

Tjuwanpa Rangers make the earth move

The capacity of the Tjuwanpa Rangers based near Hermannsburg, west of Alice Springs, is growing with several of their men being trained to operate earth moving equipment.

The rangers recently completed certificate qualifications for the operation of a variety of earth moving machinery, chainsaws and welding equipment.

Organised by the Central Land Council with help from Charles Darwin University, the training means the rangers will be able to carry out road repairs, upgrades of tourist camp grounds and other tasks related to their work including using the equipment in extreme fire conditions.

Casey Kenny has been with the rangers for three years. He said he enjoyed the training.

"We've been doing training for the bobcat course, fork lift, excavator or T Rex," he said with a laugh.

"We'll be allowed to use them because we've done the course and have our certificates. We could do a lot of things. There'll be a lot of work on them."

In contrast, Aaron Meneri has only just started with the rangers. He said it's been a steep learning curve.

"Been learning a lot," he said. "All the machinery and everything. It's good to learn more things."

"The bobcat's alright. The excavator was a bit hard. The bobcat was easy."

Aaron said he'd been encouraged to seek out a job with the rangers by his family.

"My brothers talked me into getting a job instead of sitting back home. (It was) a good idea."

He's now encouraging other young people to consider it.

"I think they should think about it rather than sitting back home," Aaron said. "Learn more. It's a bit hard (turning up every day) but you get more used to it and it's alright."

Another ranger, Malcolm Kenny, said he welcomed the variety of equipment he was trained to operate.

"A bit of everything like bobcat training and the excavator, a bit of welding and oxie cutting," he said.

"It's pretty easy. I like the whole lot. We do the tourist camp inside Palm Valley, Ormiston and fix those camp sites."

"Rangers is good because you get to go everywhere doing a lot of work."

Jeremy Kenny said the training will allow the Tjuwanpa Rangers to carry out a greater variety of work in their region.

"So we can do the tourism for NT," he said. "Just fixing up some tracks, cutting some down with chainsaws for them trees that are blocking the roads and stuff."

"It's a bit hard when you first start but when you get used to it it's a bit easier."

"I like the excavator and chainsaw. We did some welding at CDU there. We'll probably get a certificate. Get a license for them."

Jeremy said the qualifications won't just be useful by their ranger work but for any other employment opportunities in the future.

"If not for rangers then prob-



Top: Tjuwanpa Rangers (front row) Jeremy Kenny, Aaron Meneri, Casey Kenny, Trevor Zibell from AFTC Industrial Training and Logistics (through Charles Darwin University), Peter Braybon and Christian Malbunka. Bottom: Danny Sneddon, from Charles Darwin University, instructs Christopher Ungwanaka, from Hermannsburg, in the art of welding.

ably at the mines or something," he said. "Yeah work on the roads, the highway, stuff like that."

Wagiman Guwardagun Rangers move into new ranger base

The Wagiman Guwardagun Rangers have moved into a new Ranger Base to care for over 4,000 square kilometres of country in the Upper Daly region.

Until recently the rangers have been working out of the Pine Creek Aboriginal Advancement Association office at Kybrook Farm.

Successful grant applications from the Northern Land Council to the Aboriginal Benefits Account and the Working on Country program have enabled the establishment of a ranger base at Lewin Springs and the employment of four male and two female rangers.

The ranger base enables the Wagiman Guwardagun Rangers to have a greater presence on country.

Their work includes implementing traditional burning practices, managing weeds and feral animals, protecting waterways, looking after sacred sites and getting young people more involved in their country and culture.

Right: the Wagiman Guwardagun Rangers.

