



Nulungu

Research Institute

The University of Notre Dame Australia

Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series



Bardi Jawi Rangers: Land and Sea Management

Presented by Kevin George (Bugajul) and Phillip (Bibido) McCarthy

Thursday 30th October 2014

12:30pm to 1:30pm

Venue: The University of Notre Dame Australia

Kailis Room, Library Building, 88 Guy Street, Broome, 6725

For further information **08 9192 0670** | cathie.martin@nd.edu.au

About Kevin

Kevin is a Bardi man of the Oolongon clan. He has lived with his family at Gurrbalgun community (Pender Bay) for 15 years on traditional land of the Oolongon clan group. He currently works as Senior Cultural Ranger with the Bardi/Jawi Rangers facilitated by the Kimberley Land Council. Kevin is the Chairperson of the Bardi and Jawi Nimiidiman Prescribed Body Corporate and the Director of Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation and has previously served as a long-term director of the Aboriginal Legal Service (WA).

Kevin is very passionate about Bardi/Jawi Culture. As part of his cultural obligations he has a responsibility to maintain the ways and customs of his ancestors and to educate Bardi/Jawi youth in these traditions. Kevin would like visitors to Bardi Jawi Country to know why it is important for his people to continue living a traditional lifestyle and his hopes are that the rest of the outside world can respect this.

Looking ahead toward a future of sovereignty of Bardi Jawi land and sea for his people, Kevin would like to see the continuance of customary law, traditional Bardi/Jawi governance, traditional customs, practice and protocol, language, dance, song and respect for country and each other.

About Phillip

Phillip is a Bardi Jawi man who lives at One Arm Point Community on the Dampier Peninsula, north of Broome in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. Phillip is an active community member, local community councilor and previously operated a cultural tourism boat charter business.

He has been with the Bardi Jawi Rangers since 2008 and is currently the Head Ranger. During this time he has completed his Certificate III in Conservation Land Management. Phillips' experience and leadership has greatly assisted the development of fire, biodiversity, tourism and marine management operations conducted by the rangers.

In April 2012 he joined fellow Bardi Jawi ranger Dwayne George on a knowledge exchange trip to Abu Dhabi to assist the Environment Agency of the United Arab Emirates, training its staff in catching and tagging dugongs in the Persian Gulf.

He has been active in promoting the benefits of rangers programs across the Kimberley and Australia, as well as having travelled to Canada in November 2012 to share experiences with Canadian First Nations people striving for self-determination and the right to care for their country.



Nulungu

Research Institute

The University of Notre Dame Australia

About the seminar

The Bardi Jawi Rangers program started back in late 2006 from the Dugong and Marine Turtle project facilitated through the Kimberley Land Council in partnership with the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA).

The work was based around all aspects turtle and dugong monitoring and recording which included beach and sea patrols to record turtle nesting, catch data from local hunters and the satellite tagging of dugong in partnership with Edith Cowan University over 3 consecutive years. This demonstrated experience led to travelling to Abu Dhabi and the Arabian Gulf assisting the United Arab Emirates Environment Agency with their own dugong tagging program.

Today the Bardi Jawi rangers are a fully functional cultural environmental unit working on weeds, fire, biodiversity monitoring, cultural heritage and sea country management. The rangers are strongly involved in numerous current marine science research projects under the West Australian Marine Science Institute (WAMSI) which brings together peak marine science organisations to work collaboratively on the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy.

The declaration of the Bardi Jawi Indigenous Protected (IPA) area in May 2013 meant that Bardi Jawi country can now be managed in a more strategic and effective way in line with their developed plan of management.

The team consists of 8 full time rangers (including 3 trainees) an Indigenous Protected Area coordinator, ranger coordinator and admin assistant. Working alongside the men rangers are the Bardi Jawi Oorany (women) rangers who are gaining momentum and funding to also implement work within the IPA.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A
B R O O M E C A M P U S

nd.edu.au

Fremantle

Broome

Sydney