

the region

- further training and experience in wildlife survey, tracking and management techniques in a Threatened Species Network project to protect a number of threatened species such as the Bilby from fox predation in the Sangsters Bore area of the Tanami Desert
- training in research and consultation skills through fieldwork for a collaborative Desert Knowledge CRC research project ('Managing Fire in the Southern Deserts')
- participation in a Bushfire Awareness and Training course conducted by the NT Bushfire Council at Willowra
- additional biological survey training through participation in two week-long surveys of cultural and natural resource values of Newhaven Reserve to inform site visitation protocols and provide ethno-ecological materials for visitor interpretation
- contract opportunities in on-ground weed control negotiated with Tanami mining company Newmont Australia
- participation in accredited training in Conservation and Land Management provided by Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Training and Education (BIITE)

### **Tjuwanpa Ranger program (Hermannsberg)**

Strong momentum was readily re-established with this group after a funding shortfall that stalled the program for six months in the latter half of 2005.

An MOU between the CLC and Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre revived funding and other support for the program which enabled it to resume in January 2006 for a further six months while longer-term funding arrangements were negotiated with the NT Government and the ILC. Employment and training activity in this period included:

- periodic FEP employment in Simpsons Gap, Finke Gorge, Palm Valley and West MacDonnell National Parks through the Flexible Employment Program (FEP). 16 community rangers were involved in nine field programs structured around activities such as construction of electric feral animal exclusion fences, possum and other small animal surveys, fire management and construction, repairs and maintenance of campgrounds, lookouts and other visitor amenities
- participation of three members of the Tjuwanpa Ranger crew in Bushfires training conducted by Batchelor Institute in Alice Springs.

### **Muru-warinyi Ankkul Ranger program (Tennant Creek)**

- accreditation for eight rangers in units toward the Conservation and Land Management (CLM) Certificates from the BIITE through workshops, coursework and fieldwork undertaken in plant identification, fauna survey techniques, media skills, guide training and Bush Fire Level 1
  - Three rangers completed the CLM Certificate 2 and one has commenced CLM Certificate 3. Five rangers continue to study CLM Certificate 2
  - participation in a Soil Conservation workshop and on-ground demonstration of erosion-control works conducted by the CLC Soil Conservation Officer
  - participation in a weeds information day run by NT Government staff and weed identification and eradication workshop conducted by Greening Australia in conjunction with BIITE
- Eight rangers were trained in methods of weed eradication which equipped them to eradicate Rubber Bush and Parkinsonia on the Muckaty Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT) and areas of the Warumungu ALTs
- training in water quality moni-

toring and waterholes of cultural significance at the former Phillip Creek mission block

- construction of 17 km of boundary fencing and erosion-control exclusion fencing on Aboriginal land holdings in the Tennant Creek area
- construction of visitor infrastructure at the popular tourist destination of Kunjarra (Devils Pebbles). Five rangers completed units in Certificate 1 Construction with BIITE as part of Kunjarra infrastructure project
- Six commercial contracts for land management work associated with maintaining heritage sites, Rubber Bush eradication and mine site rehabilitation in the Tennant Creek area

Discussions commenced also with Freightlink about an ongoing role for the rangers in implementing the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Alice Springs to Darwin railway corridor in the Tennant Creek region.

- One of the group was recruited by the Parks and Wildlife Service as an Aboriginal ranger trainee.
- Acknowledgement of their commitment and success with a Certificate of Merit in the Indigenous Community Landcare Awards.

### **Others**

Initiatives were also taken to develop other emerging groups to provide employment, social and environmental outcomes in other remote areas.

- responding to incentive established by the Muru-warinyi Ankkul ranger group in two other small communities in the Tennant Creek area. Kalanjarri community members to the south were incorporated into training workshops and Flexible Employment Programs operated by the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service under joint management activities in the Davenport-Murchison National Park and Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve.