained a high rate of community engagement and support, while also maintaining a strong, collaborative working relationship with the Men's Ranger Program.

The day-to-day work of the women rangers closely intersects with the other major elements of Mimal's land management, including: savanna burning; native species monitoring; feral species management; and cultural heritage protection. This year, some of the standout moments involved: a regional women's fire camp, hosted by three women from Mimal; a multi-day, on-Country walk with neighbouring ranger groups that facilitated the exchange of stories and knowledge, as well as fine-scale, on-ground burning; and back-to-back days of successful firefighting in the latter weeks of the dry season.

Another important component of the Program is access to professional development opportunities, ensuring the rangers can partake in further training that will support them to advance their land management knowledge and skills, as well as step into positions of greater leadership. Over the last 12 months, many of these opportunities have been related to fieldwork: safely operating machinery; enhancing understanding of GPS devices; and administering chemical solutions for invasive, problematic weeds.

In addition, three women rangers completed their Certificate III in Aviation, which provided them with the important training required to legally operate a remotely piloted aircraft. This was a really significant achievement for the women involved, particularly within the context that they were completing the course in their second, third, or even fourth language, and they were away from family and Country for several weeks. Fortunately, their new qualifications have already proven to be invaluable to Mimal, especially as the organisation increasingly integrates drone footage into landscape-wide monitoring strategies.

With the support of donors who believe in backing local, on-Country employment, KKT provides ongoing funding for Mimal's Women's Ranger Program, guaranteeing an inclusive and responsive work environment for women.

Mimal ranger, Danisha Riley, conducting cool burn within the proposed Mimal Indigenous Protected Area
Photo by Stacey Irving



37%

of Mimal's workforce were First Nations women

22

First Nations women employed

33

training, development and leadership opportunities facilitated for First Nations women

34

ranger groups represented

200

First Nations women attended the 2023 Forum

Strong Women for Healthy Country Forum 2023
Photo by Milly Hooper



Strengthening the women's ranger movement

Partner: Mimal
Project: Strong Women for Healthy Country (SWHC) Network

In September of 2023, First Nations women from across the Northern Territory gathered for their fourth SWHC Forum—an event first conceived by a group of Elders associated with Mimal, who sought a way to unite First Nations women working in the caring for Country sector across the Territory.

Over the years, the Forum has been held at different locations, giving a number of language groups the opportunity to host the event on their Country. Last year, it was held an hour's drive east of Darwin on Limilngan-Wulna Country. There, over 200 First Nations women came together to advance the SWHC Network's core goals: collaborating, communicating and advocating as a Network.

This involved restorative activities like bush medicine making, weaving and painting, as well as land management workshops relating to drone operation and weed management. It also included facilitated discussions about improving access to safe, women-only spaces for the region's workforce.

In addition to the above, there was also a strong focus on the future of the Network, with long yarns about the evolution of its governance and moving towards becoming an independent organisation governed solely by First Nations women from the Northern Territory.

This was a conversation that was later continued by the SWHC Network's Message Stick Group—a subcommittee consisting of representatives from different ranger groups who meet once every two months, ensuring the Network's communication lines are open year round. The Message Stick Group further identified that the growth, sustainability and achievement of the Network's goals required the women to take responsibility for the governance and creation of their own 'fit-for-purpose' Aboriginal corporation. In truly exciting news, this is something that is now underway that we greatly look forward to reporting on in next year's annual report.

'I was sitting down looking at all the workgroups, and I saw young women there, sitting there, questioning, wanting to speak out loud. And that's what I wanted to see, you know, women sharing their knowledge and understanding each other, even though we come from different communities.'

Annette Miller, director of Mimal, alternate director for KKT and founding advocate for SWHC Network

With the support of donors inspired by the growth of the women's ranger movement, KKT provides ongoing funding for the SWHC Network, amplifying the collective voices of First Nations women from across the Northern Territory.



Strong Women for Healthy
Country Forum 2023
Photo by Milly Hooper

Safeguarding Indigenous culture



First Nations peoples of Australia keep alive the oldest continuing culture in the world. Despite the destructive impacts of colonisation, they maintain a special and enduring connection to the land.

Arnhem Land was one of the last regions in Australia to be colonised on account of its remote, rugged terrain and tropical climate. As a result, First Nations peoples here have maintained much of their distinct norms, values and belief systems. This is evident in the contemporary robustness of languages, ecological knowledge and ceremonies. In fact, in this remote part of the world, there are still living Elders who grew up on Country prior to or at the time of colonisation.

Their distinct cultural heritage is evident in a regional kinship system, shared Dreaming tracks, Songlines, and creation stories that are often performed in ceremonies. The physical presence of this cultural heritage can be found in a network of sacred sites and in the extraordinary art galleries spread across the landscape.

The custodians of these places ascribe great emotional significance to them and the stories they hold, but they are at serious risk of being lost as support for homeland communities wanes, and Traditional Owners struggle to physically access their Country and provide the necessary customary care.

The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust supports vital, community-led projects that work to preserve both tangible and intangible cultural heritage and ensure the safe, intergenerational transfer of Indigenous ecological knowledge.

Left: Woven skirt with emu feathers
Photo by Jeanie Govan

This year, the projects we have supported in this pillar include:

Bininj Manbolh
page 38

**Mibbarr
Songline Project**
page 39

**Kuwarddebim
Project**
page 40

Walking ancient paths

Partner: Warddeken
Project: Bininj Manbolh

For the community that live at the Mamardawerre remote outstation, located in the northern region of the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area, one of the consistent highlights from the last few years has been the Bininj Manbolh: a planned bush walk following traditional routes across one or multiple clan estates and may include visiting Dreaming, rock art, occupation, harvesting and other important sites along the way.

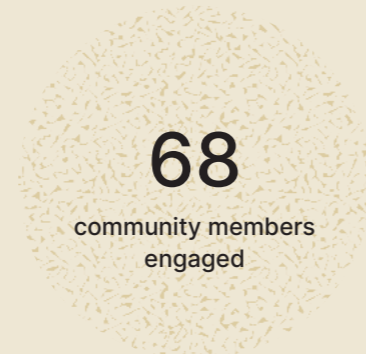
In May of 2024, a group of 68 people—rangers, families and students and teachers from the Nawarddeken Academy—walked 90 kilometres over 12 days. They set off from Danek Country in karrikad (west) until they arrived on Yurlhmanj Country in kakbi (north). On their journey, they passed through savanna woodlands and Anbinik (*Allosyncarpia ternata*) rainforests, which meant that, along the way, rangers performed fine-scale ground burning where it was deemed appropriate.

The group also visited kunwarddebim (rock art) sites; fished at special freshwater places where they caught kumuken (freshwater crocodile); built a traditional balabbala (shelter); crafted traditional spears; and even spotted an elusive yirlinkirrkirri (white-throated grasswren)—a vulnerable species that is endemic to the Western Arnhem Plateau.

Overall, it was one of the longest bush walks in Warddeken's history, but more importantly, it was another greatly significant, on-Country opportunity for Elders and families to share stories and kunmayali (knowledge) with the young ones, and to ensure they are taught the customary walking routes of their ancestors.



With the support of donors invested in the intergenerational transfer of Indigenous knowledge, KKT provides funding for Warddeken's annual events, enabling on-Country occasions like the Bininj Manbolh.



Bininj Manbolh
Photo by Cody Thomas

Creating a new Songline

Partner: Mimal
Project: Mibbarr Songline Project

In 2022, Mimal conducted extensive consultations to determine the most pressing concerns and priorities among clan estates and communities in relation to the preservation of cultural knowledge. These consultations are what led to the development of the Mibbarr Songline Project—an initiative centred on the revitalisation of the Mibbarr Songline (name for white-bellied sea eagle in many of the region's dialects). In 2023, nine locations were visited, 11 consultations were recorded, 38 cultural custodians were involved and 13 different clan groups were represented. The resounding consensus was that people wanted to return to Country to film and record the sites along the Songline, and sing and document the endangered songs. This ambition was expressed with a sense of urgency, informed by the age of most key knowledge holders.

Following on from this, in June of 2024, 70 First Nations peoples connected to Malakadjaljno Country in Central Western Arnhem Land spent 12 days on Country together where they chose to rewrite this Songline. In an incredibly remote area that has had very limited access over the past 20 years, families returned to be together, some for the first time in 30 years, to share history and piece together the Mibbarr story.

Traditionally, the Mibbarr Songline has been passed on through men's ceremony, making it forbidden for women and children to access. However, when deciding to rewrite the Songline, the group of senior songmen who are its custodians chose to make it accessible to the whole community for the first time in history—further ensuring its survival in the future.

This culturally complex process and rich journey deep into the heart of Stone Country Arnhem Land was captured by a media team, two cinematographers, photographer, sound engineer, linguists and key cultural custodians from across Arnhem Land who led the project and its outcomes, resulting in over 150 hours of precious archival material. Now, the feature-length documentary that captures this incredible story of a group of senior songmen and their families is in the final stages of production with First Nations production house, Moogie Down Productions. Moreover, the many hours of additional footage will also be translated into Kune, Dalabon and Rembarrnga languages and thus become an important part of Mimal's archive.

Senior custodian Jack Nawilil and Djungkay (ritual manager) Victor Rostron lead the re-writing of the Mibbarr Songline
Photo by Jeanie Govan

With the support of a donor who similarly recognises the urgency of this cultural preservation work, KKT provided funding for the Mibbarr Songline Project, aiding the clan estates to record the revitalisation of an endangered Songline and its depth of associated cultural knowledge and value.

'Ngarriwayini en kunborrk ngarrimarnbun own. En ngarridjare ngurrbindurndiwemen wudurd ngurrbinkurrme kure koltja ngarrbinnan.'

'We'll all sing and we'll make our own dance. And we all want you to return the kids; we'll look after them by putting them into culture.'

Jack Nawilil



Preserving libraries of rock art

Partner: Warddeken
Project: Kuwarddebim Project

The Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) holds an extraordinary body of kuwarddebim (rock art), painted over tens of thousands of years by the ancestors of today's Nawarddeken (people of the Stone Country). In fact, there are estimated to be more than 40,000 kuwarddebim sites across the Kuwarddewardde (Stone Country).

Formally established in 2019, the Kuwarddebim Project is a team of Warddeken rangers and support staff that work year-round to mitigate a host of risks that threaten the survival of these libraries of knowledge and stories. Of these risks, some are tangible, such as the damage from feral animals, wildfire and vegetation, while others are intangible, such as the loss of knowledge and stories.

This combination of concerns means that the Kuwarddebim Project team's day-to-day responsibilities include: installing fences that prevent pigs, buffalo and cattle from rubbing up against the paintings and reducing fuel buildups that can worsen wildfires; as well as working to survey new and forgotten galleries, enabling the documentation of this unique intellectual property for future generations.

This year, rangers implemented conservation actions at 40 individual sites across the IPA. Of these actions, one involved the construction of a traditional balabbala (shelter) to protect a particular kuwarddebim site from the elements. This initiative was led by an esteemed Warddeken Professor, who with the assistance of a team of rangers, harvested sheets of bark from native trees which were then stripped and burned over a hot fire so that the material was flattened, hardened and better fit for construction.

Overall, it was an invaluable learning opportunity for the involved rangers and is now part of a planned pilot series alongside other similar, traditional conservation actions that the Kuwarddebim Project intends to implement on behalf of a number of interested Traditional Owners.



Kuwarddebim site located within the Wornkomku clan estate, Warddeken IPA



Above left: Manamam in the Warddeken IPA

Above right: Kuwarddebim Project team
Photo by David Hancock

'Bim represent stories so it's important that we protect bim, as if there's no bim... there's no story.'

Jayden Wurrkgidj, Warddeken ranger and Kuwarddebim Project Officer

It was also this year that the Kuwarddebim Project employed its first part-time Bininj project officers—a milestone that Warddeken has been working towards since the Project's inception. In addition to surveying and preserving at-risk kuwarddebim sites, the project officers' work has involved facilitating routine consultations with Traditional Owners and leading kuwarddebim lessons with the Nawarddeken Academy.

Moving forward, both project officers have indicated that they'd like to continue in their current roles for the next 12 months—a positive indication that the positions are flexible enough to accommodate for their other responsibilities. Warddeken's intention is to continue to enhance and support local capacity through similar positions so that, if they choose, more Bininj will be supported to step into leadership roles.

With the support of donors who appreciate the immeasurable value of these galleries, KKT provides ongoing funding for the Kuwarddebim Project, supporting Nawarddeken to safeguard their rich cultural heritage for future generations.



Supporting people on Country



First Nations communities in very remote locations across Australia are often at the forefront of the national conservation effort. Three quarters of First Nations peoples in the Northern Territory live in remote or very remote areas. Across these communities, ranger bases act as hubs of activity for community connection, species conservation, fire management, and the continued usage and transfer of cultural knowledge.

However, life in these communities comes with a unique set of challenges that hinder efforts to live and work on homelands on a full-time, permanent basis.

The environmental conditions of Arnhem Land are highly variable: ephemeral rivers rise up and often prohibit road access for up to six months each year, the terrain is rugged and changeable, and temperatures and humidity are becoming more severe with climate change. Sealed roads are rare and dirt roads require constant maintenance to remain accessible. Infrastructure is often limited, with variable energy and water supply that sometimes cuts out for multiple weeks. Services such as medical care, food stores and postal services may only be accessible through expensive charter flights or long drives which rely on well-maintained private vehicles.

Additional support is required for people to live and work comfortably and sustainably on their ancestral lands. Without this support, the potential for empty or 'orphaned' Country looms large. For Traditional Owners here, this is considered one of the largest threats to the conservation of nature and the continuation of First Nations cultures.

The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust is principally informed by the knowledge that Country needs people. Where required and with the generous support of donors, KKT funds critical infrastructure, key services and regional workforce development that ensures Bininj are able to live on Country and undertake integral conservation work as safely and efficiently as possible.

Left: ASRAC ranger, Peter Djigirr
Photo by Stacey Irving

This year, the projects we have supported in this pillar include:

Tucker plane
page 44

Staffing satellite ranger stations
page 45

Bidwern Butj Uni
page 46

Ensuring food security

Partner: Warddeken
Project: Tucker plane

For ranger outstations as remote as Kabulwarnamyo, Manmoyi and Mamardawerre, road access is regularly cut off for months at a time due to the thundering rains of kunumeleng and kudjewk—the wettest seasons of the Kuwarddewardde Malkno (Seasonal Calendar of the Stone Country). This means that community members are often unable to visit neighbouring community stores or undertake the long drive back to Darwin to access basic goods. This systemic issue exists outside of Warddeken too, with 31% of Aboriginal people living in remote areas experiencing a high risk of food insecurity. Beyond going hungry, this experience of food insecurity has also proven to contribute to poor health and wellbeing outcomes, as well as a reduction in school attendance and employment.

This is ultimately why Warddeken established the Tucker Plane, to ensure families could return to live and work on their Country without compromising their access to healthy tucker and other vital necessities. Over the past 12 months, this has seen over 90 tucker runs made to these three remote communities. These flights not only guaranteed community members ongoing access to essential supplies, but they also supported them to purchase what they needed at fair prices that were not impacted by inflation or price gouging.

At Kabulwarnamyo, the most remote outstation within the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), much of this exchange continues to be facilitated through the community-owned Nabiwo Store—a now permanent fixture within the community that is operated either by rangers or community members. This kind of initiative ensures absolute community-control over what products are stocked and at what price. Meanwhile, the populations at Mamardawerre and Manmoyi are continuing to grow—in part due to the Nawarddeken Academy schools that opened there at the end of 2021—demonstrating a greater than ever need for this service.



Tucker plane arriving at Manmoyi

With the long-term support of Simplot Australia, KKT is providing ongoing funding for the Tucker Plane, underpinning every element of life and work on Country in the Warddeken IPA.



With the support of donors interested in the enhancement of the ranger movement, KKT provided funding for these new positions, enabling ASRAC's capacity to invest in individuals and community infrastructure; and to further the proposed IPA's overall management plan.



Decentralising ranger operations

Partner: Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation (ASRAC)
Project: Staffing satellite ranger stations

The Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation (ASRAC) was first established in 2013 to support and administer a catchment-based network of eight different ranger groups each connected to Gurruwiling (Arafura Swamp). Following this, one of the first major priorities the organisation identified was supporting people to return to live and work on their ancestral lands. When KKT and ASRAC first entered into a formal partnership in 2023, this priority remained at the top of the agenda and had formed the basis of a plan to establish a fourth permanent ranger base at Malnyangarnak outstation.

Over the past 12 months, this plan has been realised through the construction of a ranger office—equipped with solar power and internet access—and the employment of a full-time senior ranger who now leads a team of casual staff. Critically, this new base is geographically well-positioned within the proposed ASRAC Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) to implement key land management activities, including feral flora and fauna management and planned burning.

A second permanent ranger has also been employed at Dhupuwamirri outstation, which has facilitated the ongoing allocation of a vehicle that both supports work activities and enables families to be based at the outstation for longer periods of time. Overall, this is contributing to ASRAC's broader efforts to decentralise ranger operations from Ramingining and provide greater access to secure, on-Country employment.



ASRAC ranger, Nathaniel Maliwanga, setting a feral pig trap in the proposed ASRAC IPA

Accessing on-Country training and professional development

Partner: Mimal and Warddeken
Project: Bidwern Butj Uni

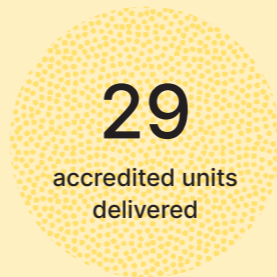
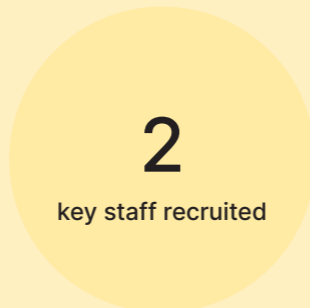
For a long time, Traditional Owners, Elders and community leaders from West and Central Arnhem Land have dreamed of an on-Country, Aboriginal-owned adult learning organisation—something that would support lifelong access to bi-cultural training and professional development for rangers and others working adjacent to the caring for Country sector.

Last year, this dream came closer to becoming a reality through the development of a feasibility and business model study, which then led to the scaffolding of the initiative that has since become known as the Bidwern Butj Uni—'Bidwern' meaning 'many hands' in Bininj Kunwok and 'Butj' meaning 'bush' in Kriol.

This year, further steps have been taken to realising this first-of-its-kind initiative, namely: the employment of the Bidwern Butj Uni's Program Manager, as well as a Learning and Development Coordinator, who together have been working alongside the key staff and rangers involved with Warddeken's Kunwarddebim Project to co-design the Bidwern Butj's first training unit on the surveying and conservation of rock art. They have also been working one-on-one with rangers to develop individual training and development pathways, which has involved the strengthening of partnerships with Charles Darwin (CDU) University TAFE, CareFlight, the National Wellbeing Alliance, CSIRO and a number of regional Aboriginal community-controlled organisations. This collaborative approach is ensuring all training is directly relevant and accessible to ranger and community aspirations.

Furthermore, the Bidwern Butj Uni's Steering Committee held their first on-Country meeting during which they developed a Vision, Mission and Strategic Direction for the initiative. The dedicated, ongoing Bininj advisors, for both Mimal and Warddeken, were also appointed. For the foreseeable future, the Bidwern Butj Uni will remain auspiced by Mimal and Warddeken, ensuring its steady growth and stable governance. Over time, as it matures, the Bidwern Butj Uni will become a direct conduit to pathways to senior and leadership roles for First Nations rangers in remote communities.

With the long-term support of two donors who are committed to its growth, KKT is providing ongoing funding for the Bidwern Butj Uni, realising a community-led vision for on-Country adult learning across West and Central Arnhem Land.



Above: Mimal rangers completing First Aid Training delivered by CareFlight

Right: Mimal women rangers preparing for biosecurity training delivered by CDU



Educating future custodians



On-Country, bi-cultural education involves early learners to high school students regularly spending time on Country with Elders, rangers and community leaders. This contextually appropriate content is then incorporated back into the Australian Curriculum for an engaging and place-based school experience with proven results.

The homeland communities that house ranger bases are usually very remote and often too small to qualify for full-time government education funding. Education may consist of one day of fly-in/fly-out teaching per week. This means that accessing education can often be incredibly difficult for families dedicated to caring for their ancestral homelands. It may even mean that rangers are forced to choose between meaningful employment, and moving away to larger townships to enrol their children in government schools.

The Northern Territory has the lowest proportion of students meeting the minimum standards for literacy and numeracy, and only around 40% of First Nations children here are supported to achieve Year 12 or equivalent. Elders reiterate time and again that they want to see the next generation of custodians growing up and being educated on their homelands, in both local Indigenous ecological knowledge and the Australian Curriculum, so they grow up strong in both worlds.

Since 2015, the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust has supported the movement for bi-cultural, on-Country education for First Nations children in West and Central Arnhem Land. This began with the establishment of the Nawarddeken Academy, which now guarantees access to full-time education at all three ranger outstations in the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). It then grew to include support for Mimal's Learning on Country Program, and the newly formed Homeland School Company in the Djelk IPA.

The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust recognises the implicit link between cultural heritage, community strength and conservation outcomes, and is therefore committed to providing support for bi-cultural education where government funding is insufficient. Together with our partners, we are investing in the next generation of custodians.

Left: Dressed for bungul
Photo by Jeanie Govan

This year, the projects we have supported in this pillar include:

Mimal Learning on Country Program

page 50

Nawarddeken Academy high school expansion

page 52

Schools for Gamardi, Gochan Jiny-Jirra and Buluh Kaduru

page 53

Engaging students on Country

Partner: Mimal
Project: Learning on Country (LoC) Program

Established in 2019, the Bulman-Weemol LoC Program is a partnership between Mimal and Bulman School, and continues to be a critical part of connecting community with cultural knowledge and Country. The Program complements the Bulman School curriculum and engages students, Mimal rangers and Elders in caring for Country. The structure and content of the LoC Program is designed by the LoC Steering Committee—a group made up of Elders, Mimal rangers, teachers and community members—and is overseen by a dedicated LoC Coordinator employed by Mimal. Typically, this sees students at the government, K-10 school partaking in on-Country learning at least once, if not twice a week. In addition to this, the LoC Program facilitates three to four multi-day camps each year, for students and families alike.

This year, one such camp was held at Momob outstation in collaboration with families and rangers from Warddeken to facilitate a return to Country visit for Traditional Owner, Mary Nadjamerrek. The camp was hosted by Mimal rangers who set up facilities, collected firewood and cooked dinner for the 60 community members that were in attendance—and Mary and her family spent time recording interviews about the special place and working on family trees with an anthropologist.

Meanwhile, many of the day lessons led by local Elders focused on the collection and preparation of seasonal bush tucker, which on one occasion saw the kids digging for cheeky yams—known as jalma in Rembarrnga and yawok in Dalabon. Then, they learned how to cook the yams: how to boil them, peel their skin and then soak the vegetables in a net overnight in running water. On other occasions they went fishing for barramundi and harvested natural materials and ingredients for bush medicine recipes.

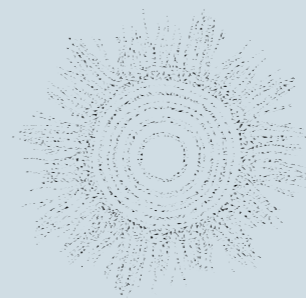
In addition to ensuring the safe transfer of intergenerational knowledge, the LoC Program also aims to explore options for employment pathways post-school, including ranger work with the older students at the Bulman School. Over the past year, the students have worked with Mimal rangers to build skills in plumbing, mechanics and, most recently, construction. They also participated in ranger work, for example, monitoring the quality of the water at the local Weemol Spring. The students collected samples to test for pH, salinity and any contaminants; and learned that healthy waterways ensure the safety of the whole community.

With the support of donors who share an understanding of the importance of on-Country education, KKT provides ongoing funding for Mimal's LoC Program, realising the ambition of local Elders for traditional knowledge to be routinely taught and passed on.



Left: Elder Anne Kelly teaching students to harvest roots to make colourful dyes

Below: Mimal ranger, Vanessa Murray, leading LoC lesson about healthy waterways



Increasing the scope of bi-cultural schooling

Partner: Nawarddeken Academy
Project: High school expansion

The Nawarddeken Academy is a remote, community-driven school that delivers a unique, bi-cultural curriculum to children of the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). It was born from a widely-held aspiration among Warddeken Traditional Owners for the children of rangers to be able to access full-time, culturally relevant education on Country. Before its establishment, children only received one to two days of public education per fortnight, at best. However, now the Nawarddeken Academy has three full-time schools at each of the IPA's permanent outstations: Kabulwarnamyo, Mamardawerre and Manmoyi. This means that families are no longer forced to choose between their careers as rangers, where they can raise their families on their ancestral lands, and quality education for their children.

Importantly, though, since the first school opened its doors in 2015, the Nawarddeken Academy has been registered to formally deliver education from Transition through to Year 7. For the last two years, the Nawarddeken Academy has been investigating how it can expand its formal teaching scope to include high school education—a process that is expected to be finalised at the end of 2024, to enable the delivery of formal secondary education early in 2025.

In the interim, the schools will continue to practise their policy of not turning away any child who wants to learn. Over the past 12 months, this has involved working with the Northern Territory School of Distance Education to facilitate a number of HEAL (Health, English, Arithmetic and Literacy) study camps, designed for high school students. These camps supported Nawarddeken students to participate in units of work that will contribute to the completion of their Year 12 Northern Territory Certificate of Education, enabling them to formally graduate high school on Country and surrounded by their families and community.



'We want our senior kids to graduate here in our homelands, so we can celebrate their milestones.'

Michelle Bangarr,
Cultural Education Lead

Nawarddeken Academy students building fishing tackle boxes

With the support of donors who are passionate about two-way education, KKT provides supplementary funding for the Nawarddeken Academy, ensuring its additional needs as a remote, bi-cultural school are met.

*Refers to 2023 calendar year and does not include time children spend living outside of community



Establishing full-time homeland schools

Partner: Homeland School Company (HSC)
Project: Schools for Gamardi, Gochan Jiny-Jirra and Buluh Kaduru

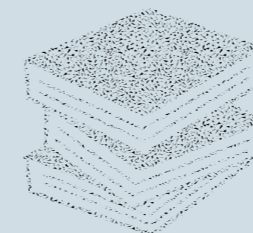
Before the centralisation of services across the NT, and the introduction of attendance-based funding, the provision of remote education was considerably better. In 2003, most students living on homelands received approximately three to four days of education every week. However, two decades later, following an unprecedented decline in state funding, these same communities now have very limited access to formal teaching. For Gamardi, a homeland community within the Djelk Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), the first time a registered teacher visited in 2023 was in May.

After witnessing the success of the community-owned schools in the Warddeken IPA, and with no indication of action from the government, Traditional Owners, Elders and community leaders from the Djelk IPA similarly decided to devise their own solution. This began with a year-long consultation process which, by the end of 2023, eventually culminated in the establishment of the HSC: an organisation governed by a majority First Nations Board of Directors, each of whom represent different homeland communities within the Djelk IPA.

The goal of the HSC is to establish three on-Country, full-time schools, each community-owned and led and with its own bi-cultural, place-based curriculum. This year, the HSC took further significant steps towards reaching this goal, including employing a permanent CEO, holding three successful, on-Country board meetings, supporting the registration of over 100 members and beginning the extensive consultation process for the development of the curricula.

The next big step for the HSC will be the submission of their application for independent school registration, which, once approved, will support the organisation and the soon-to-be established schools with transitioning from a combination of philanthropic and enterprise funding, to a majority federal government funding model.

In the meantime, where possible, the HSC will also be upgrading existing community infrastructure and essential services, building teacher accommodation and employing both local and registered teachers. All of this will further demonstrate the viability of these schools to the federal government, which is why early philanthropic funding is so crucial.



With the support of donors who understand the need for initial investment, KKT is providing funding for the HSC, supporting the growth of the organisation until it can access ongoing government funding.





Nawarddeken Academy student performing fine-scale burning on Bininj Manbolh
Photo by Cody Thomas

Partners



Djelk Indigenous Protected Area coastline
Photo by Stacey Irving

Founding partners



Bawinanga Rangers

*Manages the Djelk
Indigenous Protected Area:
6,700 square kilometres*

The Bawinanga Rangers are one of the pioneering Indigenous land management programs in Australia. A strategic community-based initiative, the Bawinanga Rangers were formed by traditional landowners in Western Arnhem Land in response to growing environmental concerns. While the Aboriginal lands in Western Arnhem Land are some of the most biodiverse and structurally intact landscapes in the country, they face a similar suite of environmental challenges to the rest of northern Australia. These include changing fire regimes, the decline of native animal species and the spread of invasive weeds and feral animals.

For more than 20 years, the Bawinanga Rangers, traditional landowners and djungkay (managers) have worked together to keep their land and sea Country in Western Arnhem Land healthy and their culture and communities strong.



Warddeken Land Management Limited

*Manages the Warddeken
Indigenous Protected Area:
14,000 square kilometres*

The Traditional Owners of the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area formed Warddeken Land Management Ltd. in 2007. Warddeken is an Aboriginal-owned, not-for-profit company that combines traditional ecological knowledge with Western science to manage and protect one of Australia's most unique environments.

Warddeken operates out of the remote homeland communities of Kabulwarnamyo, Manmoyi and Mamardawerre in West Arnhem Land. Each year, up to 250 Indigenous rangers work on a variety of projects including fire management and carbon abatement, weed and feral animal control, rock art conservation, education and cultural heritage management.

Expanding partnerships



Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation

*Manages the proposed ASRAC
Indigenous Protected Area:
14,000 square kilometres*

The Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation (ASRAC) is an independent not-for-profit Aboriginal organisation based at Ramingining in north-east Arnhem Land, 580 kilometres east of Darwin in the Northern Territory.

ASRAC was established in 2013 to support and administer a catchment-based network of ranger groups including the Gurruwiling, Wanga Djakamirr and South-East Arafura Catchment rangers, and five satellite groups. These eight ranger groups are responsible for looking after Country for Yolŋu and Bi people from 27 clans.



Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Northern Territory

Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA) is an organisation created by Aboriginal landowners to support their engagement in the carbon industry. An entirely Aboriginal-owned and not-for-profit carbon farming business, ALFA support Traditional Owners to manage five fire projects across an area of more than 80,000 square kilometres, encompassing vast savanna regions, rugged sandstone escarpments, monsoon rainforest, intact river ecosystems, floodplains and remote coastal areas.



Bininj Kunwok Regional Language and Culture Centre

The Bininj Kunwok Regional Language and Culture Centre was established in 2007 to promote and maintain the languages and cultures of Kakadu and West and Central Arnhem Land. The Aboriginal-owned organisation supports a team of language and cultural heritage professionals to respond to requests for assistance which enable communities and organisations to apply language and culture in a wide range of programs and projects.

This is achieved through collaborations with Aboriginal organisations and land management groups, the local land council, research entities, media, government agencies such as health services, educational institutions, councils and national parks, and more.



Homeland School Company

Learning from the success of the Nawarddeken Academy, the aspiration of community members in Djelk is for their new Homeland School Company to deliver on their vision for the future of their Country, culture and communities, with full-time education at remote homelands.

At present, students are unable to live on and learn about their homelands, which has led to families moving between their homeland communities and the township of Maningrida to access consistent education. This Aboriginal-owned company intends to resolve this issue.



Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation

*Manages the proposed Mimal
Indigenous Protected Area:
20,000 square kilometres*

Mimal Land Management is an Indigenous-owned and operated organisation focused on bringing benefits to Country and culture for Dalabon, Rembarrnga and Mayili landowners and people of south-central Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. Their vision is people living on outstations with families and working to take care of Country.

Their highest priorities include fire management, controlling invasive weeds and feral animals, saving native species, maintaining strong culture and sustainable visitor management.



Nawarddeken Academy

The Nawarddeken Academy is a First Nations-owned organisation that was established in 2015, at the request of Elders of the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area, who had long dreamed of their children receiving full-time education in their home communities. The Nawarddeken Academy delivers a unique model of bi-cultural, community-driven education to these remote First Nations communities in West Arnhem Land.

In January 2019, Nawarddeken Academy began operating as a Registered Independent School, which supported them to secure ongoing government funding for the majority of their operations. In 2023, the Nawarddeken Academy had a total of 103 First Nations employees in either a casual, part-time or full-time capacity, together with a total of 64 enrolments across three schools.

Partner insight



Homeland School Company

With the support of KKT, 2023/24 was a busy and successful year for the establishment of the Homeland School Company (HSC). It involved meaningful community consultations, formalising of local and external partnerships and the successful actioning of Traditional Owner aspirations to register a community-controlled organisation that takes lead in developing an independent homeland school movement.

HSC has been actively engaging with Traditional Owner groups, local stakeholders, and external partners to drive initiatives that promote cultural education while supporting sustainable development across the Djelk homelands. Recent consultations, community-driven projects, and key partnerships reflect the momentum behind HSC's vision.

Above: Planning meeting about the Homeland School Company at Bolkdjam

Section 19 consultations

In a series of Section 19 consultations, progress was noted at Buluh Kaduru and Gamardi, with further advancement for Gochan Jiny Jirra once funeral ceremonies conclude. These engagements are critical for ensuring that projects within the Djelk Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) reflect the cultural protocols and priorities of the Traditional Owners.

HSC community engagement

HSC's ongoing community engagement is gaining traction, with 100 members currently involved. This growing momentum is encouraging neighbouring homeland Traditional Owners of the proposed three sites to also explore plans for independent schools. With education seen as a pillar of self-determination, these engagements have the potential to significantly influence long-term outcomes across the Djelk IPA.

Cultural curriculum and language centre development

To further support the preservation of culture, HSC has begun planning the formation of a Cultural Curriculum Project Working Group. This group will focus on developing curricula that reflect the unique cultural perspectives of three key language groups—Kune, Gunartpa and Walaki. Membership of the working group is proposed to include HSC, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation (BAC), Lúrra Festival, Bininj Kunwok Regional Language and Culture Centre, and key linguists and academic contributors. The group will also explore the development of a Language Precinct, which will inform a business case proposal to ensure linguistic and cultural sustainability.

Independent school registration and strategic plans

A major focus of HSC's current efforts is the registration of three independent schools, in partnership with Thrive Territory, which is 90% complete. Significant progress has been made, with the majority of school policies drafted and strategic plans finalised for Gochan Jiny Jirra, Gamardi and Buluh Kaduru. The next steps include finalising the overarching HSC business plan and having policies focused on culture, family and code of conduct endorsed by the HSC Board.

Partnership with Bawinanga Rangers of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation

Through the carbon credit abatement scheme, BAC have committed significant additional resources toward projects that align with HSC's broader vision, including a Learning on Country business case, investment in Bininj employment and the purchase of a 4WD bus.

HSC's partnerships and initiatives are laying the foundation for a future driven by cultural integrity, educational independence and sustainable development. The collaboration between community leaders, philanthropic partners, and local organisations showcases the commitment to a holistic approach that respects cultural protocols while providing opportunities for socio-economic growth and self-determination.

'With a growing membership, active cultural projects, and an imminent website launch, HSC is well-positioned to continue its positive trajectory, shaping the future of the homelands for generations to come.'

Nic Sharah and Dale Pascoe, CEO and Chair of Homeland School Company, October 2024

Thank you



‘As a Director of Mimal and KKT, and on behalf of all the organisations KKT supports, I wanted to say thank you to all our supporters—for donating, for taking the time to learn about what we are working towards and for supporting us to get there.

There are so many projects that, as board members of our community organisations, we know will create a big impact on Country, and for our communities. But, it's really hard to get funding out where we are, and we can't always wait for government to get started.

We didn't expect this to happen when we first partnered with KKT. We didn't realise just how much it was going to support us, how much it would help. We thought it was just about one or two projects. But now, to see it from this perspective so many years later—to see all the donors we have been connected with to support our programs, and the amount of support coming in from KKT. It makes a big difference for our programs and our communities.

I feel, we are really lucky to have this support from KKT, and from all the donors who support us. So I wanted to say thank you. Your support is really appreciated—by me, and by my community.’

John Dalywater, Traditional Owner of Namarr Kaworrok,
Chair of Mimal and director of KKT

Above: Performance at Weemol ranger base
Photo by Stacey Irving

Supporters for the 2024 financial year include:

Aesop Foundation	Dusseldorp Forum	Judith Neilson Foundation	PMF Foundation
Aon	Gandel Foundation	The Kennards Hire Foundation	Sidney Myer Fund
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Aberaldie Foundation	The Balnaves Foundation	Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal	Justin Punch & Patty Akopiantz
Australian Ethical Foundation	Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife	Green Eyes Foundation	Purryburry Trust
Axel Robert Arnott			Reece Foundation
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ELK	The Humanity Foundation	Dr Michael Lawless & Mrs Alison Watts-Lawless	Toisch Pty Ltd
Emma & Dominic Stevens	James N. Kirby Foundation		Vicki Olsson
			WIRES

In addition to the above, our sincere thanks go out to every person who made a donation in support of Country, culture and community in West and Central Arnhem Land.

Thank you to our partner organisations



Thank you to our founders

Warddeken Land Management Limited
Bawinanga Rangers
Jan & Peter Cooke AM
The Nature Conservancy
The PEW Environment Group

Thank you to our in-kind supporters

Dan Bouchier
Design by Nature
ELK
Ellis Jones
The Hub
White & Case



Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area
Photo by Kane Chenoweth
Right: Mibbarr (white-bellied sea eagle)
Photo by Stacey Irving

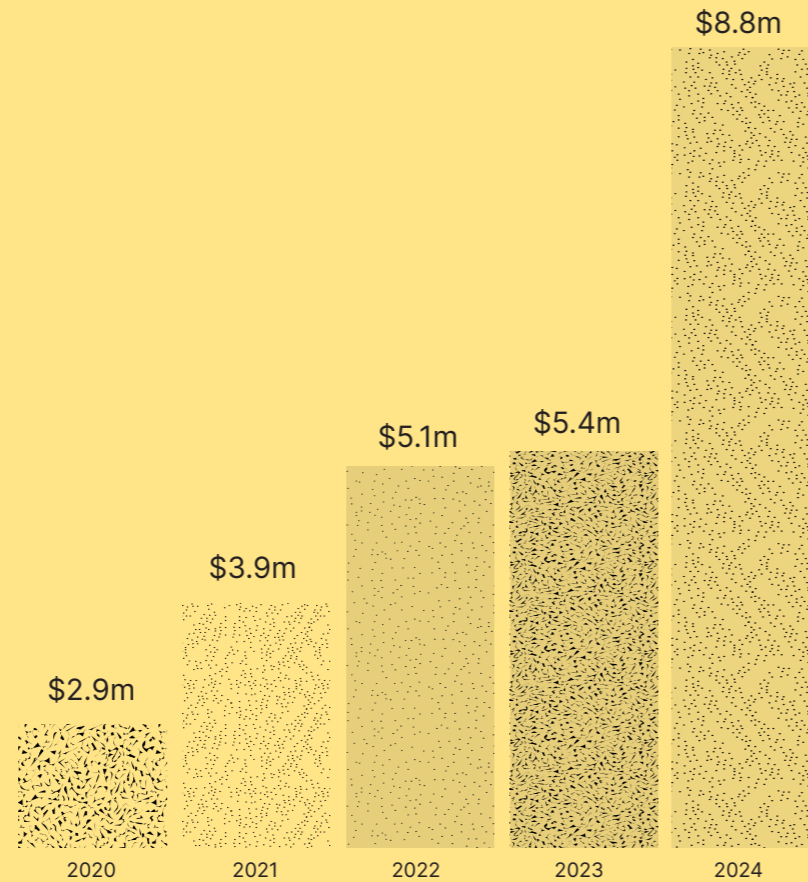
2024 financial report



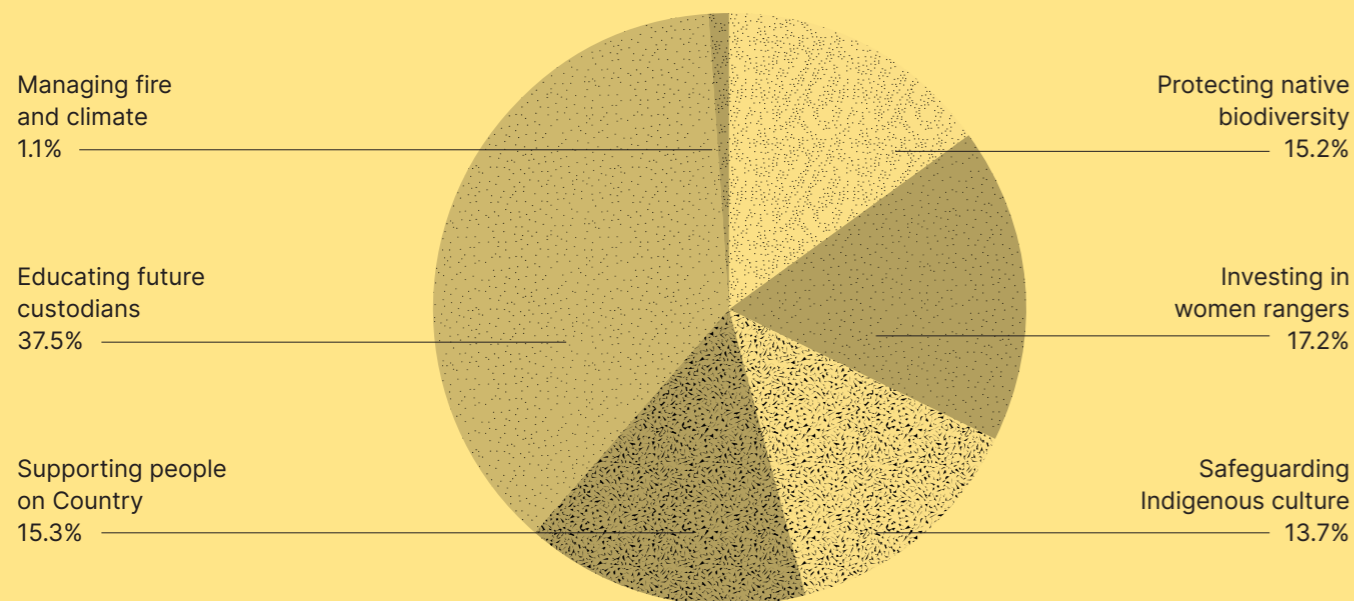
As we grow as an organisation, so does our impact. We are supporting more First Nations organisations and projects on the ground than ever before.

Total income

Thanks to our supporters and partners, our 2024 financial year income was \$8.78 million, a 61.2% increase on the previous financial year.



Allocation of KKT grants made



Directors' Report

In respect of the financial year ended 30 June 2024, the directors of the trustee company of the Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust (the Trust) submit the following report, made out in accordance with a resolution of the directors:

Directors of the trustee company

The names of Directors of the company in office at the date of this report are: Dean Yibarbuk (Co-Chair), Justin Punch (Co-Chair), Emeritus Professor Jon Altman, Margie Moroney, Frederick Hunter, John Dalywater, Teya Dusseldorp, Cindy Jinmarabynana, Otto Campion.

Principal activities

Create a sustainable financial model that will assist funding of Indigenous ranger groups and land owners to protect and manage the natural and cultural environment of West and Central Arnhem Land.

Trading results

An operating surplus of \$1,171,809 was recorded for the year (2023: \$762,222).

Significant changes in the state of affairs

There were no significant changes not otherwise noted in the state of affairs of the Trust during the year.

Events subsequent to balance date

Since the end of the financial year the Directors are not aware of any matter or circumstances not otherwise noted within the report that have significantly affected the operations of the Trust, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Trust in subsequent financial years.

Likely developments

At present, no developments are planned which would significantly affect the operations or results of the Trust.

Directors benefits

No Director of the company has, since the end of the previous financial year, received or become entitled to receive a benefit (other than a benefit included in the total amount of emoluments received or due and receivable by Directors shown in the accounts) by reason of a contract made by the company as trustee of the Trust with a controlling entity or a related body corporate of a Director or with a firm of which a Director is a member, or with an entity in which a Director has a substantial financial investment.

Independence

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 77.

Signed at Sydney and Melbourne this 11th day of October 2024

Justin Punch
Director

Jon Altman
Director

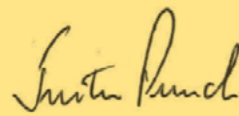
Directors' Declaration

In the opinion of the Directors:

- The Directors of Karrkad-Kanjdi Ltd as trustee for the Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust (the Trust) have determined that the Trust is not a reporting entity and that the special purpose financial statements are appropriate to meet the information needs of members and users of the financial statements. The special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with note 1 to the financial statements.
- The accompanying Statement of Financial Performance has been prepared so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the Trust for the year ended 30 June 2024.
- The accompanying Statement of Financial Position is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust as at 30 June 2024.
- At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Trust will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- The accompanying financial statements have been made out in accordance with the provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001* and laws and give a true and fair view of the matters with which they deal.
- The special purpose financial report complies with all of the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards and reporting requirements under the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors

Signed at Sydney and Melbourne this 11th day of October 2024



Justin Punch
Director



Jon Altman
Director

Auditor's Independence Declaration

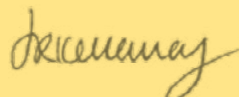
To the Directors of
Karrkad-Kanjdi Ltd.

This auditor's independence declaration has been provided pursuant to s307 of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Independence Declaration

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 there have been:

- no contraventions of the auditor independence as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Jessica Kellaway, Partner
CA, CPA, Registered Company Auditor
10/09/2024

Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024(\$)	2023(\$)
Ordinary income		
Donations — projects and untied	4,187,630	3,647,266
Donations — KKT operations	841,712	551,370
Grants — projects and untied	3,178,974	951,380
Grants — KKT operations	368,399	158,370
Investment income	199,498	137,140
Other income	1,916	353
Total ordinary income	8,778,129	5,445,879
Expenses		
Advertising	814	2,648
Audit fees	4,600	4,500
Bank charges	3,928	3,205
Board expenses	65,444	58,095
Camping gear	3,140	–
Computer and internet	20,709	17,019
Consultants and contractors	9,640	28,860
Depreciation	11,189	3,698
Dues and subscriptions	6,581	3,379
Event expenses	77,259	45,450
Grants	6,366,479	3,731,546
Insurances	21,606	15,374
Investment management fees	10,447	6,202
Minor equipment	4,316	1,822
Office expenses	3,457	1,690
Printing	22,816	14,741
Professional development	12,486	2,030
Rent	69,493	33,336
Telephone	1,116	1,522
Travel expenses	108,658	116,182
Salaries and wages	698,270	533,187
Superannuation	76,091	54,481
Sundry expenses	7,781	4,690
Total expenses	7,606,320	4,683,657
Net operating surplus *	1,171,809	762,222
Non-operating items		
Unrealised gains on investments	24,790	27,395
Net total surplus	1,196,599	789,617

*The vast majority of Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust funding is gifted at the end of the financial year, and allocated to our partners for deployment in the following financial year. Refer to Note 3—Committed funds for more detail.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024(\$)	2023(\$)
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash at bank - Operating Accounts	2a	1,381,005	714,114
Cash at bank - Public Fund	2b	5,197,452	4,060,881
Contingency Fund	2c	518,826	495,360
Stripe Donations Account	2d	9,993	1,957
Trade receivables		169,884	276,077
Net GST receivable		82,957	90,469
Prepayments		-	75,673
Other current assets		59,242	7,083
Total current assets		7,419,359	5,721,614
Non-current assets			
Plant and equipment	4	8,815	9,102
Intangible assets	5	12,785	19,452
Endowment Fund	6	1,237,264	1,194,094
Total non-current assets		1,258,864	1,222,648
Total assets		8,678,223	6,944,262
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade payables and accrued expenses		593,021	62,171
Other payables		48,040	40,486
Provision for annual leave		39,080	47,540
Total current liabilities		680,141	150,197
Non-current liabilities			
Provision for long service leave		20,312	12,894
Total non-current liabilities		20,312	12,894
Total liabilities		700,453	163,091
Net assets		7,977,770	6,781,171
Equity			
Committed & allocated funds*	3	7,342,703	5,891,347
Retained earnings		621,197	900,744
Investment revaluation reserve		13,870	(10,920)
Total equity		7,977,770	6,781,171

*A significant portion of Karrkad-Kanjdji's equity as at 30 June 2024 is represented by cash and cash equivalents that are tied to projects, FY2025 operational expenditure and committed for future use by the trust. Project commitments as at 30 June 2024 are displayed in Note 3.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2024

*Retained Earnings includes movements in Committed and Allocated Funds

	Investment revaluation reserve (\$)	Retained Earnings* (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance of Equity as at 1 July 2022	(38,315)	6,029,869	5,991,554
Revaluation of investments	27,395	-	27,395
Operating Surplus for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	-	762,222	762,222
Balance of Equity as at 1 July 2023	(10,920)	6,792,091	6,781,171
Revaluation of investments	24,790	-	24,790
Operating Surplus for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024	-	1,171,809	1,171,809
Balance of Equity as at 30 June 2024	13,870	7,963,900	7,977,770

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024(\$)	2023(\$)
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash inflows:		
Operating receipts	9,323,252	5,835,741
Interest receipts	169,686	107,533
Cash generated from operations	9,492,938	5,943,274
Cash outflows:		
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,188,512)	(1,017,346)
Payments for grants	(6,465,227)	(4,104,701)
Cash used in operations	(7,653,739)	(5,122,047)
Net cash generated from operating activities	1,839,199	821,227
Cash flows from investing activities		
Cash outflows:		
Purchase of plant and equipment	(4,235)	(5,179)
Purchase of software	-	(22,000)
Purchase of investments	-	(500,000)
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	-	400
Cash used in investing activities	(4,235)	(526,779)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	1,834,964	294,448
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	5,272,312	4,977,864
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	7,107,276	5,272,312

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. The financial report has been prepared on a consolidated basis consisting of two entities, The Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust, ABN 98 502 331 587 (the Trust); and Karrkad-Kanjdi Limited, ABN 69 139 324 557 (the Company). The Company exists solely for the purpose of acting as trustee of the Trust and receives donations and grants into the gift bank account it operates. Revenue received is then transferred to the Trust for use in its charitable activities.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the *Corporations Act 2001* and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of the statements are as follows:

- a) Cash and Cash Equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.
- b) Trade Debtors and Other Receivables
Trade receivables are recognised and carried forward at invoice amount including any applicable GST.
- c) Investments
All investments are measured at market value. Unrealised movements in market value are recognised as non-operating gains or losses in the Statement of Financial Performance and accumulated in the Investments revaluation reserve account in Equity.
- d) Trade and Other Payables
Liabilities for trade creditors and other amounts are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services rendered including any applicable GST.
- e) Revenue Recognition
Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the association and the revenue can be reliably measured.

Grants and donations are recognised in accordance with AASB1058: *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*.

- f) Employee Liabilities
These liabilities accrue for staff as a result of services provided up to the reporting date that remain unpaid or for entitlements unused.
- g) Income Tax
The company is exempt from paying income tax due to it being a not for profit entity under s50-5 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.
- h) Comparatives
Where necessary, comparatives have been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.
- i) Contingent assets and liabilities
There have been no events which meet the definition of an event as per AASB 110 Para 3. There are no contingent assets, contingent liabilities or any obligations as per AASB 137 Para 10.
- j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)
The company is registered for GST. All revenue and expense amounts are stated as exclusive of GST.

<u>Note 2</u> <u>Cash and Cash</u> <u>Equivalents</u>	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Note 2a Operating Funds		
Operating Account	1,312,016	664,574
Day to Day Account	68,989	49,540
Total Operating Funds	1,381,005	714,114
Note 2b Public Fund		
Gift Account	5,197,452	4,060,881
Total Public Fund	5,197,452	4,060,881
Note 2c Contingency Fund		
Contingency Fund	518,826	495,360
Total Contingency Fund	518,826	495,360
Note 2d Stripe Donations		
Stripe Donations Account	9,993	1,957
Total Stripe Donations	9,993	1,957
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	7,107,276	5,272,312

<u>Note 3</u> <u>Committed Funds</u>	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Project Commitments		
Endowment Fund	1,237,264	1,194,094
Protecting native biodiversity	287,568	413,493
Managing fire and climate	269,035	45,508
Educating future custodians	2,626,228	1,526,490
Investing in women	904,426	572,690
Safeguarding Indigenous culture	337,340	525,240
Supporting people on Country	-	-
	5,661,861	4,277,515
Allocated Funds		
KKT Operations FY2025	122,593	230,248
KKT Contingency	518,826	495,360
KKT Project Development Fee	1,039,423	888,224
	1,680,842	1,613,832
Total funds held available for future use as at 30 June	7,342,703	5,891,347

The balance of cash and cash equivalents includes the following funds that have been received by the Karrkad-Kanjdi Trust but not yet spent. The projects are still in progress or have yet to commence.

<u>Note 4</u> <u>Plant and Equipment</u>	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Computer equipment	14,005	14,005
Accumulated depreciation	(10,345)	(6,400)
	3,660	7,605
Furniture and fixtures	703	703
Accumulated depreciation	(346)	(275)
	357	428
Plant and Equipment	5,599	1,363
Accumulated depreciation	(801)	(294)
	4,798	1,069
Total plant and equipment	20,307	16,071
Total accumulated depreciation	(11,492)	(6,969)
Written down value	8,815	9,102

<u>Note 5</u> <u>Intangible Assets</u>	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Website	20,000	20,000
Accumulated amortisation	(7,215)	(548)
	12,785	19,452

<u>Note 6</u> <u>Endowment Fund</u>	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Opening balance at market value	1,194,094	652,416
Contributions	-	500,000
Reinvestment of net income earned	17,910	14,283
Movement in market values—realised and unrealised	25,260	27,395
Closing balance at market value	1,237,264	1,194,094

Note 7
Segment Note
—Public Fund

Segment Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30 June 2024

In accordance with Section 30-265 (2) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* and Taxation Ruling 95/27 Karrkad-Kanjdji Trust maintains a Public Fund. Income and expenditure related to activities of the Public Fund are detailed below.

	Public Fund	Other	Total
Ordinary income			
Grant income	-	3,547,373	3,547,373
Interest and investment income	143,780	55,718	199,498
Donations	4,925,218	104,124	5,029,342
Other income	-	1,916	1,916
Total ordinary income	5,068,998	3,709,131	8,778,129
Expenses			
Grants	2,814,834	3,551,645	6,366,479
Operations	1,117,593	122,248	1,239,841
Total expenses	3,932,427	3,673,893	7,606,320
Net operating surplus	1,136,571	35,238	1,171,809
Non-operating items			
Unrealised gain on investments	-	24,790	24,790
Total net surplus	1,136,571	60,028	1,196,599

Note 8
Related Parties and
Key Management
Personel

Key management personnel comprise the Chief Executive Officer and Directors and Committee members of the Company.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel, and entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by those key management personnel individually or collectively with their close family members.

During the year ended 30 June 2024 Karrkad-Kanjdji Trust entered into no contracts with related parties (2023: \$nil).

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Report

To the Directors of Karrkad Kanjdji Trust

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Karrkad Kanjdji Trust, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of financial performance for the year then ended, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the director's declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Karrkad Kanjdji Trust, in all material respects, for the period 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024 is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards and to the extent described in Note 1, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and Division 60 the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

Without modifying our opinion expressed above, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the *Corporations Act 2001* and for the purpose of fulfilling the entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Responsibility of Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the reporting requirements and needs of the Trust. The Directors responsibility also includes such internal control the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are responsible for overseeing the Trust's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

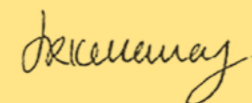
As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

GALPINS ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS



Jessica Kellaway, Partner
CA, CPA, Registered Company Auditor
10/09/2024



Manmoyi outstation,
Warddeken Indigenous
Protected Area
Photo by Adelaide Ford

What's next

Building a new home for Bininj art and histories in the Djelk IPA



The Djómi Museum, located in Maningrida in the Djelk Indigenous Protected Area, is home to a nationally significant archive comprising over 700 cultural artefacts and artworks, as well as a host of historical documents. Unfortunately, this invaluable collection of art, cultural knowledge and history is at serious risk at the current premises where the poor storage conditions are outdated and ill-equipped for the region's climate, rendering the collection greatly susceptible to flooding. It has been a long-standing ambition of many in the Maningrida community to relocate the contents

of the Djómi Museum to a new precinct that will safeguard the future of the existing collection and also finally enable Traditional Owners and families to receive repatriated artefacts and works. Fortunately, the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation and Djómi Museum recently secured some funding for this new precinct from the NT Government. Following this, they requested that KKT raise the shortfall to ensure that the collection is not only housed appropriately and for posterity; but so that the new premises can also accommodate outdoor cultural practices, performing arts events and community gatherings.

Partnering with the Bininj Kunwok Regional Language and Culture Centre



The Bininj Kunwok Regional Language and Culture Centre (BKRLCC) is an Aboriginal-owned entity that was established to promote and maintain the languages and cultures of Kakadu and West Arnhem Land. The organisation responds to requests for assistance from communities and other Aboriginal-owned organisations within the region—many of whom are existing partners of KKT. This often involves either creating or translating important public or educational resources into various dialects. At the start of 2024, KKT was approached by

the BKRLCC about the possibility of a partnership, initially for the provision of additional operational staffing to further support the organisation's language and cultural heritage professionals. As with all of KKT's partnerships, this request was reviewed by the KKT Board of Directors who elected to formalise the agreement at the end of the financial year. Moving forward, where possible KKT will respond to additional funding gaps that the BKRLCC faces, thus contributing to the wider preservation of Indigenous languages and cultures across the region.

Engaging the next generations of Bininj leaders in KKT's governance



Across the NT, succession planning remains the number one priority concern for Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, yet it is often the first initiative to be deprioritised. In 2025, KKT intends to address this organisational risk by establishing both a board observer program and a traineeship—each intended to further the engagement of Bininj youth in KKT's work and governance. The KKT traineeship

will provide flexible opportunities for young people to gain further skills and abilities to bridge the divide between Arnhem Land-based caring for Country work and the necessary task of securing funding; whereas the board observer program will ensure experienced Bininj directors are able to pass on their knowledge of two-way governance to the next generation and eventually determine a succession plan.

Supporter insight

The Ian Potter Foundation



Ian Potter Governor and staff
at the Nawarddeken Academy
From left to right: Professor Karen Day,
Caroline Henwood and Louise Arkles

Time seems to run differently in Arnhem Land. Somehow the past, present and future co-exist in the one special place where you can see how Country has thrived for millenia, is being cared for now, and what exciting possibilities lie ahead to showcase First Nations environmental management to the world.

I've been lucky enough, in my role as Senior Program Manager at The Ian Potter Foundation, to get to know the team at KKT and to visit three communities in the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) in West Arnhem Land. The Foundation has been a proud supporter of KKT since 2018. Our funds have contributed to the Kunwarddebim Project which aims to systematically record and conserve rock art at select sites across the Warddeken IPA.

The rangers document, protect and conserve rock art, prioritising sites with a connection to living Elders so that their stories and knowledge can be captured and shared with younger generations. Over the past five years they've surveyed over 340 sites to date, with tens or hundreds of paintings at each, across 21 different clan estates within the IPA! This is truly an extraordinary achievement.

What attracted the Foundation to this extraordinary project was the fact that KKT and their partners approach their work in a deeply respectful, holistic and integrated way. Traditional Owners and communities set their own agendas and priorities, determine project planning and evaluation, hire staff and own all intellectual property. Rangers are well supported with training and flexible employment opportunities, and some have travelled to present their work to partner organisations or funders. There are also synergistic links to Warddeken's other projects, including the Mayh Recovery Program and the Anbinik Protection Program.

Spending time on Country with Traditional Owners and community leaders has been a real highlight. It's also wonderful to see that two Kuwarddebim rangers, Tinesha Narorrnga and Jayden Wurrkgidj, have now stepped into Project Officer roles with increased responsibilities—this is game-changing. Another joy has been seeing the children from the Nawarddeken Academy come along on surveys, watching the rangers at work and perhaps helping to set camera traps or doing their own school project out bush.

There are exciting and important developments ahead too: the Kunwarddebim Project surveys continue, the team at Warddeken is currently working with a lawyer to create their own standard contractor agreement to support healthy partnerships between Traditional Owners and research organisations, and plans are afoot for a Bush University—so the future is rich with opportunities.

Louise Arkles, Senior Program Manager
The Ian Potter Foundation
October 2024

Common terms

In this report there are some terms from dialects in the Bininj Kunwok ('bin-iny goon-wok') language group spoken in West Arnhem Land. We have provided some rough translations.

Anbinik:	an ancient, endemic and culturally-significant proto-eucalypt tree species with the scientific name <i>Allosyncarpia ternata</i>
Balabbala:	traditional permanent shelter with a raised platform and canvas roof
Balanda:	person of non-Aboriginal descent
Bim:	Indigenous art from this region
Bininj (Bin-iny):	Indigenous person or people from this region, or specifically a man/males
Daluk (dah-look):	female, woman or wife
Djang (jhang):	roughly translates to a significant place where cultural practices and beliefs are embodied in the physical location or features of the landscape linked to ceremonies, totemic emblems, native species, creation stories and spirit beings
Djungkay (Jhoong-kye):	ritual managers who have inherited cultural and ceremonial responsibilities for Country
Karrkad (gada-gut):	higher grounds away from the floodplains, above the escarpment
Kanjdi (guny-gee):	downstream lowlands towards the coast
Kuwarddewardde (Koo-wahr-day-wahr-day):	Stone Country of the Arnhem escarpment
Kuwarddebim (goon-wahr-day-bim):	rock art
Mayh (my):	animals

Right: Daluk involved with the Mibarr Songline Project
Photo by Jeanie Govan



Grasses for weaving
Photo by Jeanie Govan

Interested in supporting the work of our partners?

1. Get in touch to learn more

Our staff love catching up with KKT supporters, whether it be over the phone or over a cuppa. Get in touch to organise a time to connect via mail@kkt.org.au

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I will give \$	One-off donation <input type="radio"/>	Recurring monthly donation <input type="radio"/>	
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Cardholder's name	Signature		

All donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductable.
Cheques made out to: Karrkad Kanjdji Trust

For our terms and conditions and privacy policy, please head to kkt.org.au

Karrkad Kanjdji Trust
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country
Level 2, 696 Bourke Street
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

For the protection and management
of the natural and cultural environment
of West and Central Arnhem Land.

kkt.org.au
mail@kkt.org.au

Karrkad Kanjdji Trust
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country
Level 2, 696 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000



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