

## WELCOME

April 2023  
Newsletter #7



### And just like that, Term 1 is done!

Its been a busy start to the year for all 17 of the Learning on Country sites across the Top End of the Territory.

Teachers and LoC Coordinators have been busy planning and implementing lesson plans, camps, and activities on country with Rangers, Traditional Owners and community members.

There have already been some incredible achievements from LoC Students this year including graduations, school completions, traineeships and work placements!

Read on to learn about some of the recent activities in Term 1 and a few highlights from our LoC communities this year!



# Looking to the future...

## Celebrating students success at Yirrkala Bilingual School

Students, families, Dhimurru rangers and community members gathered to attend the recent graduation ceremony at Yirrkala Bilingual School in March to celebrate and recognise the achievements of NTCET graduate Mayatili Mungunggur and Cert II CEM Graduates Galpawiri Munungiritj, Djamut Brian and Mithili Wanambi, all students of the Learning on Country Program.

Yirrkala Bilingual School is one of the foundation schools of the LoC program. The school teaches all classes in both English and Yolŋu and is having great success and engagement from students and parents.

Yirrkala School Co-Principal Merrkiyawy Ganambarr said it was a very proud day for the school and the whole community.

“Today was a special day for Mayatili, she was the only child of this age in Yirrkala and she graduated by herself. She worked very hard, she was committed and studied very hard by herself to graduate today. To be able to see that was wonderful, and I am so proud.



L-R: Co-Principals Katrina Hudson and Merrkiyawy Ganambarr, Mayatili Mungunggur, Galpawiri Munungiritj and LoC Coordinator Dan McLaren

# Looking to the future...

## Jobs Expo at Galiwinku

**"School is a tool and education matters" was the message from LoC Co-Chair Danny Dangadanga to prepare the students for Arnhem Land Progress Careers Expo held in March.**

The Career expo was a chance to find out about the types of jobs available at Galiwinku, and the training pathways students would need to take. Jobs as a nurse, ranger, school teacher, store manager, construction, health care worker, police officer, child care worker, and in council and sport and recreation to name a few.

Special guest speaker Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik started the morning, sharing her story and her words of wisdom and encouragement for the students attending the event, encouraging them to think about their future and the importance of education and learning.

"Knowledge is power, and it's not a heavy load to carry. When I decided to study and learn, a whole new world started to open up to me. So I chased it, I chased the knowledge and chased that power."



## Marthakal Rangers Newest Recruits!

**Congratulations to Gawanartjiwuy and Wurrwuryun, two of the latest recruits to the Gumurr Marthakal Rangers!**

Gawanartjiwuy graduated last year from Shepherdson College and is the first miyalk (female) ranger in several years. On track to graduate this year, Wurrwuryun has completed two thirds of the Cert II in Conservation Ecosystem and Management and has gained part time employment with the rangers whilst completing his final year of school - that's dedication.

Gumurr Marthakal Rangers manage 323,048 hectares of coastal land, intertidal waters and island chains. They also manage around one million hectares of surrounding sea country. The rangers' work includes monitoring and removing ghost nets from their patrol area, managing coffee bush and monitoring billabongs for the potential arrival of mimosa. They are also involved in an annual monitoring programme of the threatened northern quoll, which were relocated from the mainland to protect them from poisonous cane toad.

**Gawanartjiwuy (left) and Wurrwuryun (right), pictured with LoC Coordinator Isaac Jansens, were both students of LoC program activities at Shepherdson College and are outstanding young role models for their community.**



# Out and About...

## Umbukumba School Gardens

Umbakumba School LoC students have been learning about how to design and create a garden for their school, with a focus on planting traditional plants and vegetables.

Students also learned about different types of plants and which traditional tribe of the Anindilyakwa people they belong to, their different uses and their traditional and western uses.

### 1. Marndakirriyerra (long yam)

Long yams belongs to Wurramarra, Bara Bara and Durila. Students will go out and locate the plant and replant in the school garden

### 2. Murungkwurra (Round yam)

### 3. Angkaywayas, Jampa (Tamarind tree)

Tamarind trees are also a bush medicine. If you get cold, you take the fruit and soak it in water and drink it. Students learnt how the Makassans came to Groote Eylandt for trepang, and planted them where they made their camps. These fruits are very yummy to eat!

4. Students also planted different types of vegetables which can be used later for cooking for community events.



# ...on country

## Billabong restoration project

**Milingimbi School Learning on Country**  
Students have been working on a **billabong regeneration projection**. It's been a whole school effort to restore the beautiful freshwater billabong within the township.

Students worked closely with rangers to identify invasive weed species and dispose of them properly.



## Learning about the Mamarra



Learning on Country students at Milyakburra school have been learning from Traditional landowner and assistance teacher, Mrs Holly, who has been sharing her knowledge with the students about the importance of the Mamarra (Small - Leave Paper bark tree).

She explained in Anindilyakwa language, the meaning of the Mamarra tree, and that it belongs to Bara and Jaragba tribe.

Traditionally, the Mamarra leaves are used to relieve the pain from headaches, aches, pains or a cold. Students learned to collect and crush the leaves with their hands and then soaked the leaves in hot water. They sniffed the crushed leaves and the liquid to experience the smell and the learning procedures of traditional bush medicine passed down from generation to generation.



# The story of Lipalipa

This term, Garrthalala students from Laynhapuy Homelands School welcomed RMIT University lecturers Naomi Wilks-Smith and Li Ping Thong, who ran a 4-day film workshop. During the workshop, students learnt how to use various types of professional cameras and microphones, how to film and consider angles, and the roles of film directors and film makers. The workshop was to encourage students to think creatively and produce a movie that uniquely captures a special story through the students' eyes, with the students' voices.

The students chose to tell the story of the lipalipa using three different perspectives- a traditional dance (bungul), a traditional song (manikay) and interviews from the elders in the community.

This international project also involved students in Kochi, Japan, where they too filmed stories of their community in their language. In the coming months, Garrthalala and Kochi students will get the opportunity to view each other's final video and learn about their different stories and country! Stay tuned for the final product!



# Celebrating International Women's Day

**This year for International Women's Day, the Anindilyakwa Land & Sea Rangers celebrated the great team of women who work hard to protect land and sea country across the Anindilyakwa Indigenous Protected Area.**

Kirsten, Annabelle and Cassie spent the day in Darwin undertaking their Cert 2 Fisheries Compliance training.

Back on Groote, Ranger Mel spent the day creating awareness about the biosecurity program with the Learning on Country Program kids from the Umbakumba School.



## LoC MOU confirmed!

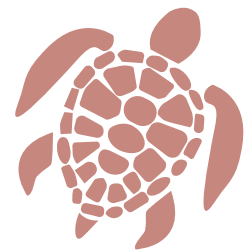
Learning on Country partnership with the NT Department of Education will be continued for another 6 years!

The Northern Land Council's CEO Joe Martin-Jard and the NT Department of Education's Deputy Chief Executive Saeed Amin signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) this week, a significant partnership agreement to support the Learning on Country Program for another six-years. This agreement will support and strengthen the delivery of the LoC Program across the 17 remote sites.



“We are looking forward to a great partnership that will benefit young people participating in the LoC program” - NLC's CEO Joe Martin-Jard.

## Farewell and thank you!



At the start of April we said good bye to two of the powerhouse women in the Learning on Country Team, Anna Morgan and Rebecca Jennings.

Anna and Rebecca brought passion, enthusiasm and a personal commitment in everything they did and to supporting LoC to grow and build into the success it is today. We are sad to see them go but we are also excited for them as they embark on new journeys and opportunities.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the valuable contributions that these staff members have made to the Learning on Country Program during their time with us.

# Deadly Facts July-December 2022



## Student Participation

**2575** Indigenous Students Participated in a LoC activity  
 This is an increase of 595 students from Semester 1 2022 (Whole of School)

**835** Target Cohort Participation in LoC activities as a core component of their studies\*

Slight decrease of 43 in Target Cohort numbers from the previous semester, but increased engagement across the entire school. This represents a significant commitment to 'two-way' education improving school attendance.

**107%** Student Retention is up from 89% to 107% in Semester 2 of 2022.  
 More students returned to school following the school break.

\*'Target Cohort' is identified in the NIAA Funding Schedule as Middle and Senior school students (years 9-12).

## 'On-Country' Activities

Across the 15 LoC sites a total of **495** on-country camps and field trips were delivered.



Students attending the Learning on Country Borroloola Careers Fair, November 2022

## Vocational Education & Training

**277** remote Indigenous Middle and Senior students were enrolled in VET training.

**66** achieved certificates in Conservation and Ecosystem Management, Maritime Studies and First Aid.



Monitoring & Evaluation Pilot Project, Maningrida 2022

## Indigenous Employment

**Indigenous Staff Employed** by the LoC Program. Indigenous staff comprise 94.35% of those employed in the delivery of LoC activities.

**184**

**5** Indigenous full-time Coordinators (Beswick-Barunga, Angurugu, Gunbalanya, Ngukurr and Borroloola).

## Indigenous Staff Hours

Indigenous staff worked 66.16% of the total hours reported, an increase of 6.7% on the previous reporting period.

**12k**



Galiwinku graduations, December 2022



# Learning on Country

