Tjuwanpa Rangers celebrate their 10th birthday

On Tuesday December 1, the Tjuwanpa Rangers will mark a decade of working on country with an open day and ceremony at the ranger office at Ntaria (Hermannsburg).

All are invited to join past and present rangers, traditional owners, government representatives and staff from the wide range of agencies associated with the group over last 10 years.

One of the longest running ranger groups in the CLC’s Ranger Program, the Tjuwanpa Rangers operate on Western Arrernte country.

Under the guidance of traditional owners, they undertake a range of land management activities at the Finke Gorge and West MacDonnell National Parks for the NT Parks and Wildlife Commission, as well as work on the 3,800 square kilometers of Aboriginal land around Ntaria.

Often operating in extreme conditions, the rangers perform controlled burns, wildlife surveys, infrastructure improvements, maintenance of significant sites and work to reduce the impact of weeds and feral animals.

They also support a number of activities run by the Ntaria school such as a Junior Ranger program and country camps.

The program has bounced back from a major blow following the scrapping of CDEP in 2007 which saw the rangers back on the dole just a week after winning an NT Landcare Award.

Tjuwanpa Ranger Co-ordinator Craig LeRossignol said the group owes a lot to the original rangers.

“I think today’s success is built on their efforts,” he said.

“Many are still employed on the community and are traditional owners themselves, we draw on their help and expertise.”

Director of the Central Land Council, David Ross, said the group remains a strong example of the benefits of indigenous ranger groups

“The Tjuwanpa Rangers have been critical players in demonstrating the opportunities that joint management is able to provide,” he said.

“The commitment and dedication of the rangers themselves and their successive co-ordinators has seen them rise to all that’s been put in front of them.”

“The whole community should be proud.”

The Central Land Council gratefully acknowledges the foundational funding received from the NT Government and the Indigenous Land Corporation, the continuing from the Federal Government’s Working on Country initiative and continued support from the Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre.

When: Tuesday 1st December, 9.30am
Where: Tjuwanpa Ranger Office (aprox 130kms west of Alice Springs, continue along Larapinta Drive, past the turn off to Ntaria, cross Finke River and take the immediate first turn on your right)

30 November, 2015

Contact: Emma Sleath, emma.sleath@clc.org.au / 0488 984 885