



(ipa)

indigenous protected areas newsletter



Photograph: Ivan Haskovec



Photograph: WWF Australia



Photograph: Ivan Haskovec



Photograph: Bruce Rose

Anindilyakwa

Traditional Owners declare new IPA 6 June 2006

Anindilyakwa in the Groote Archipelago in the Gulf of Carpentaria is the latest IPA to be declared. The declaration ceremony was held on the beach near the community of Alyangula. Tony Wurrumarrba, Chairman of the Anindilyakwa Land Council, and Greg Hunt, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, spoke about the importance of the new IPA.

“Our land and sea country is everything to us,” said Mr Wurrumarrba. “It nourishes and sustains us. It contains the story of our history that stretches back forever. It teaches us our law and it celebrates our ancestors.”

“We want to use our knowledge and our law to look after our country, but we recognise that we also need training and skills in the best ideas and modern methods of managing country.”

Mr Hunt announced \$100,000 in funding to help with management plan activities like ranger training, weed and pest control, and protection of cultural sites. He said that IPAs are “strong communities who have thought long and hard about how they can protect their country and culture while creating sustainable jobs on their lands for their children and grandchildren.”

About 150 people came to the declaration. Following the speeches and unveiling of the IPA sign, Anindilyakwa men and women danced in celebration on the beach. After the formal ceremony everyone enjoyed lunch provided by the Land Council.

Anindilyakwa is the twentieth IPA to be declared. It now becomes part of Australia’s National Reserve System—a network of places where examples of biodiversity are protected for future generations.

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Advisory Group NEWS

IPAAG Meeting 24 May 2006, Canberra

The Indigenous Protected Areas Advisory Group (IPAAG) meet regularly to talk about important IPA issues and provide advice and information to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Greg Hunt.

John Clarke from the North Queensland Land Council chaired the May meeting. Rose Turner, a Community Representative from South Australia, was the co-Chair. The following new members have been appointed to the Advisory Group:

Chrissy Grant—Community Representative (NSW) and new permanent Co-chair

Ian Johnson—Nepabunna Community Inc (SA)

Denis Rose—Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation (Vic)

Rocky Sainty—Indigenous Land Management Facilitator and Chairman TALSC (Tas)

John Guernier—WWF Australia (NT)

Dermot Smyth—Smyth and Bahrtdt Consultants (Qld)

Greg Leaman—Parks and Wildlife (SA) (State conservation agency proxy)

Some of the issues talked about at the meeting were:

- How IPAs fit into the new arrangements for Indigenous Affairs.
- The opportunities a Shared Responsibility Agreement offer land managers.



Photographer: Ivan Haskovec

- How the IPA reporting form helps show that there are other good outcomes from land management, like education, health and economic benefits.

Greg Hunt talked about the importance of the contribution Indigenous communities are making to conservation in Australia. Mr Hunt is very keen to look at other ways of supporting IPAs such as ranger and junior ranger programmes, streamlined DEH funding processes and multi-year funding contracts. He said the Department would report on progress being made on these issues to the Advisory Group later in the year. (See also Mr Hunt's message.)

Several presentations were made:

- Brian Gilligan, the consultant reviewing the IPA Programme, provided feedback on progress.
- Paul Simonsson from the firm KPS & Associates gave a presentation on the Compliance Management Training package that will be offered to IPA

managers and rangers later in the year.

- Djawa Yunupingu (IPAAG member) and Steve Roeger (Observer) gave a presentation on Sea Country planning at Dhimurru IPA.
- Frank Young (IPAAG member) and Sam Matthews (Observer) showed the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Fire Management Training Video developed with the assistance of IPA funds.

IPA Advisory Group members can be contacted through the Secretariat:

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The next IPAAG meeting will held at Nantawarrina in early 2007. (See also information on the IPA 10 Year Anniversary.)

10 YEARS

The IPA Programme will be celebrating its Tenth Birthday in 2007.

To help celebrate this milestone, we are planning a meeting of IPA managers and the IPA Advisory Group at Nantawarrina IPA. Read on for some significant events in the formation of the Programme.

1990s

Several Several Government inquiries, including the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, found that the interests of Indigenous people in land management across Australia were not well represented and could be improved.

Land was being returned to the ownership and care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through successful land claims and recognition of native title. Some of these returned lands covered almost entire biogeographical regions (an area of connected ecosystems repeated across the landscape).

The Australian Government, in cooperation with the States and Territories, began adding protected areas of land to the National Reserve System (NRS). This initiative aims to include examples of all biogeographical regions across Australia—IPAs are an important part of the NRS.

1993

Australia signed the international Convention on Biological Diversity. This agreement outlines actions to establish and manage protected areas, and to protect ecosystems, habitats, and populations of species.

IPA Programme Anniversary



1994

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) produced a new system of protected area categories. These recognised the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples around the world to own, manage and sustainably use areas of land and sea of high conservation value. IPAs are now managed under these categories.

1995

An IPA Working Group involving key Indigenous leaders from across Australia discussed and endorsed the IPA concept at a series of meetings with Australian Government officials.

1996

Twelve pilot IPA projects were funded to trial the IPA concept with communities. Some of these first projects are now declared IPAs—Deen Maar, Dhimurru, Warul Kawa, Risdon Cove, Putalina (Oyster Cove), and Nantawarrina.

1997–1998

The IPA Programme is established in the Department of the Environment and Heritage with Natural Heritage Trust funding, under the management of Steve Szabo, now sadly deceased.

2006

Commonwealth Government funding support for the IPA Programme has grown to more than \$3 million in 2006/07. Traditional Owners, Indigenous landholders and communities are re-establishing land management traditions and working with Government conservation agencies on more than twenty IPAs all over Australia.



Photographer for all photos: Ivan Haskovec

The very first IPA declared was Nantawarrina in South Australia on 26 August, 1998. This property is near the Gammon Ranges National Park in the northern Flinders Ranges. Nantawarrina is managed by the Adnyamanthanha people of the Nepabunna community near Leigh Creek.

Last year they worked on removing feral goats, controlling Tobacco Bush, clearing waterholes, and maintaining tracks to help control erosion.

The Nantawarrina landscape has been badly affected by the introduction of exotic animals and plants. Rabbits were first released by European settlers in 1857, followed by foxes, goats, donkeys and cats. Overgrazing by cattle, sheep and horses also helped to degrade the land and the waterholes.

The activities in the IPA management plan are helping to fix these and other problems.



Kids caring for country

Picturing your country, send us your drawings



Grab your pens, pencils, paints and paper and draw your country. Show us what is special about your place. Put your name, age, and address on the back of the picture. We want to show some of your wonderful work

in this newsletter. Not all can be published, but we hope to include as many as possible. We will return all your drawings. So please share your love of country with all our readers and send your picture to:


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Indigenous Land Management Section
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GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

GrantsLINK

The GrantsLINK web site has information on Australian Government grant programmes. It also has advice on finding the best source of funding for what you want to do, and on writing application forms. For more information, visit the web site at www.grantslink.gov.au or Freecall on **1800 026 222**.

Plant Maps

Get the most up to date information on native vegetation—new maps from the National Vegetation Information System (NVIS) are now available. The NVIS has information about different types of plants and where they grow in Australia. This can be used to manage the land better, and help with planning.

Copies of the 2006 map of Major Vegetation Groups in Australia, and a brochure, can be mailed to you. Email your contact details to the Department of Environment and Heritage at ciu@deh.gov.au, or Freecall **1800 803 772**.

Some products can also be accessed at the NVIS web site at www.deh.gov.au/erin/nvis

Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs)

Indigenous Affairs are now coordinated through the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) within the Australian Government Department of Family, Community Services, and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA).

Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) coordinate the delivery of Australian Government programme funding and services to local Indigenous people through voluntary Shared Responsibility Agreements (SRAs). These are developed in partnership with Indigenous communities.

For further information about Australian Government programme funding or to find your nearest ICC, please freecall **1800 079 098** except in:

Nhulunbuy area
Freecall **1800 089 148**

Kalgoorlie area
Freecall **1800 193 357**

Kununurra area
Freecall **1800 193 348**

You can also find information on the website www.icc.gov.au/icc

Deserts

Factsheets about the United Nations International Year of Deserts & Desertification are available from www.deh.gov.au/events/iydd/factsheets. The five factsheets about flora, fauna, global issues, deserts in Australia, and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park can also be ordered through the Community Information Unit. Email ciu@deh.gov.au. Freecall **1800 803 772**.

2006 Banksia Awards

The Carpentaria Ghost Nets Programme is the joint winner of the 2006 Banksia Water Award. The Northern Gulf Resource Management Group runs the programme which helps Indigenous communities in Queensland and the Northern Territory clean up fishing nets drifting lost in the seas and deposited on beaches. Dhimurru and Anindilyakwa IPAs, and Laynhapuy IPA Project participate in this Programme. Rangers have removed over 5,000 metres of net so far, helping to protect fish and marine wildlife.
www.ghostnets.com.au

New IPA Manual Update

Last year we started work on putting together a Manual to help communities and managers understand the process to declare, and then manage, an area of land as an IPA.

A draft version was sent to eight reviewers earlier this year. They looked at the draft, and sent lots of valuable comments back to us. After reading their suggestions, we have decided to separate the Manual into two different parts.

Over the next few months we will be working with an editor to refine the draft into information that managers can use for their every day work. We will also be working with a graphic designer on a poster that shows how the IPA process works. This poster will be quick and easy to understand.

When the Manual and the poster are finished, they will be sent to each IPA. Extra copies will be available for communities who are thinking about declaring an IPA. A big thank you goes to the reviewers all around the country.

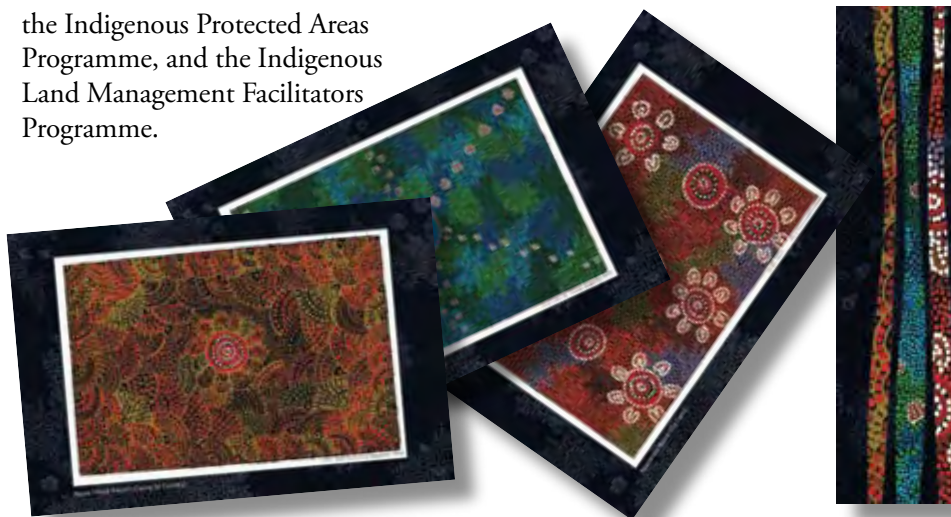
Caring for Country Postcards

A series of three postcards with original artwork by Indigenous artist Eunice Nungarayi Woods, and a bookmark using designs of all three artworks are now available.

On the back, the postcards include notes about the stories told by the paintings, and links to information about the Department's Indigenous programmes. The bookmark has information on links to the Indigenous Protected Areas Programme, and the Indigenous Land Management Facilitators Programme.

These two Programmes are managed by the Indigenous Land Management Section at the Department of the Environment and Heritage in Canberra.

The postcards and bookmark are available at the Community Information Unit Shopfront in Canberra, by contacting CIU on ciu@deh.gov.au or **1800 065 823**.



Message



From Greg Hunt
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister
for the Environment and Heritage

I am pleased to be able to send a short message acknowledging all the hard work and positive outcomes from the IPA programme over the last year.

I was lucky enough to attend the Anindilyakwa IPA declaration celebrations in June this year—I would like to thank the Land Council for inviting me to attend this special day. It was great to see so many people get together and celebrate a new chapter in the Island's long history. I especially appreciated the traditional dances which I understand are not usually shown to visitors.

One of the things I'm sure of is that communities such as Anindilyakwa have thought long and hard about how they can protect their country and culture while creating sustainable jobs on their lands for their children and grandchildren.

I believe that the Indigenous Protected Areas Programme helps communities to break the long cycle of Aboriginal disadvantage by delivering worthwhile jobs, new technical and management skills, confidence and self esteem. The positive benefits for the wellbeing of communities who are doing land and sea management are obvious.

I am committed to working to support young people in Indigenous communities to become more involved in land management activities and I am working with my colleagues in Government to develop initiatives in this area.

I wish you every success with your efforts.

Greg Hunt

Journals

Environmental management resources

The following journals are available free of charge, either online or by mail subscription:

Communities for Communities

Online quarterly newsletter about threatened ecological communities nominated for listing under the *EPBC Act 1999*, and listings under the Act. Subscribe at www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/communities-newsletter

Natural Heritage Trust

Quarterly magazine featuring stories about Natural Heritage Trust activities available online or by mail. For hard copy subscriptions, send an email to nht@deh.gov.au. Online visit www.nht.gov.au/publications/journal

Natural Resource Talk

Online bi-monthly newsletter with information about natural resource management people, projects and events. Email georgia.curry@deh.gov.au to subscribe. Online visit www.nrm.gov.au/publications/nrm-talk

Waves

A quarterly newsletter by the Marine and Coastal Community Network with articles on marine life, the marine environment, Marine Protected Areas, and national and international activities. To subscribe to online or hard copy versions, visit www.mccn.org.au/national_newsletter.php

Wetlands Australia

The annual update for Australia's wetlands communities (40 pages). Contains articles on conservation projects, recovery plans, Ramsar information, waterbirds, and much more. Online visit www.deh.gov.au/water/wetlands/publications/wa14

New NRS Factsheets

When an area of land is declared as an IPA, it becomes part of Australia's National Reserve System (NRS). The NRS was set up to protect our unique natural environment for current and future generations. It also includes national parks, private land, and reserves comprising about 10.5% of the Australian continent.

The NRS aims to include examples of all of Australia's natural landscapes, ecosystems, species and habitats. The Australian Government's National Reserve System Programme was established in 1997 to help buy land and establish protected areas for inclusion in the NRS.

Three new NRS factsheets are now available: a facts and figures snapshot; an NRS overview; and land acquisition case studies.

www.deh.gov.au/parks/publications/nrs

NOTICEboard



17-20 September

Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand Conference
Adelaide, SA
www.plevin.com.au/eianz2006

19-21 September

Department of Agriculture, Forestries and Fisheries Roadshow
Henty Field Days, NSW
www.daff.gov.au/content/events

22 September

Laynhapuy IPA Declaration and Launch
Gulf of Carpentaria, NT

24-28 September

15th Australian Weeds Conference
Adelaide, SA
www.plevin.com.au/15AWC2006

3 October

World Habitat Day

24-25 October

Indigenous Advisory Committee Meeting
Dhimurru IPA, NT

October

Ninghan IPA Declaration, WA

November

Lajamanu IPA Declaration and Launch, NT

21-23 November

1st National Workshop for Regional NRM, Gold Coast, QLD
www.astmanagement.com.au/nrm6/

5-12 December

Coastcare Week
www.landcareonline.com

The IPA Newsletter is available from:
Community Information Unit (CIU)
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Email: ciu@deh.gov.au
Freecall: 1800 065 823
Electronic copies: www.deh.gov.au/indigenous/ipa

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