

# BUNURU - FEBRUARY/MARCH

*"HEAL THE LAND - HEAL THE PEOPLE"*

## Welcome

Amazing scenes across the wheatbelt region over February-March months with water everywhere. Major flooding and a good clean out of the waterways especially the Avon River system. I think some one has gone and broke too many branches off the rain tree and old Wagyl was very happy.

## Quairading DHS

The QDHS first Term of Semester 1 was to recruit the Teachers to be part of the program with some success Mrs Helen Fraser being appointed to the Pathway team. Also the Maths/Science teacher Davy Johns has signed up as well.

## Quairading Shire Council

The Xmas and school holiday period also gave the Shire some respite especially with the rains. The majority of the crops were harvested but with the heavy rain several roads have been washed away. Three Shires have been identified for the initial MOU's and meetings to occur soon.



## Bunuru Season

The 'fruiting' was characterised by hot easterly conditions with afternoon sea breezes. Nyoongar people moved to coastal estuaries and reefs where fish and abalone constituted a portion of the seasonal diet. This was also the salmon and herring season. Large fish could be speared from overhanging trees along the river banks. Colours of this season are yellow, orange and red.



## SWALSC

Clem Rodney has just recently been made redundant and SWALSC project support is to be conducted by Malcolm Firth and Wayne Nannup.

- This decision was enforced upon SWALSC due to the recent delay caused by the Federal Court McGlade decision.
- An appeal of this decision is being processed as the Federal Court decision questions the original Bygraves (2) decision where all Applicants did not need to sign the ILUA's.
- This process will delay the signing ILUA and could possibly jeopardise the Single Nyoongar Claim.
- At this stage SWALSC is keeping all members informed of the next steps as the Appeal process continues.

## Curtin University

Associate Professor Jennifer McIlwain heads Curtin University's Environment and Agriculture Branch and has committed their resources to the Pathway project. Jennifer brings a large and valuable team in developing the course curriculum but also the technology and equipment too. Recently, Dr Mick O'Leary took a Drone from Curtin for a test run at Badjaling. The kids will be excited for the opportunity to use such technology for cultural mapping.

## Bunuru Season??

Over the first couple of months the Ballardong country experienced a very wet season and there was no hot easterlies as predicted. A couple of cold fronts crept across the region and dropped heavy rainfall which was probably never experienced for over 30 years. The region was flooded and the Avon River was finally running again with most of the lakes all full.



*The Elder's Council is coming.*

Ballardong Elders have been discussing the need to develop the Elder's Council to assist with the Pathway project but mainly to ensure that the Ballardong Traditional Ecological Knowledge is being protected and secured for future generations. Several cups of tea and yarns have been had and it has been supported overwhelmingly by the Elders to set up the Ballardong Elders Council.



***How will the project help?***

The Nyoongar NRM Pathway project will endeavour to instil cultural change within the Ballardong Nyoongar community by the following processes:

- The intergenerational transfer of traditional cultural knowledge from the Elders to the young people to ensure the protection of the Nyoongar culture.
- The cooperation and support of the local school to include Nyoongar culture into the school and class plans over 2017 and 2018.
- The establishment of the Ballardong Nyoongar Elders Council which will encourage and support the Nyoongar NRM Pathway project.

***How can you help?***

The pilot project will be operating in Quairading to establish strong Nyoongar ways of working with the school, shire and other agencies over the two year period.

If you are interested in participating please contact the Project Manager David Collard on mobile 0433 137 277

