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WILLANDRA LAKES REGION

World Heritage Area  
MUNGO NATIONAL PARK

## WILLANDRA LAKES REGION WHA



After ten years of drought the previous summer rains find us surrounded by a sea of green. Water ponded in Lake

Mungo attracting swans, herons, shovelers and more. While the transformation in plant and animal life has been extraordinary, repeated inundation presented many management difficulties. Road access was frequently cut, and significant erosion on the Walls of China necessitated restricting public access in the interests of safety.

The year saw a number of projects and events come to fruition, including additional interpretation at Zanci Woolshed focused on our pastoral heritage, upgrading of the shearer's accommodation facility at Leaghur, design work for a proposed new cultural centre and repository, the official launch (finally) of the Mungo National Park visitor centre upgrade on Wednesday 6 July, and the Mungo Youth Conference held in early September.



Picture: Robyn Parker & Parks Staff at opening of launch

Our World Heritage unit expanded with the addition of a 'new' staff member, Ricky Mitchell, appointed as Aboriginal Community Projects Coordinator. Leanne Mitchell role has changed with her appointment to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer position, and the Admin Assistant position will be filled shortly.

It's been a fabulous year. Thanks to everyone for their contributions and have a safe and happy festive season!

**Richard Mintern**  
Executive Officer



**Celebrating**

**30 years World Heritage Listing**  
**10 years Joint Management**

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NEWSLETTER



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# ABORIGINAL DISCOVERY

WALKS, TALKS AND TOURS

## DISCOVERY RANGER PROGRAM UPDATE

- Hosted Monarto Zoo and Calperum Station Work Teams on 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011.
- Very successful school holiday programmes were held during the year.
- 2 Days Discovery Training was held at Mungo on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> April
- Tanya Charles has been appointed the acting Discovery Tour Co-ordinator from October to March. For further information Tanya can be reached at the Information Centre. Ph: 03 5029 7292
- The Discovery Tour Program has been expanded to arrange supervised access to the Walls of China.

### Mungo Discovery Tour Timetable until 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Friday Afternoon Tour 5.00pm	Saturday Tours 10.00am & 5.00pm	Sunday Tours 10.00am & 2.00pm
28 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	29 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2011
4 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2011
11 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	13 <sup>th</sup> November 2011
18 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2011
25 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2011

Additional tours will also be held at 10.00am & 2.00pm on:  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October & Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011  
for the Victorian Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Tour Costs: \$10.00 per adult  
\$ 5.00 per child  
\$25.00 per family (2 adults & 2 children)

The Walls of China boardwalks are open to public access.  
Supervised access to the Walls of China beyond the boardwalk is available through  
Discovery Tours or a licensed tour operator.





## RIVERSLEIGH WHA UPDATE

Riversleigh is one of the richest fossil mammal sites in the world with fossil records dating back to the Oligo – Miocene period (15 – 20 million years). It is recognised for showing key stages in the evolution of Australia’s mammal fauna and for its outstanding diversity and quality of preserved fossils. The 10,000ha World Heritage Area is situated in the south-eastern corner of Boodjamulla National Park

A palaeontological dig takes place annually at Riversleigh through the University of New South Wales and depending on the students areas of research and study, certain sites are revisited or excavated. 2010 saw a conclusion of excavations recovering elements of bird material from Nevilles’ Garden site. The Palaeontological team then moved to a site called Inabeyance, during the excavation of this site several significant specimens



were seen. These included the skulls of bandicoots, kangaroos and what is believed to be a koala with one of the better finds being a near complete skeleton of a frog.

Riversleigh World Heritage Area D Site is the only area that is open to the public, funding was successfully obtained through the Caring for Country grants last year to upgrade the interpretation of the site giving our visitors a better understanding of the significance of the area. Money is being spent on interpretation signage, redirecting trails to take in more fossils and new toilet and seating facilities in the car park.

**Tracy Hales**  
Executive Officer



## WILLANDRA LANDHOLDERS PROTECTION GROUP

What an unbelievable start to 2011. At Baymore up until the end of March we have had 14 inches and I’m sure all other properties in the area are up around that amount.

The land has transformed into a blanket of vegetation. We are barely able to see our roads in some places and are just amazed at the amount of cover we have. It is a lovely change to all those dry years we have had.

Roads were probably the main topic of our concern during winter as they can be impassable for long stretches of time. Hopefully the shires will be able to get to the bad stretches and build them up before more rain arrives.

Rabbit ripping on four properties in the north of the WHA was completed last year. This has been successful where it has been done but due to the seasonal conditions, rabbit populations have exploded and the funding didn’t cover near enough area. More funding has been received to rip warrens in the south of the WHA this year.

Funding from the LMD CMA was also allocated specifically to the WHA for protection of world heritage values. Most properties received some of this funding and it has been put to good use to help reduce the impact from stock and feral animals.

Landholders are looking forward to the coming months with the assured good seasonal conditions and peak prices in a lot of our commodities.

**Ros Griffiths**  
Correspondence Secretary



**Picture:**  
Landholder, Ian Wakefield at Pastoral Heritage day during NAIDOC Week



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## DISCOVERING THE TUMUT REGION



Tumut's Aboriginal Discovery Program hosted a gathering for discovery rangers and Elders from the Willandra Lakes, Canberra, North Coast and the South Coast areas of NSW to gain an insight into their local history and Aboriginal culture.

The exchange came about after the Tumut mob visited Mungo National Park in 2009 to participate in cultural exchange and discussion on park management and aboriginal discovery tour guide programs.



Through out the week long trip our mob enjoyed visiting the Yarrangobilly Caves; touring Jillabenan and Jersey Caves checking out the Kiandra Court House and Heritage walk, Snowy Hydro Scheme, Janey's creek artefact site and the Brungle school.

Tumut's visitor service manager Mark Lee's said "The visits resulted in a sharing of traditional and modern day aboriginal cultural knowledge and practices which have enriched our knowledge and improved the way we work with others, it helps to ensure we work better together to build positive community outcomes".

Our very own Roy Kennedy, Chair of the Mungo Joint Management Advisory Committee said "It was a brilliant gathering! A highlight was meeting with the mob at the Snowy Hydro Scheme at Cabramurra and learning how the water system started and all the engineering and architectural brilliance that went into it".



The program was a great success and provided positive learning experiences for the discovery rangers and a chance to network with others in their field of work.





## MUNGO PRESCRIBED BURN

The National Parks & Wildlife Service has an active role in fire management throughout New South Wales and as such conducts many prescribed burns across the State. One such burn was planned for Mungo in the mallee/spinifex country of the Garnpang block; with the objective of reducing available fuel for any wildfire event.



Despite the blustery conditions of Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of September staff made final preparations and headed off to be ready for an early start Tuesday morning. As with any prescribed burn a lot depends on the weather cooperating with the Met Bureau's forecasts and all looked well – but on the day of light up the wind strength was only about a third of that forecast so it was a case of lots of walking, lots of drip torch fuel! A late start on the day also didn't help our cause but with Monday's high winds and a couple of fires in the district caused by lightning strikes it was understandable that caution needed to be exercised.



Wednesday's weather followed the forecast to a tee and the higher temperature sure helped getting things moving along, although the variability of the wind didn't help. A couple of small spot overs in the afternoon were quickly jumped on; and all in all the day finished well enough. With a useable perimeter burnt around most of the block the next phase will be to utilise favourable weather to burn out the entire block – about 2500 ha. This is still scheduled for spring this year; failing suitable weather it will happen in autumn 2012.

A big thanks to all that participated in the burn.

**Lars Kogge**  
Senior Ranger

### AREA NEWS

The Buronga NPWS and Balranald Shire Council are working together to provide an improved visitor experience within the recently designated Euston Regional Park. A shared bike and walking trail is being established which will meander through the red gum woodland to Lock 15. This is an extension of the already popular bike/walking trail which extends from Robinvale to Euston. A REF is currently being prepared which will include assessment of the cultural heritage values of the proposed pathway although the currently high water levels have delayed this for the time being. This project was initiated by the Council and is a great example of the NPWS working with other agencies for greater community benefit.

**Jo Gorman**  
Area Manager



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## NAIDOC WEEK

This years Mungo Naidoc Week Celebrations were held between the 4<sup>th</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> July. The theme for NAIDOC 2011 was:

### **CHANGE, the Future is Ours.**

The theme was well supported and fitting given the recent changes and upgrades to the Mungo Visitors Centre, and also the new challenges to be met with restricted access to the Walls of China.



**Picture:** Hon Robyn Parker, Warren Clark, Sally Barnes and Lisa Corbyn unfurling the flag at the opening of NAIDOC Week.

The visitors centre was well decorated with NAIDOC posters. Discovery Rangers, Elders, National Parks and World Heritage staff really got into the spirit of NAIDOC, which was then passed onto the visitors to the park. The celebrations were well supported with a full week itinerary that saw record numbers turn out for the scheduled events.

Events that were organised as part of the week included the NAIDOC themed Discovery Tours, held every day during the week. We also had a Scientific Day on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Nikki Stern and the ArcLinkage Crew and students arranged an archaeology display as well as doing a supervised archaeology tour of the Walls of China.

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July we had our traditional NAIDOC Celebrations. A crowd of 300 people gathered, traditional owners and members of the

Paakantji, Mutthi Mutthi and Ngyiampaa Aboriginal communities joined together with respected scientists, World Heritage staff, National Parks and Discovery Rangers and the general public to celebrate. The day's events started with a traditional smoking ceremony by renowned Paakantji artist, Badger Bates, who created the elaborate rock sculpture which stands as a key feature of the upgraded visitors centre, also known as the Meeting Place. The opening also included a performance by the Traditional Dancers, Paakantji Wiipatyku Paka-aana, and didgeridoo playing by Damien Kennedy. Congratulations must go out to all staff and volunteers involved on the day for making the day such a memorable success.



**Picture:** Performance by Traditional Dancers



**Picture:** Traditional smoking ceremony





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## NAIDOC WEEK

Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> July saw us host the Pastoral Heritage day along with our neighbours from Top Hut and Turlee Stations. Ian Wakefield and Hodgy brought over some quality Top Hut sheep for a shearing demonstration in the Mungo Woolshed. Justin and Clinton Jones from Ivanhoe put on a shearing demonstration. Matt Fitzgerald, a National Parks Field officer, also showed that he could still shear a sheep. A big thank you to the Top Hut and Turlee teams for their assistance with the organisation and providing manpower for the sausage sizzle lunch provided for the visitors to the park.



Picture: Badger Bates' rock sculpture

Celebrations concluded on the Friday with more Discovery Tours. Next years NAIDOC week celebrations will be bigger and better, so keep an eye on the [www.visitmungo.com](http://www.visitmungo.com) website for current news and upcoming events at Mungo National Park.

Picture: Shearing Demonstration



## JOINT MANAGEMENT

How this year has flown - it's that time of year again!!

Firstly, a special thanks to our Elders, Minister Robyn Parker, Director General Lisa Corbyn, Deputy Director Sally Barnes, Director Western Mark Peacock, Regional Manager Steve Millington, representatives from the Wentworth and Balranald Shires including Mayor Margaret Thompson and Mayor Steve O'Halloran, and sculptor Badger Bates, who all made the launch of our new Interpretation Centre, plus celebrating 10 years of Joint Management, 30 years of World Heritage listing and NAIDOC Week a tremendous success.

### "What a Day"!!

Also thanks to EO Richard Mintern, Area manager Jo Gorman, field staff of Lower Darling, Willandra landowners, National Parks Foundation, Helen Healy and staff, and Yanga National Park's staff for their help and support.

We have nearly addressed all that is in our current Plan of Management and intend to workshop this at our next MJMACM on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> December at Hay with Senior Ranger Lars Kogge. Further workshops on conversation plan for Joulni is also planned with Harvey Johnston. The Mungo Joint Management Agreement needs updating and will happen at Hay. In October the chair and I travelled to Valla Beach, NSW and attended a three day Joint Custodians meeting.

Plans are underway to take Discovery Rangers to Sydney for "Engaging Children in Nature Projects" workshop.

**Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas.**

**Warren Clark  
Executive Officer**





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## mungoyouthproject

The Mungo Youth Project underpins and honours the traditional owners' aspiration to engage and educate their young people in the culture, conversation, education and management of the World Heritage Area.

Participating schools from NSW & Victoria, along with guest schools, came together with Elders, landholders, scientists, World Heritage and National Parks staff, role models, mentors, sponsors, volunteers and special guests for this highly successful and educational three day event. Special guests included the Governor of NSW, Marie Bashir AC, star of "Bran Nue Dae", Stephen 'Baamba' Albert and Little G, Georgina Chrisanthopoulos, indigenous Greek hip hop performance poet, who was the MC for the entire event including a performance with students.



*Picture: Governor of NSW Prof Marie Bashir painting with some of the students*

Pre-conference learning by each participating school ensured that students were engaged in a rigorous curriculum during their stay.

A specially constructed high tech, tent village was constructed to accommodate over 300 people. IT support was also provided for the students presentations enabling live online participation of six remote Inuit schools in Alaska.



*Picture: Section of the tent village*

Various activities were conducted during the event including:

- Elders mixing with students and explaining protocols, culture and history, language lessons and Johnny Cake making.
- Role models, including Governor of NSW Professor Marie Bashir and actor/educationalist Stephen 'Baamba' Albert, telling their story on the pathways they had taken and sharing an insight into the tools to achieve dreams and goals.
- Scientists, including archaeologist Harvey Johnston and Latrobe University students, touring excavation sites explaining how science informs today's understanding of history and culture
- World Heritage area landholders provided students with a tour of Zanci and Mungo woolsheds and sheep shearing demonstration, whilst giving students an insight into their engagement with the land and co management.
- A talk from Professor Jim Bowler about his discovery of Mungo Man and Woman and his passion for the area.





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**mungoyouthproject**



**Picture:** Students lending a hand



**Picture:** Special guests. From left Joan Bowler, Stephen (Baamba) Albert, Prof Jim Bowler and Little G – Georgina Chrisanthopoulos



**Picture:** Captivated students



**Picture:** Student archaeologist conducting tour with students

The Elders & planning group believe that this Project comes to “the Heart of the Story” and is a model of ownership and participation of value to the education for all students across Australia through their World Heritage communities. Students develop valuable experiences that will assist in further education, job seeking efforts, employment skills and increased motivation, which in turn, will have the potential to increase education and employment outcomes.

The feedback from all those who participated has been overwhelming.

*“As educators, we could never have gotten the same results from a classroom, the hands on approach and self-lead learning skills the girls went through has been invaluable”.*

**Megan Nash, Teacher, Worawa Aboriginal College**



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## BUSH TUCKER

### Wattle seeds



Wattles – (*acacias*) have many species and forms and can be found in all parts of the Australian continent.

Indigenous Australians have used the seeds of several species as a source of food for thousands of years. However, some species are toxic.

The seeds can last for up to 20 years in the ground, usually only germinating after bushfires. The hard outer casing protected the seed during long periods of dormancy and provided Indigenous Australians with a rich source of protein and carbohydrate in times of drought.

The wattle seed was crushed into flour with grinding stones and cooked into cakes or damper. Green seeds of some species were eaten after baking in hot coals.

Wattle seed contains potassium, calcium, iron and zinc in fairly high concentrations. They have a low glycaemic index making them good for diabetics.

### Recipe

#### Wattle seed & Macadamia Nut Anzac Biscuits

##### Ingredients

- 1 ½ cup rolled oats
- 1 cup plain flour
- ½ cup white sugar
- 30g ground wattle seed
- 125g butter
- 1 tablespoon boiling water
- 2 tablespoons golden syrup

- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- ½ cup chopped and toasted macadamias

##### Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 160 degrees C.
2. Mix together the oats, flour, wattle seed, sugar and macadamia nuts.
3. In a saucepan, melt the butter and butter and golden syrup over a low heat, stirring until combined. Mix water and baking soda in a cup and add to melted butter mixture. Add all of this to the dry ingredients. Take teaspoonfuls of mixture and place on lightly greased biscuit tray flattening them a little with a fork. Leave 3cm for the biscuits to spread.
4. Cook for 15 minutes, then remove from oven and cool on wire racks.

### Some Interesting facts:

- Wattles are the largest genus of flowering plants in Australia.
- You can find a wattle in flower somewhere in Australia at any time of the year.
- The Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) is the official floral emblem of Australia.
- The Queen has a favourite brooch of Golden Wattle blossom. Her 1954 coronation dress was embroidered with golden wattle.
- Wattle Day is on the 1st of September – the first day of spring.
- Australian sportsmen wear wattle inspired green and gold uniforms
- Roasted ground wattle seed has a diverse number of uses in the kitchen, from baking to thickening of sauces and casseroles, to ice cream. Dark-roasting wattle seed produces an aroma of nutty fresh roasted coffee and can be used as a beverage or as an addition to chocolate or desserts.



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## STAFF HAPPENINGS

- The Order of Australia medal is in the shape of a single wattle blossom.



Congratulations to our National Parks Area Admin Officer, Lisa Mitchell, on her marriage to Shannon Clifford on 19<sup>th</sup> March at the St. Margaret's Anglican Church, Mildura. Lisa and Shannon are expecting their first child early next year.



Congratulations also to Ray Damon on his recent marriage to Lisa. They were recently married whilst holidaying in Tasmania. Nice Surprise!!



Congratulations from all the staff to:

Harvey Johnston & Zoe, on the arrival of a daughter, Eve, on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

Randelle & Donna Blair on their addition of number four to the family, a daughter, Eenerweena, (aboriginal for "a little woman") on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011.

Peter and Cate Ewin on the birth of their baby daughter, Gemma.



Congrats to Andrew Gibson and his wife Katie, on the great news of their first baby due early next year.



**Picture:** Lisa & Shannon's Wedding





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## Past Events

Early June	Acacia Monitoring
June	Cultural Heritage Survey work at Euston Regional Park
July	Mungo Visitor Centre Launch
July	NAIDOC Week
August	Technical Scientific Advisory Committee/Community Management Council meeting
August	World Heritage Elders Council Meeting
September	Mungo Youth Project



*As this will be the last Newsletter for 2011 and with Christmas lurking just around the corner I would like to take this opportunity to wish staff, committee members, landholders and who ever else reads the newsletter*

*A Safe and Happy Festive Season.*

## Upcoming Events

19 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>The Cricket Match</b>
15-16 November	Willandra Lakes Region WHA Elders Council Meeting
29-30 November	Willandra Lakes Region TSAC/CMC Meeting
8-9 December	Mungo Joint Management Meeting

[www.visitmungo.com.au](http://www.visitmungo.com.au) & [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

To make this Newsletter better we would like your feedback on what you like or could be improved so we can meet your needs. We can be contacted at the address below.

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