

Contributors

Jon Altman is an economic anthropologist who has worked on Indigenous development issues in Australia since 1976. Between 1990 and 2010 he was the Foundation Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University where he is currently located. Professor Altman has worked with 'People on Country' in the Top End for over 30 years, primarily in the west Arnhem Land/Kakadu region. He is currently focusing his research on alternate development possibilities in hybrid Indigenous economies on the Indigenous estate. Professor Altman is currently an Australian Research Council Australian Professorial Fellow and an adjunct professorial fellow at the Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods at Charles Darwin University. He is a Foundation Director and Secretary of Karrkad-Kanjidji Limited.

Geoff Buchanan is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. He began work as a researcher at the Centre in 2004 having an undergraduate background in environmental policy and economics as well as Indigenous Australian studies. Geoff has worked on a number of research projects relating to the environmental, social and economic significance of the Indigenous estate, caring for country and customary harvest.

Wesley Champion is a senior Rembarrnga man and is currently employed as the Djelk Ranger's Indigenous Protected Area Liaison Officer. Wesley has previously held a number of other senior positions within the Maningrida Community and is a highly regarded translator and facilitator. Among Wesley's recent achievements are the successful conduct and transcription of Djelk's Indigenous Protected Area consultations with over 100 land-owning groups, and playing an instrumental role in the pioneering of rock art tours in his country. Wesley is often called upon to give talks and seminars in Darwin about Djelk's activities.

Peter Cooke came to Northern Territory as a journalist in 1970 but quickly found his way to Maningrida in Arnhem Land working with Indigenous groups returning to establish outstations on their country. Following some years managing Maningrida Arts and Crafts and a fleeting encounter with the public service in public relations he moved to the agit-prop section of the Northern Land Council and then some years in desktop publishing and ethnographic consulting. He returned to the Northern Land Council to head up the inchoate Caring for Country Unit. Attracted incurably to the *warddewardde*, the Arnhem Land Plateau, he helped develop the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Project. He works now as chief executive officer of Warddeken Land Management Limited.

Cherry Daniels is a senior Ngandi traditional owner of south-eastern Arnhem Land. She founded the Yugul Mangi women ranger group in 2002 and retired as a senior ranger in October 2010. While in this role she also worked at the Ngukurr Women's Centre and Ngukurr Language Centre. Prior to this she was an assistant teacher at Ngukurr School and has Certificates in Education and Land Management from Batchelor College of Indigenous Education. She has

also written study material for Aboriginal Studies courses at Deakin University. In 2011 she was honoured by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance on International Women's Day for her contributions to south-east Arnhem Land communities, support for other women, instigation of the Yugul Mangi Rangers and as an Aboriginal leader of the Northern Territory.

Priscilla Dixon is from the Alawa language region south of the Roper River, Northern Territory, and Traditional Owner of Manbilila country. She has worked with the Yugul Mangi Rangers since 2006 after short work experiences at the Ngukurr Sport and Recreation Centre, Women's Centre, Youth Centre and Centrelink in early 2006 after she arrived from Alice Springs. After finishing Year 12 at Kormilda College in Darwin, she worked in Alice Springs as a council secretary and at Centrelink, the Aged Care Centre and community store. Priscilla has a range of qualifications including Certificates in Conservation and Land Management and the Seafood Industry.

Emilie Ens is a research fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. She has a PhD in plant ecology and has 12 years' experience in ecosystem restoration work and research. Since 2008 she has worked with four Indigenous Ranger groups in Arnhem Land to document Indigenous and non-Indigenous biodiversity and ecological knowledge using a range of techniques. In 2010 she initiated annual Indigenous symposia at the Ecological Society of Australia conferences and an Indigenous travel grant scheme to sponsor Indigenous participation. In 2012 she was the guest editor for a special issue of the journal *Ecological Management and Restoration* on the topic of Indigenous land and sea management in remote Australia.

Bill Fogarty completed his PhD at the Australian National University and was a post-doctoral fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research until April 2012. Bill has lived and worked in remote communities as both a teacher and as a researcher for over a decade and has extensive experience in research on Indigenous education policy and service provision. He has worked on projects with a diverse range of organisations concerned with Indigenous Australia such as the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation and the Northern Land Council, as well as the Northern Territory Government. Bill has a particular interest in the relationship between Indigenous and western knowledge and the development of sustainable education and employment pathways in remote communities.

Jack Green is a senior Garawa man from the southern Gulf of Carpentaria. He has been heavily involved in land rights issues for the last 30 years in both the Northern Territory and Queensland. He has worked for both the Northern Land Council in the Northern Territory and the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation in Queensland where he is currently a Director. In 2005, Jack was instrumental in establishing caring for country projects across the southern Gulf region. He currently works as the senior cultural advisor to the Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa Rangers and is based in Borroloola.

Janet Hunt is a fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. She is conducting research about the socioeconomic benefits of Aboriginal people's engagement in land and sea management in New South Wales, with a grant

from the Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of the Premier, New South Wales. She was previously the senior research manager of the Indigenous Community Governance Project. She has a background in international development. Janet's late husband was an Aboriginal fisherman and cultural heritage and environmental activist around his country, the Illawarra region.

Seán Kerins is a research fellow at Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. He has worked with Indigenous peoples and local communities for the last 23 years on cultural and natural resource management issues. Prior to joining the Australian National University, Dr Kerins managed the Northern Land Council's Caring for Country Unit in Darwin. He has also worked as a policy advisor with Te Ohu Kai Moana (The Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission) in Aotearoa/New Zealand, implementing the customary component of the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act. He has previously undertaken research on community-based management of whales in the Faroe Islands.

Napunda Marawili is a member of the Madarrpa clan, from Yilpara and of the Yirritja moiety. He works for the Yirralka Rangers as a senior ranger. Napunda has played a central role in the development and growth of the Yirralka Rangers.

Banduk Marika works for Yirralka Rangers as a cultural advisor and has a special interest in Yolngu ecology and seasonal indicator plants. She was instrumental in running the Gamarrwa Nuwul Landcare group based in Yirrkala through the late 1990s and 2000s. Banduk was also a member of the Landcare Council of the Northern Territory. She is an artist, specialising in print making. In 2002 she was awarded the Red Ochre Award which recognised her as one of Australia's most important Indigenous artists. Banduk has also been a board member of the National Gallery of Australia and the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory.

Mandaka Marika is the managing director of the Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation and a senior member of the Rirratjingu clan. Mandaka started working for Dhimurru in 1993 and is Dhimurru's longest serving employee. As managing director, Mandaka represents the traditional owners of the Miwatj region and has overall responsibility for the staff and operations of Dhimurru. 'I love my job. Because of the inspiration of my father I want to continue to fulfil the vision statement of Dhimurru; to keep strong looking after both Yirritja and Dhuwaland'. Mandaka is proud to be part of Dhimurru and proud of the role that his father had in setting the vision for the organisation. Mandaka is a strong advocate of Dhimurru's *bukmak* approach – everyone working together.

Wanyubi Marika works as the cultural manager of the Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area. Wanyubi was instrumental in establishing both the Yirralka Rangers and the Indigenous Protected Area. It is through his work that both projects came to fruition. Wanyubi is also an artist whose innovative application of his clan law in fine art set him apart as an artist to watch from the beginning of his artistic career. His work is held in a number of important collections in Australia. He is also chairperson of the Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre and Museum. He is currently working with his clan's commercial enterprise, Bunuwal Industries.

Katherine May was a research officer on the People on Country, Healthy Landscapes and Indigenous Economic Futures project from March 2009 to July 2011. Her background is in international development, having worked with an international environmental non-government organisation in England prior to joining the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. Katherine's research focused on identifying and analysing government support for Indigenous land and sea management and the social and economic benefits of Indigenous engagement in natural and cultural resource management. Katherine was also the editor of People on Country project reports and newsletters.

Jimmy Morrison is a Warramungu man born in Tennant Creek. He's lived in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria for the last 20 years and his children, through matrilineal descent, are Waanyi and through him Warramungu. Jimmy has been involved with the caring for country projects for the last four years. He currently works as the coordinator for the Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa Rangers and is based in Borroloola. He enjoys getting out bush and learning about Garawa and Waanyi culture and law and land management. Jimmy is also a qualified mechanic.

Banul Munyarryun works for the Yirralka Rangers as a senior ranger. He is Wangurri man from Dhälinbuy and is passionate about transferring traditional knowledge to future generations. He has been instrumental in establishing the *Galtha Rom* (learning law and knowledge of country) project, as well as the recreation area at the Cato River.

Buwathay Munyarryun works for Yirralka Rangers as a cultural advisor. Buwathay is an important lawman for the Wangurri clan. He spends most of his time involved with ceremony at Galiwin'ku and Dhälinbuy. He is also a Uniting Church minister. He lives at the Mutamul outstation and also spends time at Dhälinbuy.

Edna Nelson is from the Ritharrngu language community and is a traditional owner of the Gwyder River area near Bulman in central Arnhem Land. She has worked for the Yugul Mangi Rangers since its inception in 2002, prior to which she worked at the Ngukurr Women's Centre and in aged care. She grew up in Ngukurr where she completed her primary schooling before boarding at Kormilda College in Darwin until Year 10. In 2007 she was selected to participate in an Indigenous leadership course in Canberra and has completed Certificates in Conservation and Land Management and the Seafood Industry.

Ivan Namarnyilk grew up in Jabiru, but is a landowner for Yayminji, which is to the south of Maningrida. Ivan has been with Djelk as a ranger for nearly three years and is learning a great deal about how to manage his country from his colleagues, as well as being trained to work in increasingly complex land and sea management activities. Ivan hopes to work in a senior role within Djelk in the future.

Tanya Patterson is a Banbai woman from a large family. She has seven siblings, 27 nieces and nephews and 26 great nieces and nephews. She has been the manager of Banbai Business Enterprises since 2003. She has qualifications in business administration and training. She has always been involved in black politics and working with Aboriginal organisations. She worked for the Guyra Local

Aboriginal Land Council as housing officer in the 1990s, initially voluntarily then in a paid job. Her first ever job was as a car detailer in Armidale for the local land council that owned a wrecking yard.

Steve Roeger has been the executive officer of the Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation for the past 10 years. Steve has qualifications in natural resource management and has been adopted into the Rirratjingu clan. As executive officer Steve takes responsibility for the Dhimurru budget and resource allocations. He also coordinates Ngapaki (non-Aboriginal) input to projects and activities undertaken by or affecting Dhimurru. 'Dhimurru has been one of the most challenging jobs I have ever undertaken. Nothing can be taken for granted when working for an Aboriginal organisation and in a cross cultural context. Dhimurru's success is largely due to the tremendous patience and perseverance of the key Yolngu involved. It's a privilege to be part of the team'.

Victor Rostron is a Kune man who was born and raised at Kolorbidahdah outstation. He is the Senior Land Ranger Supervisor for the Djelk rangers and has been working with Djelk for over 13 years. Victor has extensive experience in both land and sea management and has been instrumental in the development of some of Djelk's key initiatives including the establishment of fee for service relationships with Australian Customs and Northern Territory Fisheries. Victor is currently a board member of the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation and also plays a crucial role in the ongoing training and development of young rangers and youth in the Maningrida region.

Julie Roy grew up in Ngukurr and spent much of her school life out bush, learning from her family on their country at Yulu and Budawarrka in south-eastern Arnhem Land. She is from the Mambali clan and Ngandi language group. Prior to starting work with the Yugul Mangi Rangers in 2002, she brought up her first four children and had her fifth child while working with the rangers. She is married to one of the Yugul Mangi Ranger men. Julie has a range of qualifications including Certificates in Conservation and Land Management and the Seafood Industry.

Gillian Towler has over 15 years botanical experience curating and developing the preserved collections of the National Herbarium of New South Wales and living collections of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. She recently completed a temporary appointment at the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research in Canberra working on the Australian Plant Census, an online resource providing a nationally-agreed list of scientific names for native and naturalised vascular plants in Australia. Gillian has provided technical and field support on a number of plant systematics and ecological research projects. Gillian joined the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research in 2009 to assist with biodiversity monitoring training and ethnobotanical recording.

Elisabeth Yarbakhsh completed an honours program in anthropology at the Australian National University in 2011. In early 2012 she joined the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research as a graduate research assistant, providing support for the People on Country, Healthy Landscapes and Indigenous Economic Futures project.

A short note on some terms used

Throughout this book we have mainly used the adjectives ‘Indigenous’, and on occasion ‘Aboriginal’, capitalised to refer to the descendants of Australia’s First Peoples, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. None of the research reported here has been undertaken specifically with Torres Strait Islanders. The lower case use of the adjective ‘indigenous’ refers to indigenous peoples globally.

Most of our partners in the project reported here call themselves by a variety of more localised or regionalised terms. For example, the members of Warddeken Land Management Limited refer to themselves as Nawarddewardde, people of the Stone Country. But they are also members of a larger regional grouping called Bininj, speakers of the Bininj Kunwok language cluster made up of five dialects. Others refer to themselves by local names such as Yol, Yolngu, Waanyi, Garawa or Banbai. In each essay these local forms of identity and self-reference are given priority, as is the preference for the adjective Aboriginal rather than Indigenous.

We have resisted the modern practice of using abbreviations and acronyms as much as possible. But there are three terms used in this book that we need to explain.

First, the name of the Community Development Employment Projects scheme established in 1977 by the Australian Government has had fluctuating nomenclatures over the years, sometimes referred to as the Community Development Employment Program and more recently as the Community Development Employment Projects program. We similarly use these three forms interchangeably.

Second, the terms ‘payment for environmental services’ and ‘ecological services provision’ can sometimes be conflated. The former refers to payments made to organisations or individuals for services provided. The latter refer to the benefits that people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services, such as food, water, timber, and fibre; regulating services that affect climate and water quality; cultural services providing aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and supporting services that assist soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling. As humans, no matter where we live, we are fundamentally dependent on the flow of ecosystem services. Indigenous Australians living and working on the Indigenous estate undertaking caring for country activities play a vital role in protecting and managing ecosystems.

Third, the term ‘traditional owner’ has a technical meaning under the Commonwealth’s Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976: for example, traditional owners making land claims need to demonstrate that they are a local descent group with primarily spiritual responsibility for land and sacred sites and that they have a right to forage over the land claimed. The term is also used less technically to refer to those with customary rights to land under a range of Australian land rights and native title laws. The term is used in both senses in this book.

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