



**Marion Scrymgour**

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

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## **A Bright Future for Indigenous Park Rangers**

The first group of Indigenous trainee rangers to come through the Territory's new Joint Parks Management arrangements has started work in Central Australia.

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour said increasing Indigenous employment in Parks is a significant objective within the Parks and Wildlife Service.

The rangers are Donald Turner, Kalem Ronberg and Jeremy Dawson.

"They are the first group of trainee rangers to come through under the umbrella of Joint Park Management arrangements, which recognises Traditional Owners as partners in park planning, management, development and employment," Ms Scrymgour said.

"Donald and Kalem have been closely involved in general park duties in Central District Parks and their work includes visitor management, visitor facilities and weed control.

"Donald and Kalem are each completing a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management through Batchelor Institute."

Jeremy, who is based in Tennant Creek, is studying a Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management.

"The prospects for Donald, Kalem and Jeremy look great as future park rangers," Ms Scrymgour said.

"Jeremy has also achieved a lot since commencing his traineeship late last year.

"Apart from weed management, Jeremy has also been involved in fire management as well as a biological survey focused on bats. He has also been involved in visitor surveys at the popular Devils Marbles and is very enthusiastic about his new role as a Ranger."

Donald, Kalem and Jeremy agreed the three months spent so far with Parks and Wildlife Service had been of great value to them.

"The experience so far has allowed me to learn more about what rangers do and speak with many tourists who visit our parks," Jeremy said.

"I had previously really only known and understood the Aboriginal way of caring for country but now I am learning more about the western way as well."

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