



**Wagyl
Kaip
Southern
Noongar**
Aboriginal Corporation

WKSNS NEWS

Chair's message

JEANICE KRAKOUER

Kaya,

Happy new year to all our members!

2023 was a year of foundation building, putting together a new team of staff, developing a strategic plan, making progress on cooperative and joint management of our boodja, and engaging in consultation with the community.

We held 11 community meetings where members could ask questions about the Noongar Land Estate, and we'll have more throughout the upcoming year.

As part of the next phase in our journey, we are very happy to introduce our new CEO, Noelene McCormick. She has already hit the ground running, and we can't wait to see what she achieves for us in 2024.

Looking forward

The end of last year was marked by the disappointing defeat of the Voice to Parliament referendum. Our community felt this loss keenly, and we have taken time to grieve.

But we are strong, and remain committed to finding new ways to make progress for our people. Our corporation remains the recognised voice for our people, and we will continue to make sure we're heard by governments at all levels.



Leon Wynne, Craig McVee, Tony Noonan, Megan Anwyll, Noelene McCormick, Jeanice Krakouer and Deborah Woods

In November we held our second AGM aalong with board and CAC elections.

Please give a warm welcome to our new directors Craig McVee, Deborah Woods and Leon Wynne, and our new CAC members Deanna Eades (re-elected), Patricia Williams, Shawn Colbung and Stewart Brian Hansen.

I also want to give a heartfelt thank you to previous directors Oscar Colbung, Mervyn Eades and Malcolm Williams, and outgoing CAC members Averil Dean, Terrance Rodney and Robert Eades. You all gave a great deal of time and energy to WKSNS, and have contributed to our successes.

As always, if you have any questions, please email us at kaya@wagylkaip.org.au.

Jeanice Krakouer
WKSNS Chair

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Introducing...

Our new WKSN CEO, Noelene McCormick



Kaya,

It's an honour to be the new WKSAN CEO, and I'm looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

I'm married to Peter, and I'm the mother of two sons and a daughter, and grandmother of five. My family is from Busselton, then my Mother moved to Mullewa where I was born. I went to school in Geraldton, then teachers college in Perth, before moving to Darwin.

I hold a Bachelor of Education, a Master in Public Administration and a Cert IV in Investigations.

I have extensive experience in both government and not-for-profit sectors, with a background in education, management, audit and investigation.

I began my career as a teacher, including teaching ESL in remote communities, then as a Principal. I then held executive roles in government including as a director of audit and ethical standards.

Seizing an opportunity

The Settlement represents a huge opportunity for Noongar people to move forward.

As someone who served as a SWALSC director for two terms, I have a strong understanding of the Settlement. I want to use that understanding to ensure the WKSAN corporation maintains a strong direction and drive to take charge of the agenda.

Having worked with government a long time, I know how the system works. The Settlement gives Noongar people a solid platform from which to advocate and advance our people.

In addition to managing land and heritage, WKSAN will use its position as a gateway organisation to make sure that when government agencies provide services for Noongar people that those services meet our community's needs.

Building a nation

The Settlement contains the resources to build an effective organisation of regional corporations, working together to benefit Noongar people for generations to come.

I believe we all have a responsibility to find and nurture individuals, help those who need it, and bring the community together in cooperation not competition.

An organisation is only as good as its people, and I want us all to be our best.

Let's use this year to get things moving, and use the Settlement to make our people stronger, healthier and more united into the future.

Noelene McCormick
WKSAN CEO

Mamam Maambakoort Marine Park Draft Joint Management Plan

The Mamam Maambakoort Marine Park will have a footprint covering Bremer Bay to Hopetoun. The park is one of four planned for the south coast, which will mean continuous marine parks along the south coast between Bremer Bay and the South Australian border.

When established, the park will be jointly managed by WKSAN and DBCA. It will employ WKSAN rangers and provide many benefits including capacity building and back to country funding to support mob to get back on country. The draft Joint Management Plan will be released for public comment on February 16. We encourage you to get online and make a submission supporting the creation of the park.





First cooperative management committee meeting

In early December the Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation chairperson Jeanice Krakouer and DBCA South Coast regional manager Peter Hartley signed a commemorative certificate to recognise their committee's first meeting.

The committee will deliver high level advice on matters affecting the conservation estate within the WKSNS settlement area, in a productive partnership to cooperatively manage land into the future.

Cooperative management agreements are a major cornerstone of the South West Native Title Settlement.

They give Noongar people a seat at the table next to government to make strategic decisions and provide direct advice on the management of over a third of Noongar boodja, including state forests, nature reserves, and national parks.

Prior to the Settlement, there was minimal consultation with Noongar people. Now we have a true partnership between Noongar people and DBCA.

WKSNS chairperson Jeanice Krakouer said that "giving Noongar people a strategic role in protecting and managing our land will lead to significant economic, social, cultural and spiritual outcomes.

"All Western Australians who live in and visit the south-west will benefit from Noongar knowledge and traditions becoming embedded in how we protect and manage biodiversity."

About cooperative management

The South West Conservation Estate refers to all lands and waters within the Settlement area that are managed by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). This includes state forests, national parks, nature reserves, and other areas set aside for conservation. The Conservation Estate represents over one third of Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Boodja.

DBCA and each of the six regional corporations have cooperative management agreements for the care and protection of the conservation estate as part of the Settlement.

Each region will each have their own cooperative management committee, which will include:

- six regional corporation representatives:
 - two from the board,
 - two from the cultural advice committee (CAC), and
 - two from the WKSNS membership.
- 2-6 representatives from DBCA, including relevant district/regional managers.

Over time, the corporations will also enter into joint management agreements over particular areas, for example the Mamang Maambakoort Marine Park, which will be located on the south coast between Bremer Bay and Hopetoun.

Left: The first committee meeting (pictured l-r): Mike Shepherd (DBCA), Duncan Palmer (DBCA Donnelly DM), Wendy Williams (WKSNS), Robbie Miniter (WKSNS), Greg Durrell (DBCA Wheatbelt RM), Peter Masters (DBCA Franklin A/DM), Mervyn Eades (WKSNS), Justin McAllister (WKSNS lands manager), Jeanice Krakouer (WKSNS chairperson), Peter Hartley (DBCA South Coast RM), David Williams (WKSNS), Craig McVee (WKSNS), Noelen McCormick (WKSNS CEO) Jeremy Friend (DBCA Albany DM), Karla Forrest (SWNTS project officer)

Right: WKSNS chairperson Jeanice Krakouer and DBCA South Coast regional manager Peter Hartley

Stolen Wages Class Action Settlement

In 2020, Mr Mervyn Street filed a class action on behalf of Indigenous Australians who worked in Western Australia and were paid little or no wages as a result of wage control legislation.

The WA government issued a public apology to the surviving and deceased Aboriginal workers on 28 November 2023, as part of a settlement in which it will pay up to \$180.4 million (depending on registrations).

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible if you lived in WA between 11 December 1936 and 9 June 1972, and worked at some time or had property controlled in that period; or if you represent a family member who qualifies and has since passed away.

Register for the Settlement

You must register for the class action by 30 June 2024, even if you've previously told Shine Lawyers that you want to be part of the class action. Complete the form online at www.shine.com.au/service/class-actions/stolen-wages-class-action or to request physical copies, contact Shine Lawyers on 1800 976 150 or at wastolenwages@shine.com.au.

RNO update

The Ravensthorpe Operating Agreement was signed over to WKSNS on 7 July 2023.

Earlier this year, FQM Australia Nickel announced they would reduce production at the Ravensthorpe mine, focusing on processing existing stockpiles. The result of this will be a workforce reduction of approximately 30%. General Manager Scott Whitehead contacted our CEO and Chairperson with an assurance that FQM would continue to meet its obligations under the agreement for the time being.

We understand that this decision has been made to ensure the future of this mining operation. The grant program, funded by FQM, will continue for now. Below is a report on the two quarters since July 2023.

Round Number	Q1/24	Q2/24
Meeting Date	12 Oct 2023	18 Dec 2023
Applications Received	43	600
Applications Approved	35	581
Amount Requested	\$81,786.40	\$258,905
Amount Approved	\$41,834.00	\$179,255.00

Noongar Land Estate Community meetings update

Last year we held 11 community meetings in towns across the region and in Perth, where members could come and learn more about the Noongar Land Estate.

We're pleased to announce new dates and details for the first of this year's community meetings. Join us for a cuppa and a feed and have your questions answered, including:

- What land is available?
- Who will manage the land?
- Who can use the land?
- What can be done on the land?
- How do my family and I benefit?
- How do my family and I get land?
- Can I build on NLE land?

For more information call the WKSNS office on (08) 8166 1940 or email lands@wagylkaip.org.au.



2024 NLE meetings

Boyup Brook

Tuesday, 12 March 2024, 10am

Manjumup

Wednesday, 13 March 2024, 10am

Walpole

Thursday, 14 March 2024, 10am

Ravensthorpe

Tuesday, 16 April 2024, 10am

Bremer Bay

Wednesday, 17 April 2024, 10am