CHECKING-UP ON WANKURRA AT GULUWURRU ISLAND + MOVING MORE WANKURRA

A collaborative project between NT Government, Gumurr Marthakal Rangers and Kakadu National Park (with funding through Threatened Species Network, NHT and NT Government)
THE STORY SO FAR............
Wankurra (Golden Bandicoot *Isoodon auratus*) are part of a group of animals that have disappeared from most of mainland Australia. Wankurra used to be found in a lot more places on the Australian mainland. Now the only places where we find Wankurra on the mainland are in the rocky sandstone country in the north Kimberley of Western Australia. In the Northern Territory (NT), Wankurra are now found only on Martjanba Island. There aren’t many Wankurra left, so Wankurra is now listed as Endangered in the NT.


In the beginning, it was during the 1993 survey of the Wessel Islands that we found Wankurra living on Martjanba Island.

In 1994 we worked with the traditional owners who helped us catch Wankurra.

In 2004, 2006, 2007 we worked with the Gumurr Marthakal Rangers looking at where Wankurra live on Martjanba and working out how many Wankurra live on Martjanba.

In 2006 and 2007 we went looking for Wankurra on Guluwuru and Raragala Islands and on Napier Peninsula (with Ian Morris). We never found any Wankurra except for the ones living on Martjanba Island.
MOVING WANKURRA

Because Wankurra are only on Martjanba Island, the traditional Owners agreed that we could move some Wankurra from Martjanba Island to Guluwuru Island. This is called translocation. Translocation of Wankurra to Guluwuru will help make sure that Wankurra stays safe by having populations on two islands.

In September 2007 we moved 12 Wankurra from Martjanba Island to Guluwuru Island.

In September/October 2008 we moved another 18 Wankurra from Martjanba Island to Guluwuru Island.

This picture book is about the 2nd translocation.

Tracks of Wankurra on Guluwuru Island (Photo Kathy Wilson)
Who came on the trip in September / October 2008

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biodiversity Scientists</th>
<th>Gumurr Marthakal Rangers</th>
<th>Kakadu Rangers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kym Brennan</td>
<td>Bruce Lirrawa, Senior Ranger</td>
<td>Kathy Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Palmer</td>
<td>Ralph Garrawurra</td>
<td>Mick Gorst</td>
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<td>Timothy Dhurrkay</td>
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<td>James Djamu</td>
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How we went about moving Wankurra..........

We had one camp set-up at Jensen Bay. The Rangers, Kym and Mick were based at Jensen Bay. Each afternoon traps were set to catch Wankurra. In the morning traps were checked and then a few Wankurra were moved by boat each day to Guluwuru.

(Photo Mick Gorst)
We travelled each day between Martjanba and Guluwuru by boat.
At Guluwuru Island

Kathy and Carol camped the first week at Guluwuru where they checked on the Wankurra that had been moved from last year. There were lots of Wankurra tracks - but we couldn’t catch any.........!
Once the new Wankurra arrived we would say “hello” and let them go on their new island home.

(Photo Kathy Wilson)
The 2\textsuperscript{nd} trapping site south of Red Point

There was no fresh water at Guluwuru so after one week Kathy and Carol moved back to the old trapping site south of Red Point on Martjanba to help catch Wankurra. There was fresh water there!

(Photo Carol Palmer)
What next.........

- During September/October 2009 we would like to go back to Guluwuru to check on the 30 Wankurra that we have translocated there and check that they are all OK (We moved 12 Wankurra in 2007 and 18 in 2008)
- If all OK we would like to move around 20 Wankurra to Raragala Island
- We need to get the TO's permission for this last translocation and the Marthakal Gumurr Rangers said that they will do the consultations
WORK WELL DONE! HEADING HOME!