



# Noongar Wangkinyiny



South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, March 2011

## Noongar book wins Australian Human Rights Award

The book titled **"It's Still in My Heart, This is My Country"** was awarded the 2010 Australian Human Rights Commission Non-Fiction Literature Award in December 2010. The book, which previously also won the Margaret Medcalf Award for excellence in the use of WA archives, has sold out its initial print run.

### **"It's Still in My Heart, This is My Country"**

Produced by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, and published by University of WA Publishing, the book tells the story of the resilience of the Noongar people in their struggle to achieve recognition of their native title claims over Perth and the south west of Western Australia. We await news from the publisher of a second print run.



SWALSC CEO Glen Kelly at the awards  
Photo courtesy of the Australian Human Rights Commission

## South West Boojarah Working Party staunchly opposed to Margaret River coal mine

At the most recent meeting of the South West Boojarah Working Party, held on the 22 February, at Busselton, the Working Party expressed its staunch, collective opposition to the proposed development of a coal mine north east of Margaret River. The Working Party has declined to meet with Mr Peter Ross, who is the managing director of LD Operations, which is a private contracting company responsible for the development of the mine, and not the owner of the mine. The Working Party's initial opposition to the coal mine is based on cultural concerns, and environmental concerns relating to potential threats posed to water sources such as rivers and streams, and the Yaragadee aquifer.

The current development plans for the mine require the ground works to cut into the earth below rivers and streams and the aquifer, and the Working Party remains unconvinced about the adequacy of any proposed engineering solution aimed at preventing the aquifer from draining away into the mine.

The Working Party is also concerned about the possible pollution to water supplies in the area posed by the mine development.

The mine development was initially referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in October 2010, and a detailed design work plan for the mine based on EPA advice is expected to be referred to the EPA in September 2011, with a final report being expected to be made to the EPA for approval of the mine in February 2012.

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Readers are cautioned that this publication may contain images of deceased people

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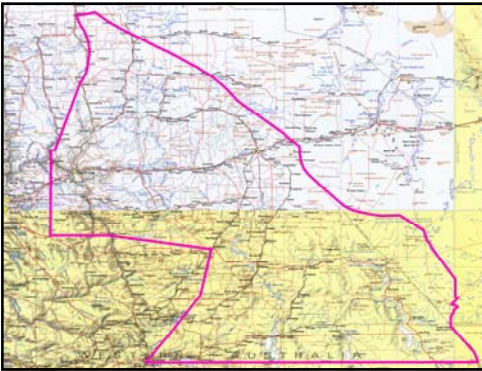
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# Working Party News

In order to improve the flow of information to members, this and future editions of the SWALSC Newsletter will include a brief round-up of what occurred at the most recent meeting of each of the six working parties. The following notes are based only on draft minutes.



## Ballardong

At the Ballardong Working Party (WP) meeting held on 8 February 2011 in Merredin, SWALSC lawyer, Simon Blackshield, provided a briefing on the new and competing native title claim that was lodged over the Metro area in the previous week, which has an overlap with Yued and Ballardong claims. After questions and discussion, the WP resolved to try to seek to negotiate a resolution with the proponents of the competing claim. SWALSC CEO Glen Kelly provided a detailed briefing on the progress of the negotiations with the State. Malcolm Firth, SWALSC Corporate Services Manager, provided a briefing on the Working Party Charter, and on the current role, and possible future role of the WP in the event of settlement with the State. Malcolm

indicated he'd received positive feedback about the Facilitation Training. It was suggested the Family Meeting policy should be reviewed, and updated. Following questions and discussion about communications, it was suggested that working party members could nominate other people to whom minutes could be sent. SWALSC researchers Aimee Lamatoa and Frances Finch provided a brief update on Agreed Facts and Cultural Mapping. Members of the WP were advised that the cultural mapping work for Yued and Wagyl Kaip was completed, and that the work on Ballardong had started at the beginning of 2011. It was suggested that cultural mapping was important in identifying who could speak for country and who should participate in heritage surveys. An explanation of the process of getting information from Master Genealogist was provided, with the suggestion that members of the WP needed to let SWALSC know if SWALSC missed someone, or if they disagreed with something. There was quite a few comments and suggestions from the floor. Simon Blackshield and Seán O'Hara from SWALSC outlined Future Act items, and explained that funding for Future Act work would end on 30 June. Seán would then be working on heritage matters. The WP selected four members for a site visit at Wyalkatchem.

## Gnaala Karla Booja



At the GKB Working Party (WP) meeting held on 1 December 2010, SWALSC lawyer, Matthew Hansen, provided an update on the negotiations with the State. There were a number of questions from the floor seeking clarification about post-settlement funding, land base, lost lands, church lands, national parks and missions including Wandering and Gnowangerup missions. Housing was raised as a very significant issue, and Matthew indicated that while housing was not part of the formal negotiations with the State, that SWALSC was talking to the Department of Housing in order to find solutions outside the settlement package. Reference was made to Homeswest giving over the ownership to long-term Noongar residents. A suggestion from the floor was adopted by the WP

that SWALSC and the WP hold community meetings in Narrogin and Bunbury. Reference was made to the example of the Larrakia Rangers and a program designed to ensure that the youngsters get taught the laws by spending time on land with elders. SWALSC was asked to provide more detailed information about the Larrakia Ranger Program. SWALSC researcher, Sarah Thomson, provided an update on research, and the floor discussed and asked questions about the Apical Ancestor list handed out at the previous meeting. The Apical Ancestor list (made up of 16 people) was adopted. Seán O'Hara from SWALSC outlined Future Act items including one relating to old camping grounds affected by the Collie Residential and Light Industrial Estate. Questions were asked about the possible use of scanning technology to identify the exact location of the camping and burial grounds. Paul Able from Lancorp gave a presentation about the Collie Estate, followed by a presentation by Daniel Visser from Landcorp, and Lorraine Rush-ton from Regional Development relating to a land development at Harvey. The WP resolved to ask for more community consultation, and resolved that the next WP meeting be held in Harvey. Quenton Gay from Leschenault Catchment Council gave a presentation on Managing the Blackberry Containment Line, which was followed by a presentation by the Community Arts Network. The WP considered forming a partnership with CANWA in cultural mapping and community governance, pending CANWA securing appropriate resources.

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## Metro

At the Metro Working Part (WP) meeting held on 4 November members were advised that SWALSC was working towards lodging the new Metro claim by the end of March 2011. Claire Malavaux was introduced as SWALSC's new anthropologist for Metro. There was discussion about the boundary between GKB and Metro, and comment that the point where North Dandalup River joins the Murray River is one of the most sacred areas for Metro claimants. Stuart Bradfield, from SWALSC, provided a detailed update on the negotiations with the State. Stuart advised that the negotiations did not cover private land. Other questions related to the 5% of land value figure paid to Aboriginal people; Stuart indicated that this would be requested as a standard measure applying to future releases of Crown land. The meeting also resolved to review all Family Information and to report back to the WP. The meeting was advised that the Swan River Claim had failed the registration test. The Department of Planning gave a presentation about the Perth Waterfront Development. SWALSC's Daniel Garlett was asked to provide future updates on the project. Members expressed a desire for more information in relation to a proposed park home in Helena Valley, and concern was voiced about the protection of registered sites, and call was made for full consultation, and for an anthropologist to participate in the relevant surveys, and for copies of any heritage or archaeological surveys be sent to SWALSC. The WP received a presentation from John Penny and Melissa Riley in relation to the "Employment NOW" program, which aims to get 17 to 24 year olds back into the workforce. John and Melissa were seeking the support for the project aimed at revamping Beaufort Park. Members suggested promoting the project through Noongar Radio, having examples of the six Noongar seasons in the Park, and renaming the park Coolaroo Park. The meeting resolved to ask SWALSC to write a letter of support from the WP to the Town of Vincent, and for the WP to be included in determining the name of the new park, and seeking a timeframe. It was also suggested that related job vacancies could be advertised on the SWALSC website, and for John Penny to contact SWALSC's Paul Halfpenny as a follow-up. Claire Savage provided a presentation relating to the Swan and Helena foreshore trails, and asked members what they would like to see included in the project. Jenni Andrews from the City of Canning gave a presentation in relation to the Bush Tucker Garden concept at the Eco Education Centre. Craig Wilson from the Town of Kwinana provided a presentation outlining a proposal to rehabilitate six areas within Kwinana. A letter was tabled proposing that a memorial plaque be placed at the Matilda Bay Reserve.



## South West Boojarah

The South West Boojarah Working Party (WP) meeting held on 9 November started with discussion about the process for selecting representatives for the team engaged in negotiations with the State. Stuart Bradfield from SWALSC outlined the constraints of the process. SWALSC anthropologist Britta Kuhlenbeck was introduced to the WP. There was extensive discussion relating to the Harris claim. Bill Lawrie provided a detailed update on the progress of the negotiations with the State, and after much discussion, Bill indicated he wished the Government representatives could have attended the meeting in order to hear what the members had to say. There was discussion about natural resource management of Alexandria Camp, and erosion. A plan to temporarily fence, and revegetate the area, with work to start as soon as possible was outlined. There was strong support for interpretive signage telling local stories to be included in the project. The meeting received a presentation from John Brinkman from the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) relating to a proposal for the use of a Nannup property near Lake Jasper. DIA are expected to come back to the WP with a more detailed proposal. There was discussion about the selection of survey teams relating to development of sites for housing in Greenbushes, and the Bemax Resources project. The meeting concluded with discussion about establishment of a Trust, and the completion of the strategic plan, which is expected to be presented at the next meeting.



## Wagyl Kaip



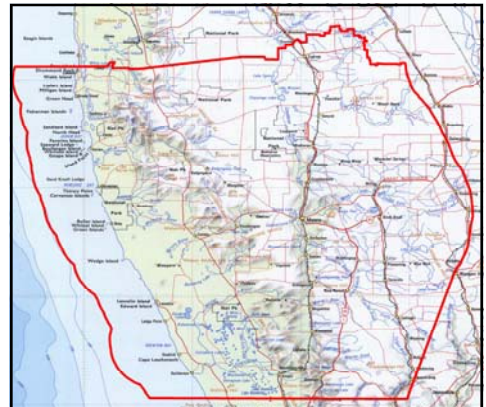
At the Wagyl Kaip Working Party (WP) meeting held on 9 February there was brief discussion of the Albany “Trees of Remembrance” before Malcolm Firth from SWALSC gave a presentation about the Working Party Charter, how the original charter (created in 2003) needed to be updated, and how the WP structure might operate if negotiations with the State were successful. A number of questions were raised about how the six regions would come together. There was reference to the possible role of the Noongar Congress. Members agreed that minutes of WP meetings should be available to the Wagyl Kaip community. There was extensive discussion of governance issues, land management, joint management of

conservation areas, economic base and the kind of community development programs that might eventuate if the negotiations with the State were successful. SWALSC anthropologist, Britta Kuhlbeck, provided an update on research, which was followed by a brief update from SWALSC Legal, including reference to an update about the FQM Nickel project. A number of Future Act items were outlined and discussed including Grants Gypsum, Paxton Resources, Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest, Galaxy Lithium, and blocks in Katanning. The meeting concluded with SWALSC undertaking to organise governance training for members within the next few months.

## Yued

The Yued Working Party (WP) meeting held on 8 December started with discussion of the visit to New Norcia.

SWALSC researcher, Frances Finch, gave an update on the cultural mapping process. After further discussion SWALSC CEO, Glen Kelly, discussed the importance of heritage protocols, the need for certainty that right people are speaking for country, and that there was a need to be able to prove this to the courts, which is why the research is so important. Glen stressed that there needs to be mutual acceptance of connection to country, and the mapping project was going to help resolve disputes about this. Glen also explained the process for requesting a family meeting. Colin Headland and Noel Dodd gave a comprehensive update on Mogumber and the prospects of running a viable farming operation, and the importance of water and adequate seeding capital. Glen Kelly provided a detailed update on the negotiations with the State. This was followed by consideration of Future Act items. CSIRO made a presentation about water testing on the Gngangara Mound which elicited comments from the floor about the appropriateness of and level of foresight involved in planting pine trees. Avon Energy gave a presentation about latent petroleum. SWALSC anthropologist Sarah Thomson gave a presentation about primary and secondary connection. ■



## Scholarship Opportunities

### Trinity College, Indigenous Bursaries

Available to boys of Aboriginal and Torres Strait background entering Year 7 who would benefit from a Trinity education. Open to boys not currently attending Trinity College.

Applications close 4pm Friday 25 March 2011. Application forms available from the Registrar on 9223 8121 or by email at: [spencer.petra@trinity.wa.edu.au](mailto:spencer.petra@trinity.wa.edu.au) or the College website at: [www.trinity.wa.edu.au](http://www.trinity.wa.edu.au)

### Christ Church Grammar School, Indigenous Bursaries

These bursaries (full fees inclusive of boarding) are awarded to Indigenous boys at various levels of entry to the School and are unique in nature. The intent of these bursaries is to provide exceptional educational opportunities for Indigenous boys who have the potential to lead within the community. Applications close Friday 8 April 2011.

For details of the application process please visit the School website at: [www.ccgswa.edu.au/admissions](http://www.ccgswa.edu.au/admissions)

## Noongars in the news

### Narrogin students rewarded for excellent attendance record

Three Noongar students at Narrogin Senior High School who achieved a near perfect 100 % school attendance record were rewarded by local organisations with funding so they could join their Year 9 school mates on an excursion to Canberra and Sydney. The Town of Narrogin, Aboriginal Legal Service, an anonymous donor, and Gnaala Karla Booja Trust all helped by contributing funding. Students Sian Ugle, Eric Woods and Juan Storey said they were pretty excited by the prospect of the trip. Mr Ted Hart, from Gnaala Karla Booja, said the trip was a great opportunity for the personal growth of the children.



Pictured above are NSHS teacher Allistair Potts and Narrogin Mayor Don Ennis with Eric Woods and Sian Ugle. (Courtesy of the Narrogin Observer.)

### Charlie Shaw opens Indian Ocean Drive



**History in the making:** (left to right) Member for Moore Grant Woodhams MLC, Main Roads Managing Director Menno Henneveld, Dandaragan Shire President Shane Love, Aboriginal Elder Charlie Shaw, WA Premier Colin Barnett and Transport Minister Simon O'Brien MLC cut the ribbon at the opening of Indian Ocean Drive. (Courtesy of the Central Midlands & Coastal Advocate.)

### Indigenous beacon awarded \$50,000

Balga Senior High School has received a \$50,000 Schools First grant for the success of its Indigenous empowerment program. The School's Swan Noongar Sports and Education Program (SNSEP) began in partnership with the Smith Family in 2002. The program involves Noongar language and culture education as well as students producing videos about issues affecting Indigenous youth. During the past few years the students have given more than 100 presentations to schools throughout the State, said SNSEP co-ordinator Mark Carton. He said the program had flourished and was having a significant community impact. "We've got some really strong leaders here and they've just picked it up and run with it. They've been making films about indigenous conflict resolution. They talk about their experiences more honestly than we ever imagined and it just blows us away. The videos are about family conflict, drugs and alcohol, and discrimination and it's all completely raw, and I think that's why it's having such an impact". Mr Carton said that in addition to conflict resolution, the program focussed on community leadership and capacity building. (Courtesy of the Community Newspaper Group, story by Liam Croy, photo by Marcus Whisson.)



Michael Capewell & Bernadette Garlett, (foreground) with (background left) Brandon Bynder, Linda Sharman (NAB Mirrabooka branch manager), Teleisha Ryder, and school principal Geoff Harris

# Indigenous Business Australia

IBA is calling for expressions of interest from people in your area who have a business idea and who would like to attend a workshop to assess whether that idea can be developed into a commercially viable business. Into Business is a series of three one-day workshops several weeks apart, covering the following topics:

**Workshop A** – business goals and expectations, the product/service, risks, the business research and planning process;

**Workshop B** – more about the product/service, competition, marketing, pricing, distribution, suppliers, resources, etc;

**Workshop C** – commercial viability, financial projections, business planning and further assistance.

**Into Business Workshops:** a free, self-paced workshop program for Indigenous Australians starting a business, buying a business or thinking about it. The next workshops commence:

**Tuesday 1 March 2011, Venue - Kaditj Internet Café, 201-207 Beaufort Street, PERTH**

**Thursday 3 March 2011, Bunbury**

**For future dates and further information please contact me on 1800 107 107**

## Want to get Into Business ?

Running your own business is hard work but can be personally rewarding and provide financial security for you and your family. However, before you make the big decision to start a business you need to be as prepared as possible.

If you have a good business idea and want to know how to get it off the ground you can attend free *Into Business* workshops run by Indigenous Business Australia (IBA). At the workshops you get to work through your idea with a business specialist who will show you how and where to conduct research so you can determine whether it will be commercially viable. You will also learn what is needed to manage the finances and operations of business.

There are three workshops, each one building on the information and skills gained from the last. The workshops are self-paced – you get to decide when you are ready to go on to the next one. You will be expected to join in the discussions and there is some follow up work that you must do to get the most out of the program, and to be able to get further IBA assistance, such as access to a business consultant as well as financial help to get your business off the ground. The workshops are free to attend - the only cost to you is transport to and from the venue and your time and active participation in the sessions.

The next workshops in the Perth Metro and South West regions commence:

Tuesday 1 March :	Kaditj Internet Café, 201-207 Beaufort Street, Perth		
Thursday 3 March :	<b>Bunbury</b>	Wednesday 22 June	<b>Perth</b>
Tuesday 22 March :	<b>Albany</b>	Thursday 23 June	<b>Bunbury</b>
Thursday 24 March :	<b>Narrogin</b>	Thursday 30 June	<b>Northam</b>
Tuesday 10 May	<b>Perth</b>		

For further information about IBA business support please contact 1800 107 107 or visit:  
[www.iba.gov.au/itb](http://www.iba.gov.au/itb)

2011 Edith Cowan Memorial Lecture to celebrate International Women's Day delivered by Dr Sue Gordon  
**100 years—Obstacles for Aboriginal women in work and community**

1pm Tuesday 8 March Building 17 Room 157 ECU Mt Lawley Campus

Please RSVP to

[www.ecu.au/news/events/2011/03/2011-international-womens-day-lecture/](http://www.ecu.au/news/events/2011/03/2011-international-womens-day-lecture/)

## WA records the lowest public school attendance rate in Australia for Aboriginal Year 10 students

WA has the lowest rate of attendance for Year 10 Aboriginal students at public schools in Australia at 64%, which compares with 67% for the Northern Territory, 69% for South Australia, 75% for ACT, 76% for Queensland, 78% for Tasmania, 80% for NSW, and 81% for Victoria.

However, while Aboriginal student attendance rates for Year 10 students at public high schools are falling across the country, the figures for WA have remained steady over the last three years, according to the recently released Productivity Commission's Annual Report on Government Services for the years of 2007 to 2009.

The head of the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research at the University of South Australia was quoted in The Australian on (page 3 February 14) as saying that different strategies were needed to ensure teachers set higher standards for Aboriginal students, and recognised culture in science and literature, rather than just in arts and history.

## WA Aboriginal prison rate (at 14 times) costs \$1 Billion

The disappointing school attendance rates parallel the appalling over-representation of Aboriginals in the WA prisons and juvenile detention centres. The imprisonment rate for adult Aboriginals in WA is 2,483 per 100,000 adults compared with just 175 per 100,000 adults for the WA population as a whole, which means Aboriginals are imprisoned in WA at a rate 14 times higher than the general population. The figures are even worse for juveniles. The imprisonment rates are contained in a report titled "Making our prisons work" which was published in November 2010 by a bipartisan WA parliamentary inquiry. According to the Law Reform Commission, the cost to the State of the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the WA justice system is \$1 billion.

## Government "Closing the Gap" (CTG) Chronic Disease Package allows for free or heavily discounted medicines: Make sure your prescriptions are marked "CTG"

Chairwoman of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, Bev Manton, has urged all Aboriginal patients to take full advantage for the Government's Indigenous Chronic Disease Package.

This package allows Aboriginal patients to obtain heavily discounted or free medicine if the letters 'CTG' are written by their GP only - on their prescriptions.

This agreement is valid for all prescriptions for ANY illness, treatment, ailment or disease.

Ms Manton said managing disease and illness is often very expensive and simply not an option for many Aboriginal people.

"This government package is designed to reduce the risk factors for chronic disease in Aboriginal communities, improve disease management and improve follow-up treatment.

"GPs can now hand-write the letters 'CTG' (Close the Gap) on prescriptions, this will then signify that it is to be dispensed under the arrangement," she said.

Aboriginal people suffer under the weight of chronic disease at a rate two and half times that of other Australians. Some of these diseases are killers. They include amongst others:

• Cardiovascular disease	• Respiratory disease
• Diabetes	• Chronic kidney disease
• Cancer	

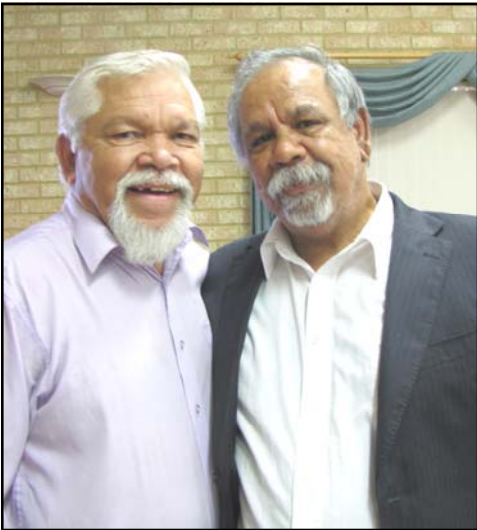
"It's important to note that all pharmacists are compelled legally to comply with the CTG arrangements, and cannot adjudicate on individual patients," Chairwoman Manton said.

"We all know medicine is extremely expensive, and that's often the reason disease goes untreated in many Aboriginal families. This has to stop. I can only hope that armed with this information, Aboriginal families will have access to the medicine they need, and enjoy a quality of life they deserve. For more information about this see the following web site : Indigenous Chronic Disease Package: [ICDP@health.gov.au](mailto:ICDP@health.gov.au)

## Photo File



(Above) A large audience attended the unveiling of the plaque celebrating the life and work of the late Lottie Thorne. Those attending included Paul Carrotts, Anthea Patten, Gary Sherry, John Allert, and Kym Burns (all from Boddington Shire), Greg Robertson (BHP), and members of Lottie's family including Shirley Viti, Wayne Ninyette, Margaret Jones, Basil 'Bunco' Thorne, Trina Collard, Georgina Collard, Natalie Collard, Carmeline Thorne, Tracey Thorne, Venis Collard, and Jim Drayton.

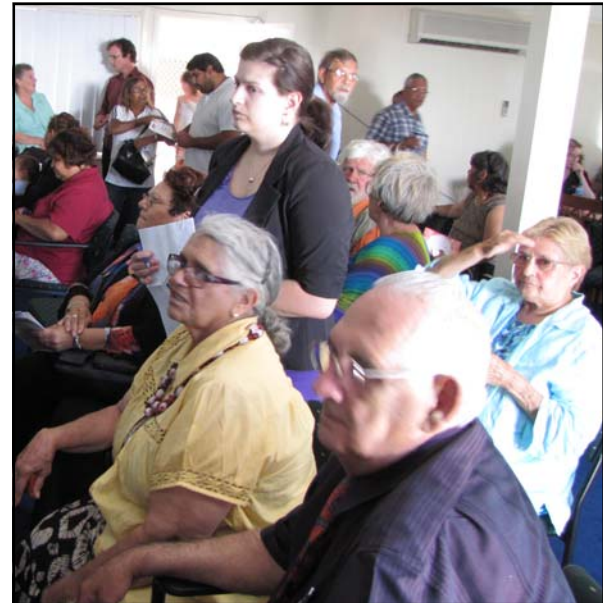
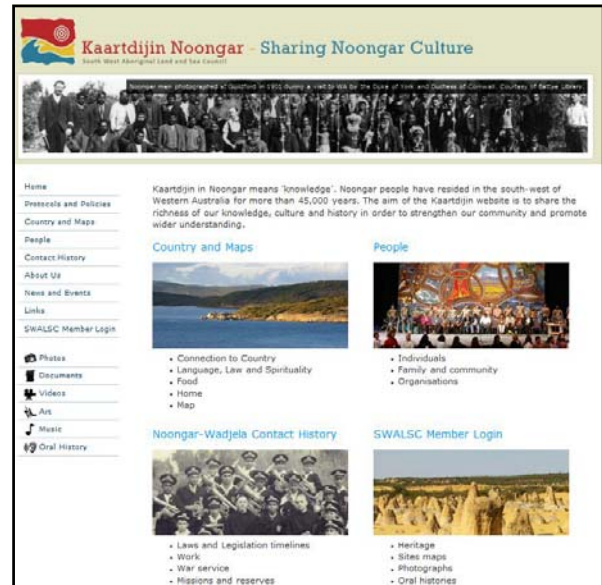


Above left (l to r) Les Eades and Dean Collard attending the CEO's lunch. Above right, attendees at the SWALSC Annual General Meeting held in November. Below, members of the Swan and Canning Rivers Iconic Trails Advisory Group (l to r) Naomi Rakela, Barry McGuire, Beverley Rebbeck, Colin Heinzman, James Best, Carol Innes, Gina Pickering, Chris Mather, Steve Dutton, and Marion Fulker



# Big crowd turns up for the launch of the Kaartdijn Noongar web site

A large audience turned up at SWALSC to celebrate the launch of the Kaartdijn Noongar “Sharing Noongar Culture” website on 13 December. The site contains a wide range of historical materials including photos, maps, and stories, and is the most authoritative site about Noongar culture and history. Development of the site, pictured right, has been funded through a grant from Lotterywest. The site can be accessed from the SWALSC website at: [noongar.org.au](http://noongar.org.au) See the next page for examples of the kind of historical photos contained in the Kaartdijn Noongar website.



## Kaartdijn Noongar website photographs



Above are examples of the kind of photographs and other historical material contained in the Kaartdijn Noongar website. SWALSC is keen to find out more about the people in these (and the many other) photographs on the website. If you can shed any light on the above photos, please contact Brendan Moore at SWALSC on (phone) 9358 7400 or (email) [brendan.moore@noongar.org.au](mailto:brendan.moore@noongar.org.au)  
 These three photos are reproduced courtesy of the Battye Library (reference numbers: 022063, 022085 and 022082) and may not be reproduced without written permission of the Battye Library.

### Barnardos and Oral B Dental Grants

Barnardos have announced a new collaboration with Oral-B as part of the Oral-B Health Program (OBHP). A key part of the collaboration is the Oral-B dental grant program. The grants will be administered by Barnardos Australia and are available to community organisations across the country

**Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to contribute to direct dental costs as well as important on-costs such as travel. The program is designed to help children aged between 0-16 years living under disadvantaged circumstances in regional and remote areas.**

The Oral-B Health Program provides small grants, up to \$3000.00 per grant, to Australian based community groups (excluding Barnardos offices) who apply on behalf of a disadvantaged child who requires access to dental services, with the assistance of volunteer paediatric dentists.

Those children in the greatest need will be considered first; and we will be guided by the following:

- Children who have a history of infection or swelling (one or multiple teeth)
- Children with dental anomalies eg. supernumerary tooth
- Special needs and medically compromised patients
- Children whose treatment can only be adequately completed under general anaesthesia

All applications must be made online via [www.oralb.com.au/topics/OralBGrantsProgram.aspx](http://www.oralb.com.au/topics/OralBGrantsProgram.aspx)

More information including the terms and conditions can be found on the Oral-B website

**Applications close 31 March 2011.**

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## Progress report on the negotiations with the WA Government

**I**n December 2009 the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) signed a Heads of Agreement document with the State of Western Australia outlining a framework for resolving the Noongar native title claims over Perth and the south west of WA by negotiation rather than by ongoing litigation through the Federal Court. After the signing of this agreement, the first round of negotiation meetings ran from May to June 2010. The second round concluded on July 30, with the third round being held in November. It is hoped that an Agreement in Principle can be reached with the State in the early part of 2011, but any decision on the contents of a settlement package will be made by individual claim groups.

Encouraging progress has been made in most Heads of Agreement areas, and this is briefly outlined below. Some items are moving faster than others. SWALSC has also been keeping the Noongar community informed about the scope and progress of the discussions during the year through 30-plus Working Party meetings, and a further 50 Noongar community meetings, where valuable feedback has been provided. It should be stressed that the agenda for the negotiations with the State of WA is much broader in scope than would otherwise be addressed through litigation under Federal native title law .

### Recognition of Traditional Owners

SWALSC has argued for the strongest possible recognition of Noongars as the Traditional Owners of the south west. Discussion to date has included the suggestion of legislative backing for any final agreement. Other forms of recognition are being discussed, including naming of places.

### Land Base

SWALSC has provided the State with a paper on land interests. Key discussion points include transfer of Aboriginal Land Trust lands; transfer of 'Lost Lands'; transfer of all Unallocated Crown Lands; transfer of surplus state reserves; and transfer of Noongar identified priority lands. The State is to formally respond to SWALSC's paper, but has allocated resources through Department of Regional Development and Lands to both identify potential lands, and to agree to a process for transfers.

### Land Access/Access to Natural Resources/ Joint Management of Conservation Estate

A regional / claim approach to managing these issues has been discussed which mirrors suggested governance structures. The State, through the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), has provided a draft paper outlining proposed Joint Management arrangements in the south west. This will form the basis of discussion in negotiations, with key elements including the formation of joint DEC-Noongar Regional Implementation Committees, as well as a South West Steering Committee.

### Revised Heritage Regime

SWALSC has provided a 'Principles' paper to the State which outlines key aspects of a reformed heritage regime, including a need for proactivity; alignment with regional bodies; decisions by local Traditional Owners governed by agreed protocols; a focus on real and substantive matters; breaches to be prosecuted with substantial penalties; and decision making to demonstrably take into account the views of Traditional Owners and be more accountable. The State is to provide a formal response to SWALSC's paper, including a draft heritage protocol.

### Land Use Activity Regime

An alternative to the current, complex, Future Act regime is being investigated. SWALSC has proposed that any new process should give Noongars access to a fair share of the wealth generated on Noongar land. The State is to provide a paper exploring the proposal further.

### Community Development

SWALSC has provided the State with an outline of its approach to community development. This places land, culture and people at the centre. Encouragingly, the State has agreed community development must be guided by Noongars, with the State role to provide the tools for Noongar leadership in this area.

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## Governance and Service Provision

We have reached a broad level of agreement on governance structures, with the key division being between the operating corporations (central and regional corporations, and Noongar advisory body) and funding bodies (Noongar Boodja Corporation, Noongar Boodja Charitable Trust). It is expected it may take up to five years for all claim based regional governance bodies to become fully functional. Following feedback from the Noongar community, SWALSC has also placed the issue of housing on the agenda, and is seeking a response from the State.

## Economic Base

The key elements of discussion so far relate to the establishment of a significant capital base, or 'future fund', with the principal not to be accessed for a period of time. There will also be separate State funding for sustainable governance/service provision via regional and central organisations.

## Native Title Plus

Time was not the only factor influencing SWALSC's decision to seek resolution of the Noongar native title claims through negotiation. The fact is that, at best, if SWALSC was successful in going through the courts, the Federal native title legislation provides for a bundle of rights that amount to little more than recognition of native title over vacant crown land. As a consequence of the very limited outcomes available under native title law, SWALSC is seeking all the outcomes that would be available under Federal law, as well as a package that will have the potential to make a real difference to all Noongars. This package is being called "Native Title Plus".

## What land should be included in the negotiations?

If you are aware of land that you believe should be included in the negotiations, please contact the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council as soon as possible and provide specific information about the location and purpose that land.

## Let us know if you would like a briefing about the negotiations for your group

The SWALSC Regional Development Unit team is ready to provide detailed briefings on the progress of the negotiations. If you'd like a briefing for your family group, or other type of group, please contact Gail Beck, on:

**Phone: 9358 7400**

**Email: [gail.beck@noongar.org.au](mailto:gail.beck@noongar.org.au)**



**Gail Beck, SWALSC Regional Development Unit Manager**

## Key dates relating to the Negotiations during 2011

Date	Event	Purpose
February 22	Partnership Forum	Briefing for Directors General, especially on community development
February—March	Working Party meetings	Update working parties on progress
May—September	Working Party meetings	Update working parties on progress
September	Noongar Congress (all working parties)	Discussion of Agreement in Principle
September—October	Working Party meetings	Update working parties on progress
November—December	Authorisation meetings for each Claim Group	Seeking authorisation of the final agreement on behalf of all Noongar people

## What might the recognition statement look like?

Below is an example of the kind of statement that could be included in a WA Act of Parliament acknowledging and recognising the Noongar people as traditional owners of the south west of Western Australia. This version was based on an earlier draft by Kim Scott.

### Draft Noongar Recognition Statement

Nitja Noongar boodjar koora yey boodawan.      Ngaalak Noongar nitja birt bardlanginy  
(this Noongar earth past present future)      (we (exclusive) people this path/sinew/energy travelling)

mooditjapiny, doinjal, ngatamanong.  
(strong - becoming together continuously)

Noongar people are the Traditional Owners of the south west of Western Australia, and have been since time immemorial. As the First People of south west Western Australia, the Noongar people continue to practice the laws and customs of their culture. Through this culture Noongar people continue to hold rights responsibilities and obligations to their traditional lands and waters.

Noongar people are the largest single Aboriginal cultural group on the Australian continent.

They share a common ancestral language, and a similar history and spirituality.

Noongar people know that their traditional country is south-east of a line from Leeman in the north-west to beyond Cape Arid in the south-east, and that the spirit of this place can never be conquered.

Noongar culture, spirit and economy have always depended on the resources of *Noongar boodjar*. Families still return to paths made by their countless ancestors, and people continue to refer to natural landmarks, especially hills and watercourses, when they talk about which families belong to different areas of *Noongar boodjar*.

All Western Australians will benefit from the continuing narrative of Noongar cultural identity and heritage, and many Western Australian citizens have already felt the powerful sense of belonging offered by Noongar sounds and spirit and people. It is in the interests of all Western Australians for Noongar people and their culture to be restored to a position of self-sustaining stability, and empowered to continue the ancient tradition of reciprocity.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Working Party &amp; other meetings</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tuesday	22	February	South West Boojarah Working Party	on country (TBA)
Wednesday	23	February	South West Boojarah meeting continued	on country (TBA)
Wednesday	2	March	Metro Working Party	Perth
Thursday	3	March	Metro Working Party meeting continued	Perth
Wednesday	9	March	Yued Working Party	Yanchep
Thursday	10	March	Yued meeting continued	Yanchep
Friday	25	March	Metro (Authorisation Meeting)	TBA
Saturday	26	March	Metro (Authorisation Meeting) continued	TBA
Wednesday	13	April	Ballardong Working Party	Perth
Thursday	14	April	Ballardong meeting continued	Perth
Wednesday	20	April	Wagyl Kaip Working Party	Perth
Thursday	21	April	Wagyl Kaip continued	Perth
Tuesday	3	May	Gnaala Karla Booja Working Party	SWALSC
Wednesday	4	May	Gnaala Karla Booja continued	SWALSC
Wednesday	4	May	South West Boojarah Working Party	on country (TBA)
Thursday	5	May	South West Boojarah continued	on country (TBA)
Wednesday	11	May	Yued Working Party	SWALSC
Thursday	12	May	Yued Working Party continued	SWALSC
Wednesday	18	May	Metro Working Party	Perth
Thursday	19	May	Metro Working Party continued	Perth
Wednesday	1	June	Ballardong Working Party	Brookton
Thursday	2	June	Ballardong Working Party continued	Brookton
Wednesday	15	June	Wagyl Kaip Working Party	Katanning
Thursday	16	June	Wagyl Kaip (WPM) continued	Katanning
Wednesday	22	June	Gnaala Karla Booja Working Party	Narrogin
Thursday	23	June	Gnaala Karla Booja continued	Narrogin
Wednesday	29	June	South West Boojarah Working Party	on country (TBA)
Thursday	30	June	South West Boojarah continued	on country (TBA)
Wednesday	13	July	Yued Working Party	Moora
Thursday	14	July	Yued Working Party continued	Moora
Wednesday	20	July	Metro Working Party	Perth
Thursday	21	July	Metro Working Party continued	Perth
Wednesday	3	August	Ballardong Working Party	Perth
Thursday	4	August	Ballardong Working Party continued	Perth
Wednesday	10	August	Wagyl Kaip Working Party	Perth
Thursday	11	August	Wagyl Kaip Working Party continued	Perth
Wednesday	17	August	Gnaala Karla Booja Working Party	SWALSC
Thursday	18	August	Gnaala Karla Booja continued	SWALSC

Day	Date	Month	Working Party & other meetings	Location
Wednesday	24	August	South West Boojarah Working Party	on country
Thursday	25	August	South West Boojarah continued	on country
Wednesday	7	September	Yued Working Party	SWALSC
Thursday	8	September	Yued Working Party continued	SWALSC
Wednesday	21	September	Metro Working Party	Perth
Thursday	22	September	Metro Working Party continued	Perth
Wednesday	28	September	Ballardong Working Party	Hyden
Thursday	29	September	Ballardong Working Party continued	Hyden
Wednesday	5	October	Wagyl Kaip Working Party	Albany
Thursday	6	October	Wagyl Kaip Working Party continued	Albany
Wednesday	12	October	Gnaala Karla Booja Working Party	Collie
Thursday	13	October	Gnaala Karla Booja Working Party continued	Collie
Wednesday	19	October	South West Boojarah Working Party	on country
Thursday	20	October	South West Boojarah Working Party continued	on country
Tuesday	25	October	Yued Working Party	on country
Wednesday	26	October	Yued Working Party continued	on country
Tuesday	25	October	Metro Working Party	Perth
Wednesday	26	October	Metro Working Party continued	Perth
Tuesday	3	November	Ballardong (WPM & Authorisation)	TBA
Wednesday	4	November	Ballardong (WPM & Authorisation) continued	TBA
Thursday	5	November	Ballardong (WPM & Authorisation) continued	TBA
Thursday	10	November	Gnaala Karla Booja (WPM & Authorisation)	TBA
Friday	11	November	Gnaala Karla Booja (WPM & Authorisation)	TBA
Saturday	12	November	Gnaala Karla Booja (WPM & Authorisation)	TBA
Thursday	17	November	Wagyl Kaip (WPM & Authorisation)	TBA
Friday	18	November	Wagyl Kaip (WPM & Authorisation) cont.	TBA
Saturday	19	November	Wagyl Kaip (WPM & Authorisation) cont.	TBA
Thursday	24	November	South West Boojarah (WPM & Authorisation)	TBA
Friday	25	November	South West Boojarah (WPM & Authorisation)	TBA
Saturday	26	November	South West Boojarah (WPM & Authorisation)	TBA
Thursday	1	December	Yued (WPM & Authorisation)	TBA
Friday	2	December	Yued (WPM & Authorisation) continued	TBA
Saturday	3	December	Yued (WPM & Authorisation) continued	TBA
Thursday	8	December	Metro (WPM & Authorisation)	TBA
Friday	9	December	Metro (WPM & Authorisation) continued	TBA
Saturday	10	December	Metro (WPM & Authorisation) continued	TBA

**WPM means Working Party Meeting. Please note that the above meeting dates and venues may be subject to some late changes. Please refer to the agenda notice you receive in the mail or to SWALSC web page for accurate updates.**



South West Aboriginal Land  
and Sea Council and TIWEST  
together supporting  
the:



# *Yued Careers Expo Family Day*

Wednesday 16 March  
10.30am till 2pm

Moora Recreation Centre

For all Aboriginal students thinking of taking the  
next big step towards their future career

***All families and students welcome!***

## **Companies invited:**

Australia Post, Centrelink, ANZ Bank, Water Corporation,  
Main Roads, Moora Council, Iluka Resources, Bauxite  
Resources, Three Springs Talc Mine, Fortescue Metals  
Group, Indigenous Tourism Association, Northern Area  
Catchment Council, Health Department of WA  
and many more

**Organised by the sub-committee of the Yued Working Party**