



**Yamatji Marlpa**  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



## Malgana Land and Sea Management – Aboriginal Ranger Project

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**MEDIA RELEASE: 21 December 2018**

Six Malgana people undertook their first training block in conservation and land management through accredited modules from the 5<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Lecturers from Central Regional TAFE (Geraldton Campus) travelled to Shark Bay to deliver the training on-Country, which targeted Certificate I and II level units.

This training is one of four components of the “Pathway to a Malgana Country land and sea management program” funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). The Aboriginal Ranger Program was developed by the State Government to create jobs and training and community development opportunities for Aboriginal people as well as bringing social, cultural and environment benefits.

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, on behalf of the Malgana native title claim group, was successful in securing DBCA funding in June 2018 and began rolling out the project by establishing an interim Malgana reference group to advise on the program (until the newly formed Malgana Aboriginal Corporation establishes its own); employing a Malgana person, Sean McNeair, as the Malgana Land & Sea Management Coordinator, and facilitating the employment of another Malgana person, Cody Oakley, as a Ranger’s Assistant at DBCA – with both of these positions are based in Denham.

When asked about what the training meant to her, one of the participants Marika Oakley said:

“It’s the potential to be back out on-Country and have our own people as Rangers looking after Country. It was such a good feeling. One of the most rewarding parts of the day was watching one of the younger Ranger’s confidence grow. In the classroom setting he was lacking confidence but once he got out on-Country, he was just comfortable learning out there and watching his confidence grow and see him contribute to the group learning was fantastic.”



Back row (left to right): Nick Pedrocchi, Sean McNeair, Cody Oakley, Alex Dodd and Richard Cross.

Front row (left to right): Nykita McNeair, Maryke Gray, Marika Oakley and Pat Oakley.

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### **About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation**

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the native title representative body for the Pilbara, Murchison, Mid-West and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. YMAC has a representative area of over one-third of WA and represents over 24 native title claims, all with their own language, culture and traditions. YMAC is a not-for-profit organisation run by an Aboriginal Board of Directors and provides a range of services to its members including claim and future-act representation, heritage protection services, community and economic development and natural resource management.

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**YAMATJI MARLPA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION IS A NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY**

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