

CLC Womens Land Management gets out on country

The Central Land Council, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, and PY Media worked together recently to engage young women in learning about their country.

During the country visits, PY Media trained young people in multi media and produced three films about mala tracking, rabbit hunting and collecting and telling stories about honey ants.

The CLC's Womens Land Management Development Project supports traditional owners from five communities - Tennant Creek, Willowra, Mutitjulu, Lajamanu and Alice Springs - to undertake country visits.



Above: filming the search for honey ants near Uluru

These visits focus on recording traditional ecological knowledge, identifying natural and cultural resource management issues and carrying out on-

ground land management.

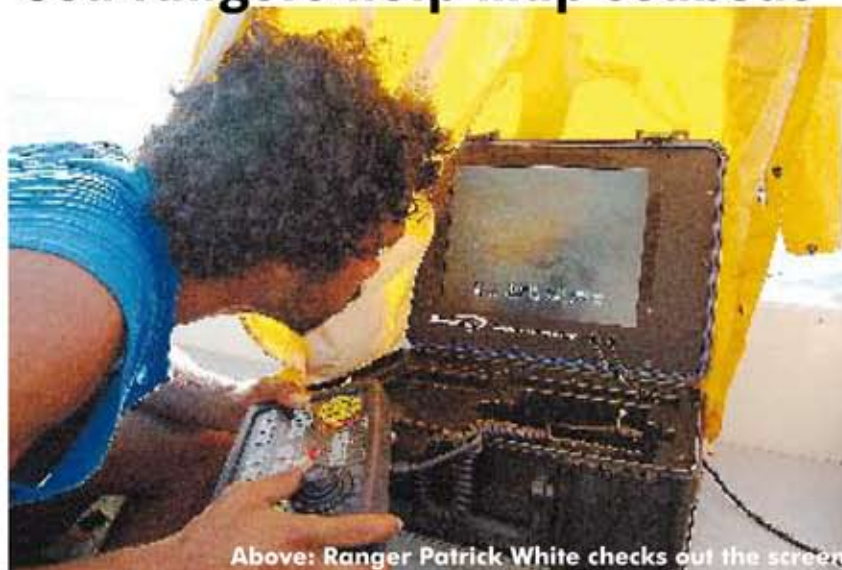
The documentation of country visits is carried out by young women who are given multi-media training.



Above: filming the Willowra country visit with Willowra school and older members of the community. The kids learnt about digging for echidnas (above) and how to prepare them for cooking (right)



Sea rangers help map seabeds



Above: Ranger Patrick White checks out the screen

Indigenous sea rangers and Northern Territory marine scientists are pioneering the first attempt to combine traditional Indigenous ecological knowledge with the latest hi-tech marine mapping technology.

Indigenous sea rangers from the Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation, based at Nhulunbuy, teamed up with marine scientists in a bid to map the marine seabed features around Bremer Island, off north-east Arnhem Land.

The seabed map-

ping survey used a hi-tech underwater remote operated vehicle together with traditional ecological knowledge from sea rangers.

The Bremer Island survey also tested a new methodology that uses high resolution imagery of shallow

waters to undertake preliminary mapping of different habitats.

The results of the survey will be compiled into a detailed seabed habitat map that will assist Dhimurru Sea Rangers in the management of the marine habitats around Bremer Island.

Indigenous rangers receive \$26 million Federal boost

The Federal Government has recognised the important work conducted by Indigenous rangers in northern Australia in protecting biodiversity with a \$26 million boost

The funding will enable an extra 44 Indigenous rangers to be employed on a full-time basis at a cost of \$2.6 million.

The \$26 million package also includes:

\$21.65 million to boost the work of Indigenous rangers on Australia's 25 declared Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA)s over the next five years;

\$2.454 million this year to help develop new IPAs;

\$2.662 million to employ up to 44 Indigenous rangers this year through eight Working on Country projects.

Environment Minister Peter Garrett said the funding would

fight biodiversity loss through protecting turtles from ghost nets, fighting weeds and wildfire, and controlling feral animals.

"A huge proportion of Australia's habitat is on Indigenous-owned land and much of it is incredibly remote, so we rely on the dedication and skills of Indigenous people to conserve it for all Australians," Mr Garrett said.

"As we face threats from climate change our environment needs its Indigenous rangers more than ever."

The Federal Government has signalled it plans to create an 'environmental rescue force' of 300 Indigenous rangers.