



## Newsletter No. **100!**: Summer/Birak 2025

### **Saving Kyloring**

Get up-to-date information about the latest efforts to save this critically endangered parrot unique to Western Australia at:

<https://western-ground-parrot.org.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Western-Ground-Parrot-283796521652371/>

*The Friends acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community, of the lands on which we live and work. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.*

*Proud recipients of Australia's Gift for the Coronation of King Charles III*

***Wishing a joyous and healthy Festive Season to you all!!***

---

In this issue:

- Update from Abby Martin and Sarah Comer about the Team's activities and communications to help conserve the Western Ground Parrot (and other birds)
  - Exciting progress at Perth Zoo for captive parrot breeding
  - The Friends receive a significant financial gift!
  - An update from PhD student, Joseph Jantke
-

## Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Parks and Wildlife Service

Abby Martin and Sarah Comer for the South Coast Threatened Fauna Recovery Team.



Spring sunrise in Cape Arid National Park (A. Martin, DBCA).

Just like that, blink and you would have missed it, but that brings us to the end of 2025. The DBCA led project team have had a very busy year, with some big goals in threatened species management across the South Coast achieved in 2025. Keep an eye out in the latest version of *Birdlife Magazine* for the story of Djimaalap/the Noisy Scrub-bird, one of Kyloriny neighbours.

In the Kyloriny space, operational delivery of landscape scale monitoring and management continued. The team, with assistance from Albany and Esperance District staff, Southern Aboriginal Corporation Rangers (Figure 1) and Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation Rangers (Figure 2), have just finished servicing the network of 100 solar powered Automated Recording Units (ARU) listening for Kyloriny across the translocation site, the Fitzgerald River National Park, Boyatup Unallocated Crown Land<sup>1</sup> (UCL), Cape Arid National Park and Nuytsland Nature Reserve. This network has produced terabytes worth of data recording calling activity that the project team is eagerly filtering through.

To reduce pressure on Kyloriny populations around the breeding season, feral cat control programs were continued at the translocation site, Cape Arid National Park and Nuytsland Nature Reserve. A total of eleven cats were removed from Cape Arid and Nuytsland this Spring. This brought the grand total for 2025 to 40 cats and 1 fox, with an additional four cats being removed from the translocation site this Spring.

Then to finish this year off, most of the project team were in Perth for the Australasian Ornithological Conference, where Sarah presented a fantastic talk on the Structured Decision-Making workshop and how it is being used to plan for Kyloriny's future, and Joseph Jantke (PhD candidate - University of Adelaide) presented on Kyloriny call repertoires. Additional

---

<sup>1</sup> Boyatup UCL is located adjacent to the northwestern boundary of Cape Arid National Park. Monitoring for parrots has been recently extended to this area.

presentations by the team were on Djimaalap/Noisy Scrub-bird and Western Bristlebirds conservation and recovery.

In staff changes, the DBCA team said farewell to Moses (see last Newsletter) who started in the project team in February. He has taken up a casual position at Perth Zoo in the Australian Native Breeding program. We wish him the best of luck with all his endeavours.

So now it is time for some rest, recovery and report writing before the 2026 field season kicks off.

Thanks to DBCA managers and staff who have supported our work, and the Friends of the Western Ground Parrot, BirdLife Australia, South Coast Natural Resource Management and other project partners who have supported operational activities in 2025. Wishing you all the very best for the festive season and we look forward to an exciting new year for Kyloriny and conservation.



Figure 1: Henry Jones (Southern Aboriginal Corporation Ranger) servicing an ARU at the Kyloriny translocation site (C. Watson, DBCA).



Figure 2: Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation Rangers and the project team, walking off into the horizon at Boyatup UCL to service a solar powered ARU (A. Martin, DBCA).

---

## **Western Ground Parrot Update from Perth Zoo - Matt Ricci**

2025 has provided us with another step in the right direction, with two females producing eggs again this season.

Kopin (female) and Joy commenced breeding behaviour and progressed to nesting on a similar timeline to last season, leading to Kopin abandoning the nest at around day 24 of incubation, also similar timing to last year. Upon inspection of the nest, 4 eggs were found. The eggs were sent for analysis, and it was determined that 3 were infertile and 1 was fertile, with signs of early embryonic death. This is an improvement from last season, where all eggs from this pair failed to fertilise. Veterinary staff have added supplementations to the bird's diet that are known to improve male fertility in other species of psittacines (parrots), and we hope that this has contributed towards fertility observed this season.

Kangal (female) and Golambiddee also commenced with good signs of breeding behaviour, leading to Kangal building a nest near one of our many strategically placed "nest cameras". Kangal proceeded to lay 5 eggs in the nest, however she did not commence incubation of the eggs. Instead, she lost interest over a number of days and appeared to be building a new nest in a different location. The abandoned eggs were carefully retrieved by staff and placed into artificial incubation. To our excitement, 4 of the 5 eggs commenced development; unfortunately, none of the eggs reached full-term development. Incubation procedures have been extensively refined over the past few years in preparation for this event, yet artificial incubation of Western Ground Parrots has not been attempted before, making this a valuable experience for us. Kangal went on to complete her second nest away from the cameras and commenced incubation of those eggs. At the time of writing (10/12), she continues to tend to the nest as expected, with plenty of mate feeding assistance from Golambiddee. We continue our strategy of minimising disturbance to the pair, while discretely monitoring their progress.

---

## CHIRPINGS FROM THE CHAIR- PAUL WETTIN



Still my favourite Chirp....my Northern Pike in Canada last year (it was released to continue spreading its genes)!!!

---

The report from Abby and Sarah is very reassuring for the 2 wild populations. As has been highlighted in prior Newsletters, the monitoring and particularly the need for feral predator control is never ending, entailing different removal strategies and major ongoing commitment by the Department. Increasingly the involvement of groups such as the Rangers is a great outcome too. I take my hat off to them all.

The efforts at the Zoo are equally challenging. The report from Matt is very encouraging in terms of the program getting closer and closer to successful captive breeding. It's with "bated breath" I'm waiting to hear from the Zoo about the outcome of the active nest.

### **Fantastic Gift**

The Friends have been the beneficiary of a generous gift from the Estate of the late Craig Johnston. Craig was a member of the Friends and a Committee member some 12-15 years ago. The Estate is in the process of being finalised at the moment and from it the Friends will likely receive close to \$90,000; a wonderful contribution to help Save Kyloring.

Thank you Mr Johnston!!

### **Annual General Meeting and Committee member update**

At our AGM in November, we once again heard an excellent presentation from Dr Sarah Comer with the latest news about the DBCA field work for Kyloring - as per the DBCA report above. She also updated us on the status of the Strategic Decision-Making process, as below.



The current Committee was re-elected: Paul Wettin - Chair, Julie Lee - Treasurer and Rosemary Argue, Peter Stewart, Liz Tanner and Chris Young as Committee members. We have also been joined by Sue Plewright who is our (new) Secretary. It's an excellent Committee and my thanks to you all!!

### **Recognising Peter Stewart!**

The interesting career of long-term Committee member Peter Stewart was highlighted in a special article in the November issue of the Southerly Magazine (<https://www.southerlymagazine.com.au/>). As well as being a stalwart supporter for Kyloring, Peter has had a long and distinguished career in removing pestilent feral plants from many areas along the South Coast of Western Australia. He has also been integral to many large projects to revegetate native plant species. He was named Albany's Citizen of the Year in 2014 in recognition of this work which he continues to do today with ongoing passion and success.

### **Friends Grant for Kyloring PhD research**

The Friends Committee decided to provide a \$5,000 research grant to assist Joseph Jantke's PhD research at Adelaide University which is intending to significantly improve the processing of the terabytes of data being retrieved from the ARUs (see DBCA report). Joseph was introduced in our Winter/Makuru Newsletter. Here's an update from him.

*I've just recently passed the 1<sup>st</sup> year mark of my PhD, and the next 12 months promise to be even more exciting than the last. I've just recently completed the full deployment of my network of acoustic arrays in Cape Arid National Park and Nuytsland Nature Reserve and have had the pleasure of presenting some preliminary acoustic results at three conferences in November: the Australian Acoustical Society Conference in Perth (Figure 3), Australasian Ornithological Conference (Perth), and Ecological Society of Australia Conference in Adelaide (Figure 4). I'm very thankful to the Friends for supporting me with research funds for a hire car to deploy my array, and registration to the Acoustical Society Conference. Besides having the pleasure of meeting Paul in person for the first time at the Ornithological Conference, I also met and interacted with many bird, acoustics, and ecology researchers from around Australia to seek inspiration and ideas for my PhD. Right now, I'm processing vegetation and acoustic data from the first 6 months of recordings I've collected from the initial partial deployment of my arrays in May and look forward to presenting some of it next year!*

*Happy holiday season.*

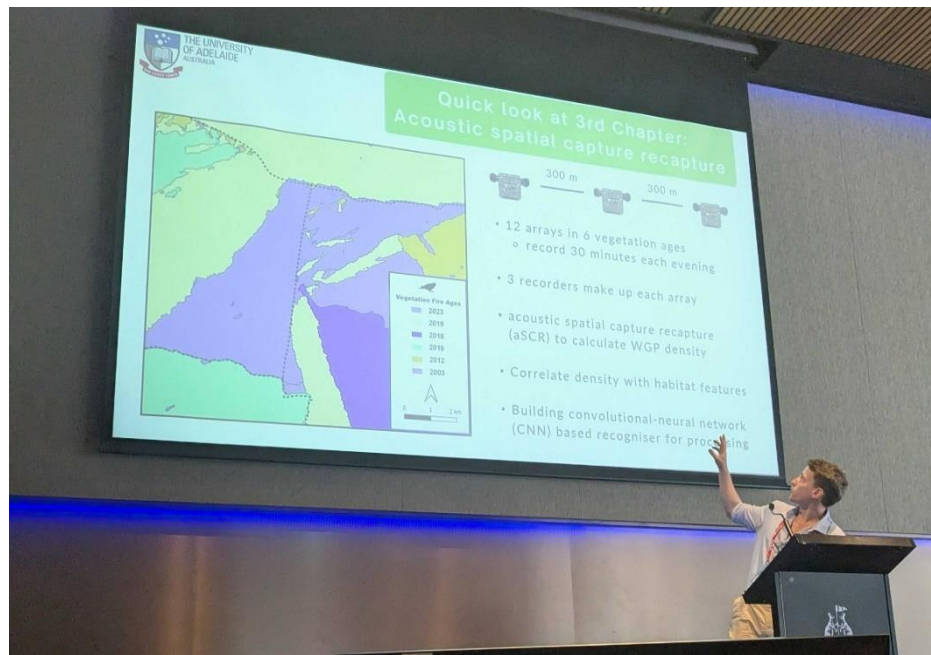


Figure 3. Joseph presenting at the Acoustical Society of Australia conference in Perth on some initial research outcomes for my first chapter on developing an acoustic repertoire for the Western Ground Parrot. (credit unknown)



Figure 4. Joseph presenting a poster at the Ecological Society of Australia Conference in Adelaide with some initial research outcomes on developing an acoustic repertoire for the Western Ground Parrot. (Credit unknown)

**And thanks Hayden Long**

Continuing in this space, recently Hayden Long, an Ornithology student at Charles Sturt University completed a podcast interview about Kyloring with Sarah Comer and myself as part of his Conservation Management course. This interview process was a first time and interesting experience for me. Hayden received a High Distinction for the course and has



provided the Friends with a copy of the podcast. With the risk of being biased, I found the podcast to be quite informative and engaging and should be so for anyone interested in the parrots. I am intending to make it available via our website soon so that listeners can make up their own minds (and the Friends possibly make further use of podcasts in the future).

### **Strategic Decision-Making process**

As identified in the Winter/Makuru 2025 Newsletter, in February 2025, DBCA hosted the second two-day Structured Decision-Making workshop. Being a part of this process as a Recovery Team member representing the Friends, it is important to emphasise the major complexity and seriousness of the considerations of the range of alternative strategies, and the iterations, to continue actions to Save Kyloring. This is necessarily a time-consuming process given it's all about the next 10 years of Recovery Plan actions and investment for the conservation of the parrots. This Recovery Plan will also directly influence the Friends' supporting investment.

### **New Website**

Our new website is operational ([western-ground-parrot.org.au](https://western-ground-parrot.org.au)). It has been revamped to make it more user-friendly, particularly on smaller devices such as smart phones and tablets. Sincere thanks go to founding Friends member and former Committee Chair Anne Bondin and Committee Member Rosemary Argue for this great outcome.

### **Kyloring earrings and studs**

BirdLife Western Australia has obtained Kyloring earrings and studs (see below) and has generously made them available for us to sell. Its intended that both will be available via our Merchandise webpage soon at \$20 for earrings and \$10 for studs plus postage.



Kyloring Earrings



Studs

---