

Kulyakartu and Nyangumarta Ranger Exchange

Trip report – Paru and Beyond

Funding through the Indigenous Desert Alliance (IDA) enabled Kulyakartu and Nyangumarta Warrarn to join together on a ranger exchange trip.

Four cars travelled from Bidyadanga along the Nyangumarta highway to Paru and through Kulyakartu country over four days.

Working together

Rangers talked about the importance of working together on country close to the border and about Nyangumarta and Kulyakartu managing country together.

“We want to move forward and grow up our young people”

Elders talked about the importance of showing people special places, sharing names and stories so young people know about country.



Mervyn, Andrew and Merridoo testing the bore water at the proposed Kulyakartu camp site



Charmaine and Lynette preparing turkey on Nyangumarta country

Water testing

“When you’re way out in the Desert you need to know where the water is”

One of the main objectives of the Paru trip was to test the water at a capped bore hole near the old airstrip. Water is important for rangers to be able to do work on Kulyakartu country. The depth was measured, and a water sample was taken. Everyone was very happy with the water.

“We tested the water, it is beautiful”. The next step is to find funding to put in a hand pump for water and setting up a camp area.

“This is the first time for us seeing the tourist area (Nyangumarta camping areas), we want to do the same for Kulyakartu”

“We want to keep coming back to country, visiting and protecting our special sites” – Lynette Wilridge

Talking to tourists

Nyangumarta rangers shared their knowledge about talking 'right way' to tourists. This included how to approach tourists, talking to them proper way and asking to see their permits.

Rangers talked about working together across 3 groups and having one system for permits like Kuju Wangka.

Nyangumarta shared their ranger journey which started small with one trip to look at plants with the old people. From there Nyangumarta built up bit by bit until they got an IPA.

The training which helped Nyangumarta build up their rangers included talking right way with tourists, right way fire, animal tracking and plant ID.



Merridoo sharing stories about important places

Partnering for the future

Kulyakartu want to build relationships and work with partners. Discussions are underway with KJ around a joint on country project.

Next is talking with Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation about shared management of important places on Ngurrara country bordering Kulyakartu.

“Without IDA support this trip wouldn’t happen. Thank you for the funding” – Merridoo Walbidi



Merridoo burning country

What next?

- Funding for a second trip to install a hand pump at the airstrip bore
- Having one permit system for the Nyangumarta highway
- Talking with Ngurrara rangers about shared management of country
- Looking for more funding to support Kulyakartu ranger trips