



Australian Government

WILLANDRA LAKES REGION

World Heritage Area

MUNGO NATIONAL PARK



Issue 6 - December 2012

Message from the Executive Officer

This issue gives just a taste of the activity in and around the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area during a hectic 2012. In particular I draw your attention to the Mungo Centre Project update. This is a complex project requiring detailed documentation. A summary of what's involved starts on page four. A wide range of stakeholders have been consulted in the development of this project and that will continue in the new year.

The next few months will be busy updating the Willandra Lakes Plan of Management, reconstituting the advisory committees and preparing for new funding rounds under the Caring for Our Country program. This will be a period of renewed focus on identifying and conserving the outstanding universal values for which the Willandra Lakes are recognised. Briefly these are cultural values evidenced by a unique and exceptional archaeological record, and natural values representing a major stage of the earth's evolutionary history, significant ongoing geological processes, biological evolution and human interaction with the natural environment.

At the CMC/TSAC meeting held in Mildura on 7 December, the Chair, Michael Ockwell, announced his intention to step down. His 'retirement' will not take effect until some time next year as he has indicated he will be happy to assist with transitional arrangements. More will be said about his retirement later. Michael has been a part of the Willandra Lakes family since the inception of the advisory committees and his knowledge, insight and wise counsel will be sorely missed. His contributions have been invaluable and we wish him all the best for the future.

As the year draws to a close we spare a thought for the recently departed and pay our respects to their families. I wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and look forward fresh challenges and new projects in the new year. *Richard Mintern*

Area Manager's update

As the end of the year looms it is time to review the past year and plan for 2013. A strategic realignment of the department has been a major initiative of 2012 and will continue through the coming year. NSW National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) is part of the Office of Environment (OEH) and like most other departments OEH has introduced significant changes to deliver the NSW Government priorities. The review of NPWS area boundaries and area manager positions has been one part of the strategic realignment. The recruitment of these positions was finalised in November and I am pleased to advise that I am the newly appointed Area Manager for the Lower Darling Area. As many will

know I have been in the Area Manager position since 2000 and Assistant District Manager and Ranger prior to that. I continue to be excited by the opportunities provided within the Lower Darling Area and I am very keen to adapt to the new role and responsibilities and build on the achievements to date.

The management of Mungo NP is a major responsibility for this Area. The development of Aboriginal co-management and the very strong relationships that have been built with Aboriginal Elders and community representatives is certainly an achievement of which we can all be proud. The Mungo NP Aboriginal Discovery Program delivers many of the aspirations of Aboriginal joint management. We are hopeful that the discovery program and co-management arrangement will be enhanced and strengthened through 2013. The joint management committee will work with area staff to develop the new Plan of Management for Mungo NP. Some work has been put into this plan but further development and greater consultation will occur in the coming year.

In 2012 NPWS and the World Heritage Unit have worked collaboratively holding or attending a number of meetings/forums and also developing several planning/guiding documents. The following are of particular interest:

- Mungo NP Interpretation Strategy (for NPWS by Freeman Ryan Design 2012);
- Draft Joluni Cultural Landscape Management Plan (OEH Harvey Johnston Sept 2012)
- Content Brief Mungo National Park (for NPWS by Freeman Ryan Design 2012)
- Draft Financial Analysis of the Mungo National Park Discovery Program (for NPWS by Richard Rossiter CPA)

The year hasn't all been planning and meetings! The NAIDOC week celebrations were a great example of joint projects delivered by National Parks and World Heritage staff.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Message from the Executive Officer**
- **World Heritage conference in Spain**
- **National Parks Area Managers update**
- **Bush Tucker**
- **Mungo Explorer Launch**
- **Aboriginal Discovery Tours program**
- **NAIDOC Week 2012**
- **Mungo Centre project update**





Australian Government

WILLANDRA LAKES REGION

World Heritage Area

MUNGO NATIONAL PARK



Together with Aboriginal Elders and visitors we delivered and enjoyed a full program of activities at Mungo National Park. Read more about this in the next article.

A new seven kilometre (return) walking/cycling track from the Mungo Visitors Centre to the Zanci homestead has been completed. Visitors have given an enthusiastic response to this new track which also gives access to the pastoral heritage displays at the Zanci woolshed which are well worth a look.

Major road works have been completed and we have been busy with pest control, biodiversity research and monitoring, cultural heritage protection, regional tourism initiatives and fire management. In April the NPWS helicopter paid a brief visit and was used for training and to assist in the completion of a 2400 hectare prescribed burn at Garnpang (Mungo NP). In late September lightning strikes ignited a wildfire that burnt approximately 7000 ha within the Rick Farley reserve and western part of Garnpang. Fortunately the weather was favourable and the fire was managed with minimal resources and did not present any major threat. It will now provide a significant buffer to the spread of wildfire through that fire prone Mallee community.

On behalf of NPWS staff I wish you all a Merry Christmas and healthy and prosperous New Year. *Jo Gorman*



Above Garnpang prescribed burn 2012

Below winch training



NAIDOC Week 2012



1-8 JULY 2012

SPRIT OF THE TENT EMBASSY: 40 YEARS ON

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. NAIDOC stands for the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC). This new name has become the title for the whole week, not just the day. Each year, a theme is chosen to reflect the important issues and events for the week, this years theme was celebrating 40 years of the tent embassy.

<http://www.naidoc.org.au/about/>

NAIDOC Week 2012 at Mungo National Park

Paakantji/ Barkindji, Mutthi Mutthi, and Ngiyampaa tribal groups joined with community, scientists, landholders and staff to celebrate NAIDOC week over 3 days from the 3rd - 5th July at Mungo National Park.

Each of day had a different theme. On Tuesday 3rd July we had a science themed day. This successful day was lead by Dr Nicola Stern, Daryl Pappin & students from La Trobe University. They set up archaeological displays, including an archaeological dig for the children and guided observation of archaeological survey work at the Walls of China.

On Wednesday 4th July we celebrated our Aboriginal Cultural Traditions. The day's events began with a traditional Smoking Ceremony & Welcome to Country by Elders, which also Included a performance by the Traditional Dancers, Paakantji Wiipatyku Paka-aana, and didgeridoo playing by Damien Kennedy. We also had acoustic guitar and singing performed by Discovery Ranger Ernest Mitchell. Discovery rangers took guided tours of the Walls of China and delicious traditional foods such as Emu in a hole, Kangaroo tale soup & Johnnie Cakes were provided.

On Thursday 5th July we had Pastoral Heritage day starting with morning tea. There were tours of the Mungo woolshed and yarns with Landholder Ian Wakefield from Top Hut station followed by a BBQ lunch, and whip cracking and visits to the Pastoral Heritage displays at the Zanci woolshed.

Thanks to all Elders, staff, volunteers, Lower Murray Darling CMA, Coomealla Aboriginal Health Service, La Trobe University and Far Western Health Service for making the week such a memorable success. *Tanya Charles*



Left children enjoyed painting on large canvas @ NAIDOC day celebrations



NEWSLETTER



Australian Government

WILLANDRA LAKES REGION

World Heritage Area

MUNGO NATIONAL PARK

Below are photos taken NAIDOC week 2012 @ Mungo National Park



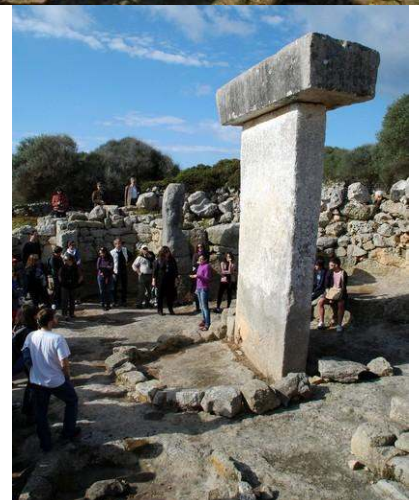
International Best Practice In World Heritage Archaeology

In April Harvey Johnston attended the First International Conference on Best Practices in World Heritage Archaeology. The conference was held at Menorca, an island just off the coast of Spain. His paper dealt largely with land planning in the Willandra Lakes Region, and the various ways in which world heritage values have been protected. Another paper from Australia reported on the Burrup Peninsula, WA, and why this area should be a world heritage site. There was a wide range of papers from across the globe, covering world heritage archaeology in every continent, except Antarctica!

The conference was held over 5 days, with a tour of Menorca and late-Bronze-Age pre-Talayotic (2300-1300 BC) and Talayotic (1000-123 BC) archaeology looking at stone watchtowers, stone circular accommodation and burial chambers, and standing stones in the shape of a huge tables. The Willandra Lakes has evidence of giant kangaroos, but Menorca had its own giant animals... rabbits up to 12kg. Just imagine those warrens!



Above
Navetas, dating to about 2400 years ago. A stone burial tomb, shaped like an upside down boat.



Right
Talayotic Taula (table).
Remains of a ceremonial building.



Mungo Centre Project - An Update

The **Mungo Centre Stages Diagram** shows the key stages in documenting the project and how they connect together over time. The accompanying **Mungo Centre Stages Summary** explains these stages in more detail.

The **Interpretation Strategy** (Stage 1, 1.2) and **Mungo Centre Content Brief** (Stage 1, 1.3) are nearly complete, and once these framework documents are endorsed by TSAC/CMC, there will be many opportunities for consultation in developing the stories and content for the Mungo Centre exhibition, where we will be relying on everyone's' close involvement to ensure key stories are included and accurate.

MUNGO CENTRE PROJECT DOCUMENTATION STAGES 22 OCTOBER 2012

STAGE 1: INITIAL DOCUMENTATION

1.1. DESIGN BRIEF

This brief draws on the extensive consultation process that has preceded it to document the aspirations, purpose, scope, and interpretive and pragmatic needs of the project. It includes detailed descriptions of each functional area, guidelines for providing building services and implementing the project. The Design Brief guides the Architects in designing and documenting the Mungo Centre.

1.2. MUNGO NATIONAL PARK INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

This strategy establishes principles and criteria for locating and organising particular storylines and individual stories across the World Heritage site, as well as in off-site and virtual domains. It maps out the themes and key messages, positions the Mungo Centre within the broader spread of interpretive elements, and identifies opportunities for integrating business tourism and Indigenous training and development. The strategy ensures an integrated and cohesive visitor experience that meets key aspirations of all significant stakeholders and allows for a planned and logical staging of future interpretive development as well as assisting in allocating (and targeting) funding opportunities. The Interpretation Strategy guides NSW National Parks and Wildlife in developing interpretive experiences throughout Mungo National Park. It also determines what storylines are explored at the Mungo Centre.

1.3. CONTENT BRIEF

This is the first stage in developing the interpretive content for the Mungo Centre. The Content Brief is also a framework document, intended to guide further research and gathering of specific content, including key stories, collection and other artefacts, and other media. The key purpose of this stage is to inform the next stage of Concept Design. The Content Brief guides the Exhibition Designers in developing exhibition content at the Mungo Centre, and assists the Architects in establishing requirements within and around the building.

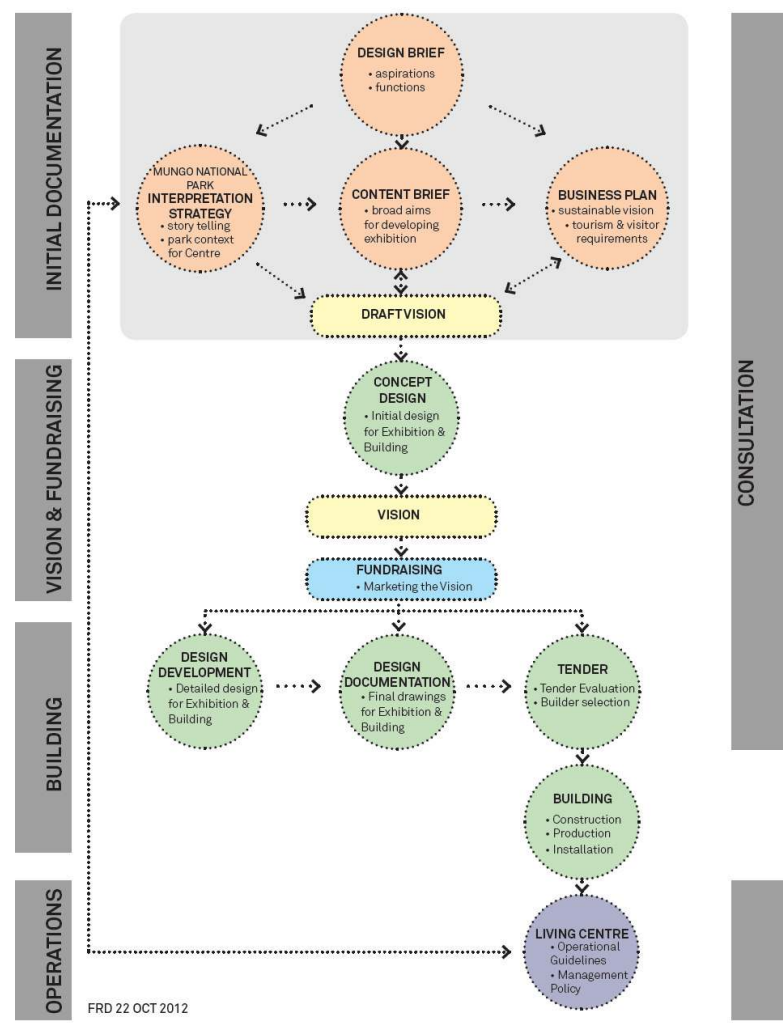
1.4. BUSINESS PLAN

The Business Plan defines the project outcomes and provides the justification for the project. It incorporates financial analysis, risk benefit analysis as well as legislative requirements and estimates of stakeholder support. The plan also outlines how the project will be implemented. The Business Plan is the critical document for winning the support of government and the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife.

1.5. Draft VISION

The draft Vision describes the Mungo Centre from information provided by stakeholders during the Design Brief and ongoing

MUNGO CENTRE PROJECT DOCUMENTATION STAGES



FRD 22 OCT 2012

commentary. It captures the visitor's passion and excitement by anticipating what the Centre will look like, what visitors will experience and what their reactions may be to the Centre. The draft Vision will consider contributions received following the Design Brief (endorsed in July 2011) and implications arising from the Business Plan and the Interpretation Strategy. It will be an open-ended document that provides guidance for the Architects and Exhibition Designers during the Concept Design phase.

STAGE 2: VISION & FUNDRAISING DOCUMENTATION

2.1. CONCEPT DESIGN

The Concept Design outlines the appearance of the building, the physical spaces in and around the building and the interpretive media (ie, graphics, objects and artefacts, multimedia screens or projections, lighting concepts etc) in plans, elevations and 3D visualisations. It also supports the marketing of the project to potential donors and funding bodies. Budget estimates are made at this stage. The Concept Design is produced by the Architects and the Exhibition Designers in consultation with stakeholders.

2.2. VISION

The Vision is a refinement of the draft Vision, developed by the Architects and Exhibition Designers in direct consultation with stakeholders during the Concept Design phase. It will be embodied in the Concept Designs that are approved by CMC/TSAC. The final Vision will be described in words and images in various marketing material required to support a range of fundraising initiatives.

2.3 FUNDRAISING

During this stage the Mungo Centre project will be marketed to potential donors and government bodies to raise funds for the design development and construction of the project. Documentation to support fundraising will include brochures, website and DVD.

STAGE 3: BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

3.1. DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Design Development for the building and landscaping includes progressive design refinements and the coordination of structural and services design. For the exhibition and interpretive elements the joinery, showcasing, multimedia, services, lighting and graphic elements are developed, key artefacts are located and storylines are finalised. Working closely with the architect and client, multimedia production outline and hardware procurement strategies are developed with special emphasis on appropriate use. At regular intervals throughout the Design Development stage, presentations are made to the client for approval. Design Development is undertaken by the Architects Exhibition Designers and a range of consultants for project approval by the project client before the Documentation stage commences.

3.2. DESIGN DOCUMENTATION

Construction and production drawings are produced for the building, the landscaping and the interpretation. A technical brief and schedules are produced for all materials, finishes and procurement items, such as hardware. Construction documentation includes all 'shopfit' type items (dry wall, joinery, showcases, metalwork, services reticulation through exhibition structures). The documentation for interpretation includes final details of all industrial design elements, models, dioramas and the like, artwork for graphic production (images, text and labels), finalisation of object layouts and exhibition lighting design. Briefs for multimedia production are completed. Through this stage, progressively more accurate cost plans are prepared. Documentation is undertaken by the Architects, Exhibition Designers and a range of project consultants for defining the project scope to potential builders at tender stage, and ultimately providing contract drawings to the selected builder and the project team to develop the project to completion.

3.3. TENDER

Tender documentation comprises design documentation and other documents that describe the building for the purpose of a potential builder and provide a price and time to complete the project. This stage includes management of fabrication, production and installation of exhibition media, as well as integration within any building works. Joinery, showcase, multimedia and graphic production takes place. Detailed management of the off-site fabrication and production as well as the on-site installation and commissioning process is required. During installation of the exhibition lighting is finalised and readied for focusing after objects are installed.

STAGE 4: OPERATIONS DOCUMENTATION

4.1. LIVING CENTRE

The Mungo Centre will be a 'living centre' imbued with the energy and passions of its story and stakeholders. Specially written policies will guide the management of the centre, especially the Keeping Place. Centre operations (including daily staff activities and maintenance) will be conducted in accordance with the Centre Operations Plan and Mungo National Park Plan of Management. As the Mungo Centre comes to life, the interpretive process continues and requires ongoing review and evaluation if it is to stay meaningful and effective. There will be a constant need for physical maintenance of the building and the interpretive displays to keep them in good condition, as well as to manage the change-over of delicate and possibly loan items, and to accommodate new stories and material. This process in turn feeds back into the Interpretation Strategy so that it remains a relevant mechanism for guiding interpretive of the Mungo Story across MNP and the WLRWHA, and beyond.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer update

Rabbit Control Project

A three year program of rabbit control in the Willandra Lakes is nearing completion. This project has involved marking rabbit warrens on pastoral properties within the world heritage area and conducting control measure such as ripping. Staff have inspected areas to ensure cultural sites are not disturbed and to recommend alternative control methods where cultural material is found.

A new draft Pest Management Strategy for the World Heritage Area will form the basis for future work with greater emphasis on monitoring and targeted responses.

Below are photos taken of the rabbit ripping process



Traditional Owner World Heritage Forum - Cairns

Leanne Mitchell attended a forum with the Cape York Peninsula Traditional Owners to discuss key issues and ask questions concerning their potential bid for World Heritage status. Leanne shared information about the Willandra Lakes Region WHA, providing background to the nomination in 1981, and explained our committee structure and employment opportunities.

World Heritage Symposium

Leanne Mitchell attended with Mike Ockwell to meet with other World Heritage managers and staff. An important outcome of the symposium was the development of a draft communiqué to government outlining recommendations for improved management World Heritage Areas. Leanne and Mike also visited Mossman gorge talking to Traditional Owners about the guided tours that they provide for visitors and the training facility associated with their Visitor centre where they provide training for their mob to work in tourism and hospitality. All staff at the Visitor centre are indigenous.



Left Mike Ockwell and traditional owner Roy Gibson @ Mossman Gorge visitor centre

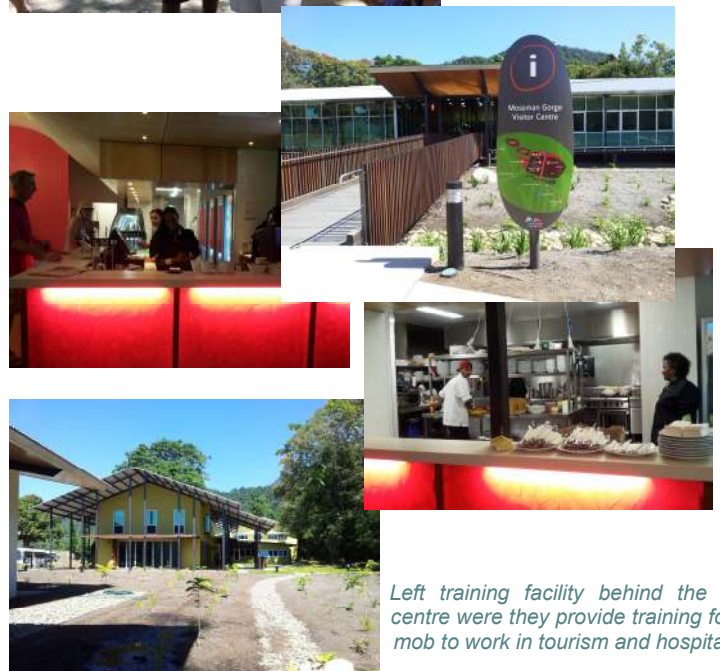
Below photos taken at visitor centre at Mossman Gorge

Collections

Cataloguing and repatriating cultural heritage material is an ongoing responsibility. The McIntyre collection, previously housed in Melbourne by Heritage Victoria has been recatalogued and repatriated to Mungo National Park. Thanks go to Mike McIntyre, Daryl Pappin and Heritage Victoria for their assistance in this painstaking process. A private collection of material handed in to the National Parks office in Moama has been collected and is awaiting cataloguing. We can expect more material to be returned with the increasing awareness of the importance of cultural heritage material and its relation to 'country'.



Cataloguing and repatriating cultural heritage material from the McIntyre collection



Left training facility behind the Visitor centre where they provide training for their mob to work in tourism and hospitality.

Discovery Program

Community Projects Update



ABORIGINAL
DISCOVERY
WALKS, TALKS AND TOURS

Access up onto the Walls of China lunette is by guided tour only. You can enjoy 'the Walls' via the boardwalk without a tour guide.

NAIDOC Week school visits

Our Community Programs Officer, Ricky Mitchell has been teaching Aboriginal History & Culture in local schools as part of their NAIDOC celebrations. Activities included story telling, making Johnny cakes, face painting, and Discovery talks. Thanks to the Elders, Discovery Rangers and volunteers for making the days so successful.

Mungo Explorer

The new curriculum materials entitled Mungo Explorer: A Window to Australia's Past were launched on the 25th October at the National Centre for Sustainability Mildura. This important educational resource enables students to take a virtual tour of Lake Mungo via Professor Bowler's CD Rom: 'Lake Mungo: a window to Australia's past,' and supports their learning through inquiry based curricula. Students will develop a new appreciation of our country's expansive history and explore evidence of the lives of ancient people whose artefacts and remains have been exposed in the sands at Lake Mungo.

This comprehensive and valuable classroom resource developed by Jenny Bowler and Jacquie Taylor is aimed at years 4 & 7. It informs teachers and students about the arrival of modern humans in Australia who were at the forefront of human cultural evolution and are now amongst the oldest living cultures on earth.

From 2013 Lake Mungo and the Willandra Lakes will feature in the new National History Curriculum giving students from all over Australia the opportunity to learn about this unique landscape and its special history.

Discovery Tours Program

Mungo National Park Discovery tours will be offered over the weekends through the summer. In order to beat the heat the tours will be offered in the evening at sunset or in the early morning. New prices are being introduced in 2013.

For details of the Aboriginal Discovery program go to www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au or www.visitmungo.com.au

Shearers Quarter Bookings now Online

Now you can book your shearers quarters accommodation online

Here's how: go to www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Stay#

- Step 1 Click on accommodation and type in Mungo
- Step 2 Click on Shearers Quarters

Filter camping and accommodation
Find camping, caravan sites and accommodation that meets your needs.

Camping & Caravans Accommodation

Search for

Number of guests
Any

Bedrooms
Any

Type of experience

Great camping and accommodation

Showing All guests, All bedrooms and All types of experiences for Mungo



Shearers' Quarters »
in Mungo National Park
Stay in unique heritage accommodation at Mungo Shearers' Quarters in Mungo National Park. Discover the area's pastoral...

Shearers' Quarters
in Mungo National Park

About | What's on | Check & book | Alerts

Getting there | Important info | Share with friends

"We loved the charm of this place, it felt like we'd been transported to another era."
The refurbished Mungo Shearers' Quarters offers cosy facilities close to key park attractions, including Mungo Visitor Centre and Meeting Place.

Exploring these authentic former shearers' quarters, you can't help feeling you're a part of the park's former life as a bustling sheep station. Imagine the click of the shears as you share a meal in the communal living/dining room, or relax and have a yarn in the central courtyard.

Mungo Shearers' Quarters has two rooms with one double and two bunk beds, two rooms with three bunk beds, and one room with two single beds, plus a shared toilet block and showers.

Step 3
Click on
Check & Book
and complete
your booking



Jo Gorman, Helen Healy, Steve Millington, Richard Mintern, Jenny Bowler & Ricky Mitchell

Bush Tucker

Lilli Pilli - Syzyguim Smithii (Acmena Smithii)

The scientific name of the common Lilly Pilli used to be Acmena Smithii, recently it has been renamed to Syzyguim Smithii, widely eaten by Aboriginal People for bush Tucker and also popular with early settlers

Medium tree with white flowers, followed by white, pink or purple fruit.

Bush Tucker Recipe

Here is an easy way to enjoy bush tucker as Lilly Pilli is a popular native bush tucker plant found in a lost of residential gardens, suburban areas and plant shops

Lilly Pilli Vinegar

Ingredients:

4 kg Magenta Lilly Pilli

200g Small leaved Lilly Pilli fruit

Can use either small or big

6 Litres good quality white wine vinegar

Method : Bring all the ingredients to the boil in a stainless steel pot simmer for 4 hours, this should reduce the mixture by half stand over night in a cool place drain the vinegar bring gently to boil strain through cloth bottle in sterilised jar store in cool place upright to allow sediment to settle.

This vinegar has a bright pink colour which darkens with age.

Recipe by

Tanya Charles



Kids Corner



Photo by Ray Gayman



Name: Smooth Knob Tailed Gecko

Scientific Name: Nephurus levis,

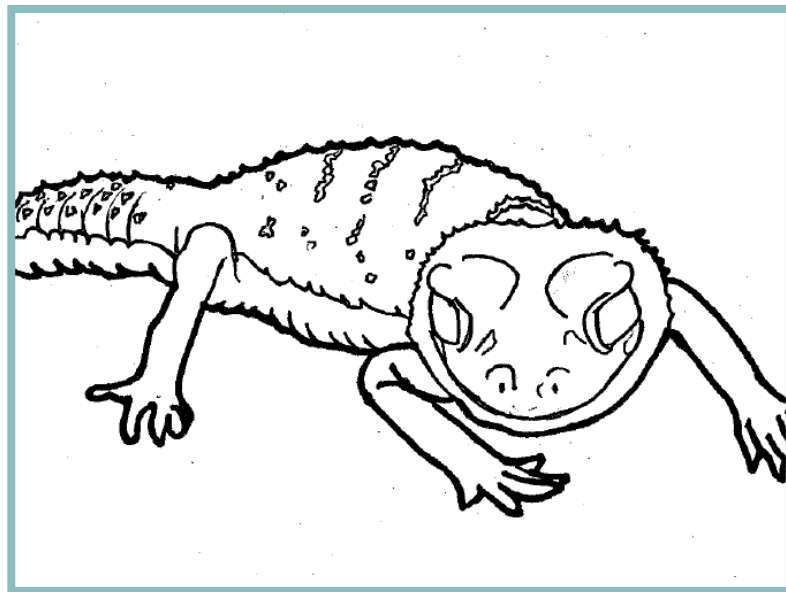
Description: Large Nocturnal Solid gecko

Eats: Feeds primarily on insects such as beetles & cockroaches.

Where: Found across the arid zone of Australia commonly found in Mungo National Park in sandy areas with shelters under spinifex and fallen timber

Interesting Fact: When threatened will raise itself to its full height and emit a "Barking sound"

COLOUR ME IN



Contact us:

Executive Officer:

Richard Mintern ☎ (03) 5021 8908

✉ richard.mintern@environment.nsw.gov.au

Community Projects Officer:

Ricky Mitchell ☎ (03) 5021 8908

✉ ricky.mitchel@environment.nsw.gov.au

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer:

Leanne Mitchell ☎ (03) 5021 8911

✉ leanne.mitchele@environment.nsw.gov.au

Administration Assistant:

Molly Walker ☎ (03) 5021 8902

✉ molly.walker@environment.nsw.gov.au