

Media Release:

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Ingkerreke Trainee Rangers Undertake Conservation Projects

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service have been working with local Ingkerreke Trainee Rangers in the Alice Springs region on a range of land and conservation management projects on parks.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Senior Ranger, Ross Nowland said the program involves the trainees undertaking conservation projects at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, Owen Springs and the Simpson's Gap.

"We've had up to six trainees, along with their group team leader working with Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service rangers on a wide range of projects including, rare fauna searches, vegetation assessment for mapping purposes, weed control and patrols in addition to assisting with the construction and upgrades of facilities," Mr Nowland said.

Some of the minor construction works include:

- New spinifex and steel roofing to the walking track shelters for the Woodlands Trail, Larapinta trail and at the Simpsons Gap School Camp with also cutting out camp beds into the rocky terrain for Larapinta trail walkers at Simpsons Gap." They are known as camp beds. You could say 'digging out camp beds in rocky terrain' or say 'improve facilities for Larapinta Trail walkers at Simpsons Gap.'
- Replacing timber walls with steel walls in the pit toilet, at the Simpsons Gap School Camp.
- Relocating information shelters from Jay Creek to Ellery Creek
- Landscaping at Jay Creek, including constructing shelters and replacing timber boards with environmentally friendly recycled plastic boards on the walking bridges on the Cassia Hill walking path.

Mr Nowland said the trainees and rangers have also completed the clearing of fire breaks and mountain bike paths, in the Eastern portion of the West Macdonnell National Park in addition to erosion control under the guidance of Natural Resource Managements soil conservation expert Col Stanton.

"The program provides an opportunity for Traditional Owners and Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service to work together on Park projects, as well as the opportunity for the trainees to work on and be involved in land management on the land they belong to," Mr Nowland said.

"The trainees bring a wide range of skills and experience in construction and land management, working with Parks and Wildlife Service rangers also provides opportunities for the trainees to gain skills across communication and safety and equipment, with the use of quad bike operation and safety training."

The program also helps to foster strong working relationships between Aboriginal people and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

"It's great to be able to combine traditional knowledge received from Aboriginal trainees whilst undertaking conservation projects," Mr Nowland said.

The trainees are currently studying for their Certificate III Conservation and Land Management at Batchelor College.

Ingkerreke Outstation Resource Services provide natural resource training to Aboriginal trainees through their Transitional Employment Program (TEP) through working closely with the Parks and Wildlife Services to assist with a range of land management projects on Northern Territory parks.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Ross Nowland 08 8955 0310

Image Credit – 1. Ingkerreke Trainee Rangers build Spinifex Roof

2. Ingkerreke Trainee Rangers

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