

Gingirana and Tjiwarl Ranger Exchange at Wiluna Muster

Trip Report – Wiluna Muster

Funding through the Indigenous Desert Alliance (IDA) enabled Tjiwarl and Gingirana Rangers to join together on a ranger exchange trip to Wiluna for the inaugural start of season Ranger Muster held between 25-29 March 2019. The ranger muster is designed to provide a point of commencement for the up-coming field season. Rangers are invited to participate in a series of small workshops designed to encourage engagement and ownership of the Ranger programs, as well as facilitate a sense of connection and team between each of the projects, and staff.

The ranger exchange grant is facilitating the involvement of two emerging Ranger groups, Gingirana and Tjiwarl. Activities have been specifically designed to provide insight into the Birriliburu and MKK Ranger teams around the types of activities that are possible for Ranger teams to undertake. The Gingirana and Tjiwarl groups have undertaken fee for service work in a mining context and are very interested in establishing dedicated ranger teams to take up land management activities. Ranger led discussions around aspects such as safety, vehicle maintenance, planning and equipment were all undertaken as well as practical activities on light vehicle maintenance.



Other activities of particular interest to the ranger exchange groups were an introduction to the Fulcrum App and the importance of mapping data. Setting up and monitoring of cameras and sound recorders, firearms safety and accredited first aid training.

Four female rangers from Tjiwarl and one female and one male ranger from Gingirana (6) travelled to Wiluna and joined with approximately 25 Birriliburu and Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara rangers and three male and two female non-indigenous DSS staff and ranger coordinators. The Tjiwarl rangers drove from Leonora and one Gingirana ranger flew from Perth with a ranger coordinator.

Day One included:

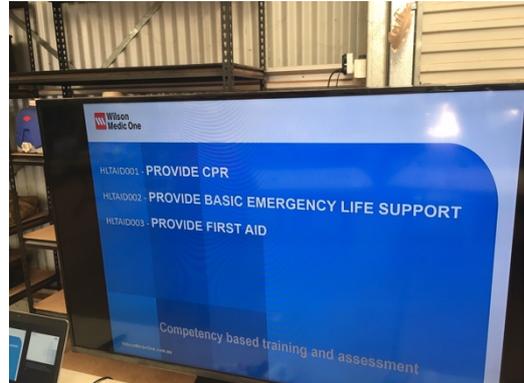
- A review of the previous field season which also provided an opportunity to update rangers on work that was undertaken during the 2017/18 field season.
- Update plan for the 2018/19 year and provide rangers with an overview of the trips planned for the year including any ranger led trips.
- An explanation was provided (especially informative for the visiting ranger exchangee's) on the Contact system, IPA management teams and PBC boards.
- Communications and emergency response procedures, daily check-ins, how to use Sat phones, SPOTs and EPIRBS.
- IPA Management team provided exchange rangers with an outline of what is expected of a ranger
- How to look after equipment AND
- Rules around use of firearms and humane killing associated with DSS and ranger work.
- Housekeeping information was provided on how to complete timesheets, payment days and details required to enable payment.
- The Fulcrum App was also explained.



Day Two

- A run down on the expectations of vehicles, including general maintenance (inside and out) and explaining the importance of looking after them so they get us home again.
- Vehicle checks
- Safety around vehicle recovery
- Fulcrum App
- A session with the school was held to introduce the ranger programs and shed as well as an introduction to the Two-Way Science program. The Two-Way science program includes training, planning and on-ground works inside and outside the existing predator-free compound. A five year Two-Way science plan has been developed outlining ongoing conservation works to protect threatened species (including Mala, Greater Bilby, Golden bandicoot Malleefowl and the night parrot).





Day Three

- Accredited First Aid Training was held on the final day of the muster and all the ranger exchange group fee's were covered by IDA Ranger Exchange funding.
- An end of Muster evening BBQ was held which provided another opportunity for all rangers to network together and discuss further establishing of dedicated ranger teams.

Based on positive feedback from all participants, it is planned to make the Muster a recurring annual event.