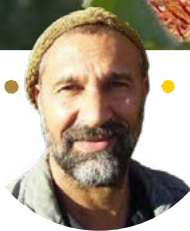




Djeran edition
May
2023



► CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Kaya SWALSC members

Towards the end of last year, we reached another big milestone in the Settlement process, as each Noongar regional corporation signed their Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) novation, marking the official start date from which the six Noongar corporations become parties to the six ILUAs that comprise the Settlement.

It was an exciting day, which you can read more about on page two of this newsletter.

Following on from the signing and their successful AGMs, the Noongar Regional Corporations are all moving forward with their establishment, with all six Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) now employed.

The CEOs will now begin the work of finding suitable office spaces, considering additional staffing requirements, and other logistics needed to run an effective corporation. I'm looking forward to working with all of them and seeing each corporation grow and move forward as they define their strategic plans and achieve their goals.

In other significant news, in June SWALSC will be co-convening the AIATSIS Summit, which will be held on Noongar boodja at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. This is a great opportunity for the Noongar nation to share our culture, stories, traditions and history - including our progress with the South West Native Title Settlement.

I encourage you to keep an eye on our Facebook page and website, and sign up for AIATSIS Summit updates on their site at aiatsis.gov.au/whats-new/events/aiatsis-summit-2023.

And finally, in March we farewellled Ed Armstrong as CEO of SWALSC. Ed came into the role during a challenging time here at SWALSC, and he has been instrumental in the implementation of the South West Native Title Settlement.

We wish Ed all the best for his future endeavours and thank him for his contributions.

We are pleased to welcome Vanessa Kickett as the first Noongar yorga CEO of SWALSC. Read more about Vanessa's introduction to the role on page four.

Brendan Moore
SWALSC Chair

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Next big step in South West Native Title Settlement journey

The Noongar Nation is celebrating the next important stage in the implementation of the South West Native Title Settlement, with the signing of the ILUA novation agreements on Tuesday 6 December.

The signing of these agreements marks the official start date from which the six Noongar regional corporations become parties to the six Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) that comprise the Settlement.

The signing was attended by the boards of each of the six regional corporations; the CEO and board of the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC); the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Dr Tony Buti; and representatives from the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

“This is really a day to celebrate the Noongar people and the Noongar nations. And the determination to ensure that you’ve got an agreement that is going to provide a future for your people and time to now make your own decisions on what is going to go ahead,” said Hon Dr Tony Buti, speaking to those present at the signing.

“Congratulations to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservations and Attractions and the state solicitor’s office, SWALSC, everyone else that has been involved, those who are not here

who were a part of the journey at the beginning, and the ancestors of many, many years ago who fought battles over the generations.”

Following the signing, the chairs of each corporation came together for the inaugural meeting of the Noongar Corporations Committee (NCC).

The NCC is made up of the CEO and chair of the six regional corporations, and SWALSC, which acts as the central services corporation (CSC) to the six Noongar regional corporations. The NCC is now the primary forum for consultation among the seven corporations.

Noel Morich, Acting SWALSC chair at the time of the signing, said “The signing of the novation agreements and the first meeting of the NCC is a significant milestone in the implementation of the Settlement.

“We are now moving past the start-up phase and will be able to start the new year ready to realise the benefits of the Settlement on behalf of the Noongar Nation.”



[This is a] very significant day in a long journey to get back our rights to country, our rights to self-determination, our rights to be the masters of our own destiny, looking after boodja, looking after culture, looking after community."

- Stephen van Leewen, Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation Chair



"It's been a long many years to get that recognition and today we're very proud, and I'm very proud, that we've got that proper recognition. So, we hope that, and we know that the Indigenous Land Use Agreement will give us that support.

- Kerry Anne Winmar, Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation Chair



Today is really a great, exciting, big achievement for those who have been in this here for a long time, like 30-40 years, who've seen a lot of the stuff start up. To see it to come to fruition today is unbelievable."

- Murray Yarran, Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation Chair



"Today's a pretty important day, its actually the green light to go ahead. I was pleased to be here.

- Gail Beck, Yued Aboriginal Corporation Chair



SWALSC's first yorga Noongar CEO

Vanessa Kickett has been appointed as the first female Noongar Chief Executive Officer of the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC).

A proud Noongar woman with more than 20 years of leadership, business development and community and stakeholder engagement, Vanessa has a long history in supporting and advocating for Noongar people.

Vanessa has been instrumental in implementing the South West Native Title Settlement, and establishing the regional corporations, and the Central Services Corporation through her roles as Chair, and Deputy CEO.

"I am deeply honoured to be trusted by the Board in the appointment of Chief Executive Officer for SWALSC as the Central Services Corporation, to continue the important work to support and inspire a strong and unified Noongar Nation," said Vanessa.



The SWALSC Board appointed Vanessa to a three-year term as SWALSC Chief Executive Officer.

"The Board has a high regard for Vanessa's leadership, deep cultural knowledge, ongoing dedication, and commitment to the Noongar community, and has made this appointment at a critical time in the Settlement's implementation," said Brendan Moore, SWALSC Chair.

"We are proud to have an inspirational, admirable and highly respected first Noongar woman leading SWALSC as the Central Services Corporation."

"Our focus now is to strive to deliver exceptional services to the newly established regional corporations."

Regional Corporations update

Welcome to our Regional Corporation CEOs!

All six Noongar regional corporations have now employed their Chief Executive Officers (CEO), plus a number of staff.

With CEOs in place, the corporations will be able to focus on their strategic goals, including involvement in opportunities for economic and land management and leadership for Noongar people.

SWALSC welcomes each CEO and their staff to their position, and we look forward to all the exciting work with the regional corporations.

David Collard
Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation

Malcolm Firth
Karri Karrikarak Aboriginal Corporation

Raymond de Silva
Yued Aboriginal Corporation

Mat Wilson
Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation

Lisa Smith
*Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar
Aboriginal Corporation*

Bruce Jorgensen
*Gnaala Karla Booja
Aboriginal Corporation*

Employment opportunities

A number of employment opportunities are being advertised within the regional corporations, with more to be announced in the future.

Keep an eye on our Facebook and LinkedIn channels for updates, and visit our website for more information at noongar.org.au/vacancies.

Connect with your regional corporation online

Keep up to date with all the news and events from each regional corporation on their websites. You can also apply for membership of your corporation if you haven't already done so.

ballardong.org.au

gkb.org.au

karrikarak.org.au

whadjuknoongar.org.au

wagylkaip.org.au

yued.org.au





Trainee Noongar Rangers: caring for Noongar Country

In 2022, SWALSC was successful in attracting funding in the State Government's Aboriginal Ranger Program, opening a pathway for the employment of 11 trainee Noongar rangers on Whadjuk Country.

Supported by Kuditj, the trainee rangers began participation in the Metropolitan Noongar Ranger Pilot Program in September last year and will continue until December 2023. Kuditj is an Indigenous owned and operated not for profit organisation providing accessible training, work experience and employment services.

The program involves on-the-job training as well as one day a week at Murdoch TAFE studying a Certificate II in Ecosystem and Land Management, cultural immersion days with Elders, and mentoring support.

Ken Jennings, operations manager at Kuditj, said the program supports the trainees to gain a qualification with the possibility of fulltime employment at the conclusion of the traineeship.

"Kuditj's role is to provide ongoing mentoring services to both the clients and the employers," Ken said.

"What we're trying to achieve is to get all participants to have a minimum qualification of a certificate II from which they can build a career."

Each trainee Noongar ranger is employed within the Whadjuk region, performing a range of duties as required by that employer. The jobs are varied, engaging, and on Country.

"Two of them are working on Rottnest Island," Ken said. "They take the boat out every morning at 7am and perform a range of tasks including regeneration, controlling weeds.

"Some of them work for the rivers and estuaries others at Kings Park where they've got a nursery there and they grow stuff and take care of all the gardens up there and planting, weeding."

Participants are also employed in the Cities of Bayswater, Melville, Wanneroo, and Canning, and at various locations around Whadjuk Country such as the Canning River Regional Park, Wireless Hill and Bold Park.

Kuditj mentors regularly visit the trainees in their workplace to offer guidance and support in any way that they can.

"We support them by visiting them at least once a week in the workplace," Ken said. "We discuss with the employers as to how the trainee is going and if they or their staff have any concerns or require additional support. Kuditj mentors also talk to the individuals on how they feel everything is going, and anticipate and address any potential issues before they become a problem.

"It's extremely important for us to talk with them on a regular basis and get a feel for whether they're enjoying the job, not enjoying it, and how they're getting on with their colleagues.

"Sometimes there's an issue at home that might be preventing them [from participating], it's nothing to do with work at all. And if that's the case then we try and solve it through our own networks in the community who might be able to support them."



As well as doing hands-on work, the trainees also spend one day a week at Murdoch TAFE, learning the theory behind land management in a culturally appropriate setting. Trainees are supported by a Kuditj mentor while they attend classes.

An important part of the program is its cultural immersion days, held every three months.

On these days, the trainee Noongar rangers spend a day with Noongar Elders in a safe space where they are free to learn and share with the Elders. The cultural immersion days are strictly for the trainee rangers and Elders - employers and other staff members are not invited to attend.

The first cultural immersion day was held in December last year along the Derbal Yerrigan. After a smoking ceremony and welcome, Elders talked about the significance of the river and led a yarning circle.

"It gives them a safe space to talk about whatever they want to talk about. They had a fantastic day," Ken said.

"Elders talked to them about the importance of culture and the importance of having a public facing job and how to use their culture, it's connection to the land to educate the wider community and preserve and protect both country and culture for future generations."

While still new, the Metropolitan Noongar Ranger Pilot Program is already creating opportunities for people to learn, share and engage with Noongar culture, while looking after Country.

"These participants have got knowledge that's been handed down to them over thousands and thousands of years - and in a lot of cases they don't even know they have it," Ken said. "Participants are able to talk with their Elders, and Elders are able to enlighten them. It's passing on of cultural knowledge from one generation to the next, and in turn to the wider community.

"It's a fantastic opportunity. At the moment I believe we'll get very good results from it. It's a great initiative. I think it's a program that should be replicated again, enhanced with what we've learned from this one."

To learn more about the work of Kuditj, visit kuditj.com.au.



AIATSIS Summit held on Noongar boodja

Each year, AIATSIS (the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) hosts a unique forum for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, academics, native title stakeholders, legal experts, community and cultural sectors and government from all over the country to collaborate in addressing current and future challenges.

The 2023 AIATSIS Summit will be held on Noongar boodja, from 5 to 9 June at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre - and is being co-convened by SWALSC.

The summit also aims to also provide opportunities to support and strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, knowledge, and governance.

This year's theme is 'Navigating the spaces in between'. It continues the conversation from last year's summit and expands on the brilliance and value of Indigenous ways of knowing, seeing and being in the world.

The theme speaks to the importance of relationships and connectivity, of bonds of trust and reciprocity; it suggests a focus on a journey and a destination and encourages time for reflection of where we have come from. Sub-themes include opportunity, exploration, creating, cusp of change, breathe and reflect, and becoming.

SWALSC has engaged a Cultural Program Advisor and Committee, as well as Noongar artists to develop the summit's cultural program.

"Noongar culture will be highlighted and celebrated at this year's AIATSIS Summit," said Brendan Moore, chair of SWALSC.

"Engaging with leaders from around the country on the historic South West Native Title Settlement will be an exciting opportunity to showcase all that we have achieved for Noongar people, and our plans for continuing to build a strong Noongar nation for future generations.

"The AIATSIS Summit being held on Noongar boodja also provides a fantastic opportunity to be involved in an informative and engaging event; learning from others around Australia, while sharing with them our Noongar culture, stories, tradition and history."

You can see all the news from the summit by following our Facebook page or by subscribing to updates on the AIATSIS website at aiatsis.gov.au.

Noongar Land Summit

SWALSC and Noongar Regional Corporation Directors, Cultural Advice Committee members, and staff gathered in April for the Noongar Land Summit.

The Summit was led by Justin McAllister, SWALSC Lands Manager, who was joined by representatives from Perpetual Trustees, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Attendees were updated on important aspects of the Noongar land in terms of the South West Native Title

Settlement, and were given space to ask questions and share feedback.

Topics covered included: the Noongar Land Estate, Noongar Land Fund, Cooperative and Joint Management, Noongar Heritage Partnerships Agreements, Lands Access, and SWALSC land related services and Regional Corporation Service Agreements.

For more information about the Settlement agreement and the Noongar Land Base, visit noongar.org.au.



WHAT'S NEXT?

In the next issue of the SWALSC newsletter, we'll share updates on the AIATSIS Summit, and a new cultural awareness training project we've been working on. If you have a story for an upcoming issue, email the team at communications@noongar.org.au.



Level 2, 100 Royal Street
East Perth WA 6004

Tel 08 9358 7400 Fax 08 9358 7499

E reception1@noongar.org.au
W noongar.org.au

ICN 3832 ABN 42 485 265 673