



# Learning on Country

## Walking Strong in Two Worlds

### DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE LEADERS

The Learning on Country Program (LoC) is a joint initiative between Aboriginal Ranger groups and 17 schools across the Top End, which engages Indigenous students in remote areas of the NT through education, with a focus on 'both ways' learning within their secondary school curriculums. It's this combination of curriculum and culture that builds the skills, confidence and capacity of our future leaders to walk strong in two worlds.

The 'two toolbox approach' incorporates both Western and Indigenous knowledge systems to deliver culturally appropriate education and training for remote students' learning and employment pathways, with a strong focus on intergenerational transfer of culture and traditional knowledge.

The LoC Program is delivered with a key focus on the senior secondary student cohort, although younger students may also participate. The teaching and learning programs are developed collaboratively between the community's school and Ranger staff, with a focus on on-country learning which is planned and delivered in partnership with Traditional Owners.

Last year, LoC celebrated its 10th anniversary. Underpinning the ongoing success of the LoC Program is the emphasis on Indigenous governance and community ownership of the program, which is ensured through the guidance and directives of an all Aboriginal Steering Committee, in collaboration with a local LoC Committee which operates in each of the sites.

The LoC Program is delivered in Maningrida, Milingimbi, Yirrkala, Laynhapuy Homelands, Galiwin'ku, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Umbakumba, Milyakburra, Gunbalanya, Ngukurr, Numbulwar, Borroloola, Beswick, Barunga and Angurugu and Alyangula.

### GET IN TOUCH WITH THE LOC TEAM!

 [www.learningoncountry.com](http://www.learningoncountry.com)

 /LearningOnCountryProgram

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*Left: Maningrida Senior School students learning about rock art protection and ranger job pathways, with Warddeken Rangers.*

*Top right: Gawanarrtijwuy (Helena) Garrawurra, LoC Coordinator Isaac Jansens and student/part time ranger Wurrwuryun (Tyronne) Wanambi.*

*Bottom right: L-R: Co-Principals Katrina Hudson and Merrkiyaw Ganambarr, Mayatili Mungunggur, Galpawiri Munungiritj and LoC Coordinator Dan McLaren*





NIAA



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# Learning on Country

The **Learning on Country (LoC) Program** is an employment pathways program that focuses on middle and senior school students in 17 communities in the Top End of the Northern Territory.

## 2022 LoC Program Highlights

- **10th Anniversary Event**, 9-11 August, Nitmiluk National Park - over 250 attendees
- **Six-year Funding Announcement** from NIAA to secure the program until 2028
- **50th** Steering Committee Meeting, December 2022
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)** pilot project kickstarting at three sites; Galiwinku, Maningrida and Laynhapuy



Students participating in a Youth Forum at the 10th Anniversary Event, August 2022



The all Indigenous Steering Committee and Coordinators at the 50th LoC Steering Committee Meeting, December 2022



**Indigenous Governance**

The LoC Program is guided by an all **Indigenous Steering Committee** with members elected from each of the 17 sites.



Celebrating Women Rangers on International Women's Day 2023



Billabong restoration project at Millingimbi



# Deadly Facts July-December 2022



## 'On-Country' Activities

Across the 17 LoC sites a total of **495** on-country camps and field trips were delivered.

## 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).



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

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

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

**12k** Indigenous Staff Hours  
Indigenous staff worked 66.16% of the total hours reported, an increase of 6.7% on the previous reporting period.



Galiwin'ku graduations, December 2022

# LEARNING ON COUNTRY PROGRAM SITES 2023



1	2	3	4	5+6
<p>Maningrida College and Bawinanga Djelk Rangers</p>	<p>Yirrkala School and Dhimurru Rangers</p>	<p>Laynhapuy Homelands School and Yirrkala Rangers</p>	<p>Shepherdson College and Marthakal Rangers</p>	<p>Angurugu and Alyangula Schools and Anindilyakwa Rangers</p>
7+8	9	10	11	12
<p>Umbakumba and Milyakburra Schools and Anindilyakwa Rangers</p>	<p>Milingimbi School and Crocodile Islands Rangers (MOPRA)</p>	<p>Ramingining School and Arafura Swamp Rangers (ASRAC)</p>	<p>Gapuwiyak School and Yirrkala Rangers</p>	<p>Gunbalanya School and Njanjma Rangers</p>
13	14	15	16	17
<p>Numbulwar School and Numbulwar Numburindi Rangers</p>	<p>Ngukurr School and Yugul Mangi Rangers</p>	<p>Borroloola School and Waanyi Garawa, Garawa, Li-Anthawirriyarra Rangers</p>	<p>Beswick School and Jawoyn Aboriginal Corporation</p>	<p>Barunga School and Jawoyn Aboriginal Corporation</p>