



Australian Government

WILLANDRA LAKES REGION

# World Heritage Area

MUNGO NATIONAL PARK



Issue 4 – December 2010

## Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area

After ten years of drought we find our region transformed by above average spring rains. While in recent years some of our world heritage landholders have struggled to produce crops for lack of rain, the current challenge is finding a dry enough window of opportunity to harvest bumper crops. I hope the latest wet weather has not diminished crop quality too much and that the rest of the harvest can continue uninterrupted. On more than one occasion we have had to postpone planned events at Mungo because of road closures, including the launch of the Visitor Centre upgrade. We are now looking at a date in early March to celebrate the refurbishment. Feedback from visitors on the improvements has been fantastic and we are already finding ways to get the best out of the new facilities making the Mungo experience even more enjoyable. And to cap it off, the Lonely Planet guide ranked us in the world's 10 best parks and reserves. <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/namibia/travel-tips-and-articles/76006?affil=lpemail>

The end of October saw us hosting the Australian World Heritage Indigenous Network meeting, (relocated to Broken Hill because of rain!) which brought Traditional Owners from other world heritage areas together to discuss issues of mutual concern and share successes. It was a fantastic gathering and a great opportunity to share ideas and form networks. We stayed on in Broken Hill for the National

Indigenous Land & Sea Conference where we gave presentations of the visitor centre upgrade and on the Mungo Youth Project initiative. We subsequently gave a longer presentation on the Mungo Youth Project to the Dare to Lead Conference in Sydney. This conference brought school principals together from all over Australia focussed on improving outcomes for indigenous students, and our presentation advocated a much stronger of integration of aboriginal cultural history and 'deep time' in the National Curriculum.

Our new website is up and running and we will continue to build on this over time. If you haven't had the opportunity to explore it yet, go to <http://www.visitmungo.com.au> and let me know what you think.

*Continued on page 2*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

*Lower Darling National Parks Update*

*AWHIN & NILSMC*

*Mungo NP Discovery Program*

*Joint Management Update*



NEWSLETTER



Australian Government

WILLANDRA LAKES REGION

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## NATIONAL PARKS LOWER DARLING AREA

In the New Year we will be employing an Interpretations Officer who will add more pages and create additional interpretive material. At time of writing we have also advertised for an Aboriginal Heritage Conservation officer and an Aboriginal Community Programs Officer. More information is available from Lisa on 0350218900. Once appointed, these positions will give us more capacity to both protect and present the values of the Willandra Lakes Region.

2011 promises to be an exciting one, with the acquisition of Joulni into Mungo National Park, and the National Parks Foundation project for a new centre progressing to the design brief stage, and of course the Mungo Youth Project in September. Before we embark on these and other new year activity, I want to express my thanks to all those who have helped to make 2010 such an energetic, successful and positive year, including Elders, Landholders, scientists, community members, staff, consultants and well, everyone really! Have a safe and enjoyable festive season.

Executive Officer  
Richard Mintern

Another year has swept by this one will be particularly remembered for the drought breaking rains.

For many years we have been amused by stories of people visiting Lake Mungo for boating or other water sports this year was different! An incredible 548.2 mm has been recorded for Mungo NP. (*Mildura has received 598.2mm the long term average annual rainfall is 282.9*) Many meetings and events such as the proposed Opening of the new interpretation were postponed or moved to other locations. "Plan B i.e. what if it rains" gained a more serious discussion and prominence throughout this year. Hopefully next year the rains will fall at all the right times and Turlee Station Stay & Mungo Lodge won't be impacted by Plan B!

In 2010 we welcomed new staff to the Mungo NP team; Kenny Clark, Peter Lawson and Lawrence Slade. NPWS Lower Darling Area staff are proud to have completed or contributed to some wonderful achievements in 2010 these include:

- Mungo interpretation upgrade of Visitor's Centre and new meeting place;
- Prescribed burning northern section of Mungo NP;
- Slashing and grading of fire trails and fire access tracks;
- Ongoing pest plant and animal control;
- Plague locust control;



NEWSLETTER



- Road works – major and minor repairs to the internal roads;
- Installation and fit out of additional staff quarters in Mungo works yard;



- Further development of the Discovery program with more tours and activities outside of the school holidays
- Flora and fauna research and monitoring – including the annual kangaroo population survey and monitoring of threatened Acacia species regeneration;

Some of the upcoming events or projects to keep us all busy in 2011 are:

- Working with the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation on the new Mungo Centre;
- The addition of Joulni to our planning and on ground management of Mungo NP;
- the opening of the Mungo Interps project;
- Recruitment: Mungo Field Supervisor & Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer;
- Mungo Joint Management Committee & Discovery rangers proposed visit to Tumut
- Hosting of the Joint Custodians committee meeting;

- Mungo Youth Event 2011;
- Biodiversity surveys – pitfall trapping.

I would like to thank all who have been involved in the management of Mungo NP. We have had a big year and can all be proud of the achievements. It is a team effort involving the combined staff and resources of the Lower Darling Area and the Willandra Lakes World Heritage unit with unwavering support from Steve Millington and Regional staff. The Mungo Joint Management Committee is integral to the management of Mungo NP and further support is provided by the Willandra Elders Committee and TSAC/CMC. Steve Millington and the Far West

*On behalf of all the Lower Darling Area staff I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to continuing the good work in 2011.*

Area Manager  
Jo Gorman

**Australian World Heritage  
Indigenous Network Meeting  
(AWHIN) & National Indigenous Land  
and Sea Conference (NILSMC)**

The third AWHIN meeting was held in Broken Hill from the 30<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2010. In conjunction with the third Indigenous Land & Sea Management Conference. AWHIN members meet once a year for a face to face meeting so the agenda was full and a large work load was set for the four days.





Due to the heavy rain we were unable to get to Mungo National Park to hold our meeting. Thanks to the organisers plan B was put into place and our new meeting venue was in Broken Hill. It was great to see everyone after our last meeting a year ago and catch up. Badger Bates along with the Elders from the Willandra Lakes Region gave us all a wonderful welcome to their Country and blessed us with a great time.

I was honoured to be selected as the Chairperson to assist the TO's Marie and Uncle Roy with the role for the meeting. The AWHIN group worked hard to get through the agenda and achieved some unbelievable outcomes making seven recommendations for the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee. I would like to thank the members for their hard work, dedication and commitment on behalf of their Aboriginal communities for WHA Managed lands and the focus from the speakers and presenters. It was an honour to be apart of such a great team of Aboriginal people looking at WHA property issues and management problems from a diverse range of properties.

Following the AWHIN meeting was the NILSMC also held in Broken Hill. It was a great gathering and well catered for by the local Traditional Groups. The food was great the activities were wonderful and the entertainment was 'deadly'. I met some great Indigenous people all working hard for their mobs, the presentations from groups showing the work being done out on country was truly

deadly to see and hear about. I always leave these gatherings feeling a little sad, but with great memories and a better understanding of the National issues faced at local levels all over Australia. I learned lots and saw the great results from projects in other regions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved with the organisation of both the AWHIN and NILSMC for a fantastic time and an experience I will never forget.

Hank Horton  
 AWHIN Chairperson  
 Tasmanian Wilderness WHA

### Mungo NP Joint Management Committee

What a year for the Mungo Joint Management Advisory Committee, Elders, National Parks Staff, contractors EPARCRIS, Helen Healy and everyone that's been involved. All should be proud of their efforts in 2010 for achievements in Mungo NP and the wider Willandra Lakes World Heritage area. It has been astonishing to say the least. The discovery room at Mungo is really looking good and you can even get a cuppa REAL COFFEE there.

Roy Kennedy and self gave a presentation at the Joint Custodian Meeting at Narooma and following on from that the Chairs will have a conference at Mungo in March or April next year. This may be a good time to progress the launch of our new interpretations'.





The two presentations at the Land and Sea conference in Broken Hill were a real pleasure to be apart of. The Presentation at the Dare to lead conference in Sydney by Robert Biggs Helen Healy Richard Mintern and myself went very well. It was to do with the Kids conference that we hold at Mungo every 2 years and am sure this will have generated more interest for the Mungo Youth Project in 2011.

We plan to refresh good governance at our future Joint Management meetings in 2011. Committee Members and discovery rangers lock in diary dates 21<sup>st</sup> February to 25<sup>th</sup> February 2011, our trip to Tumut.. No changes in dates.

I will be commencing my leave on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December returning 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and everyone who has been involved in Mungo and wish all a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Warren Clark  
JMAC Executive Officer

**Mungo National Park Discovery Tours**

The Mungo Discovery Summer Program is now underway with tours held every weekend (except for Christmas & New Year’s weekends) until Easter Next year. Every Saturday during the summer program the Discovery staff will lead a Sunset Tour to the Walls of china, and then every Sunday at 9:30am a Tag-Along Tour to the walls of China will be held. This is part of the Joint Management Committee’s

commitment to having a regular weekend Discovery Program at Mungo.

The Discovery Program Action Plan for 2011 to 2013 is now in a working draft form. There is still some work to be done before it can be circulated more widely to members of the Joint Management Committee. Minor details to be sorted out include Employment conditions, Budgets and Work plans. This will be completed early in the New Year and circulated for comment.

Finally, just a big thankyou to all the Discovery Staff for the effort they have shown throughout the year and I look forward to continuing, expanding and improving the program for next year. Also thankyou to the Elders and Joint Management committee’s for the support you’ve shown for the Discovery Program throughout 2010. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Safe & Happy New Year.

Kenny Clark  
Discovery Co-Ordinator

Sunset Tag – Along Tour 6:30pm	Morning Tag Along Tour 9:30am
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2010	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2010
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2010	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2010
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2011	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2011
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2011	Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2011
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2011	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2011
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2011	Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2011
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2011	Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2011
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2011	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2011
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2011	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2011
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2011	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2011
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2011	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2011





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MUNGO NATIONAL PARK



## MERRY CHRISTMAS 2010



To make this Newsletter better we would like your feedback on what you like or could be improved so we can meet your needs. We can be contacted at the address below.

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