

# Notre Dame Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series



*A New Partnership*, William Roe, 1994

## Bunuba Cultural Caretakers Project

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018

12:30 – 1:30pm

Melissa Marshall, Bunuba Rangers and Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation

The Bunuba Rangers and the Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation in conjunction with researchers at Nulungu Research Institute have been developing a strategic cultural heritage management process through the 'Bunuba Cultural Caretakers Project'. Building on the soon-to-be released Healthy Country Management Plan called '*Jalangurru Muwayi*', the group developed the project in response to one of the main aspirations captured in the plan – **'the need for Bunuba people and the ranger team to visit and record the significant cultural sites on Bunuba country'**.

Commencing in 2017, the group undertook a preliminary cultural heritage management workshop to examine what processes were required for Bunuba people to look after sites on country, as well as the narratives and language associated with them. Integral to this is the ongoing involvement of young and old through a series of on-country trips and the integration of monitoring and maintenance processes to the everyday work of the ranger team. With the introduction of the women's ranger team in 2018 coinciding with the initial Bunuba Cultural Caretakers Trip to Windjana Gorge in May, the program has been growing in momentum. In September this saw more than 60 people come together at Mornington Station to identify sites and work with the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife to discuss the proposed National Park in this area. Further activities are now in planning not only for 2019 but for a number of years into the future.

This Talking Heads seminar is being delivered by members of the Bunuba Rangers, Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation and Nulungu Research Institute staff. The Bunuba Rangers are represented by the two ranger coordinators, Shannon Shaw and Marita Monique Middleton, Bunuba elder Selina Middleton and Nulungu researcher Mel Marshall. In their own words:

*'My name is Shannon Shaw and I am a Walmajarri and Bunuba Man - I'm Walmajarri from my mother side and Bunuba from my father side. I have been working on many jobs that did not interest me until I became a ranger. My first ranger job was with the Ngurrara rangers working around the Great Sandy Desert country and after 3 years with them I got a job with the Bunuba Ranger team and worked with the team for 2 1/2 years. Later I was transferred to the DBCA (DPaW) which they call them self now. I am a father of 2 and enjoy what I do to support my family. It's good to know who you are and where you are connected from. Being a ranger isn't easy but it's worth it to look after your country. When I'm out on country I get a good feeling out there, feeling the presence of our people watching what we are doing and looking after it the right way.'*

*'My name is Marita Monique Middleton, I am Bunuba women and I'm 31 years of age. I am a mother of 2 and I work for Bunuba Ranger Team as a Women ranger Team Leader. I'm also the vice chairperson of BDAC. I've lived and grew all my life in Fitzroy Crossing.'*

*'My name is Selina Middleton, I am a Bunuba woman I've lived and worked all my life at Fitzroy Crossing. I have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. My hobbies are fishing and hunting on country and working with the young people from the Bunuba tribe.'*

*'My name is Mel Marshall and I have been a researcher here at Nulungu for three years and lived in the Kimberley for 15 years. I work with a number of Aboriginal communities and ranger teams across northern Australia to support caring for country activities, specifically around cultural heritage management. I am due to complete my PhD in rock art conservation at the end of 2018 and I live on the nearby Bidan (Bedunburru) Community with my Nyikina husband and our four kids.'*



**Nulungu**

Research Institute

The University of Notre Dame Australia

Fremantle

Broome

Sydney

[nd.edu.au/nulungu](http://nd.edu.au/nulungu)