

Walking together to go forward stronger....

ARNPNet @ the Research Institute for Environment
and Livelihoods, Charles Darwin University.

November 2020

Ramingining Team

- Journey for this project began at Yellow water...with Old lady (Wulumirr)
- Then the project went to Buluhkaduru, Malnyangarnak and Ramingining
- There has been 3 leadership training workshops – 2 with BNHCRC Training project: Stephen Sutton and 1 with AIRD
- There were 2 trips – Darwin and Brisbane



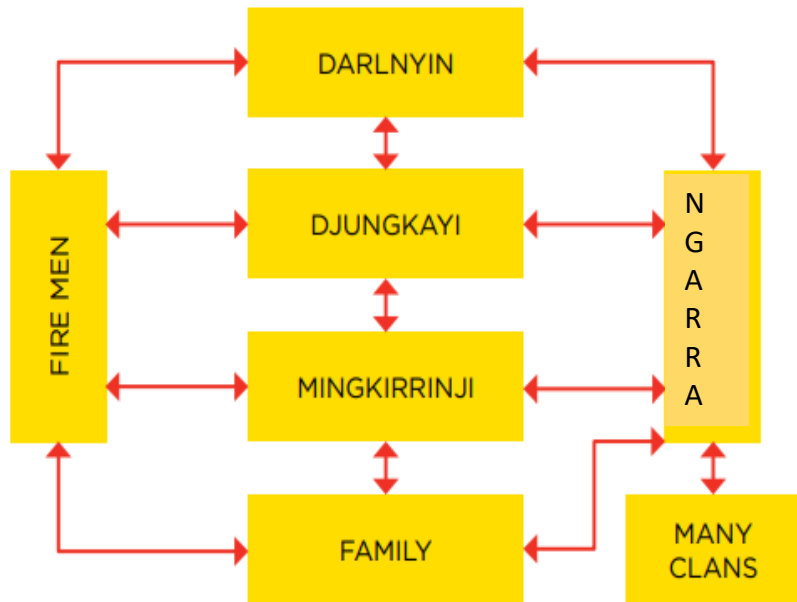


Funny point I just noticed.

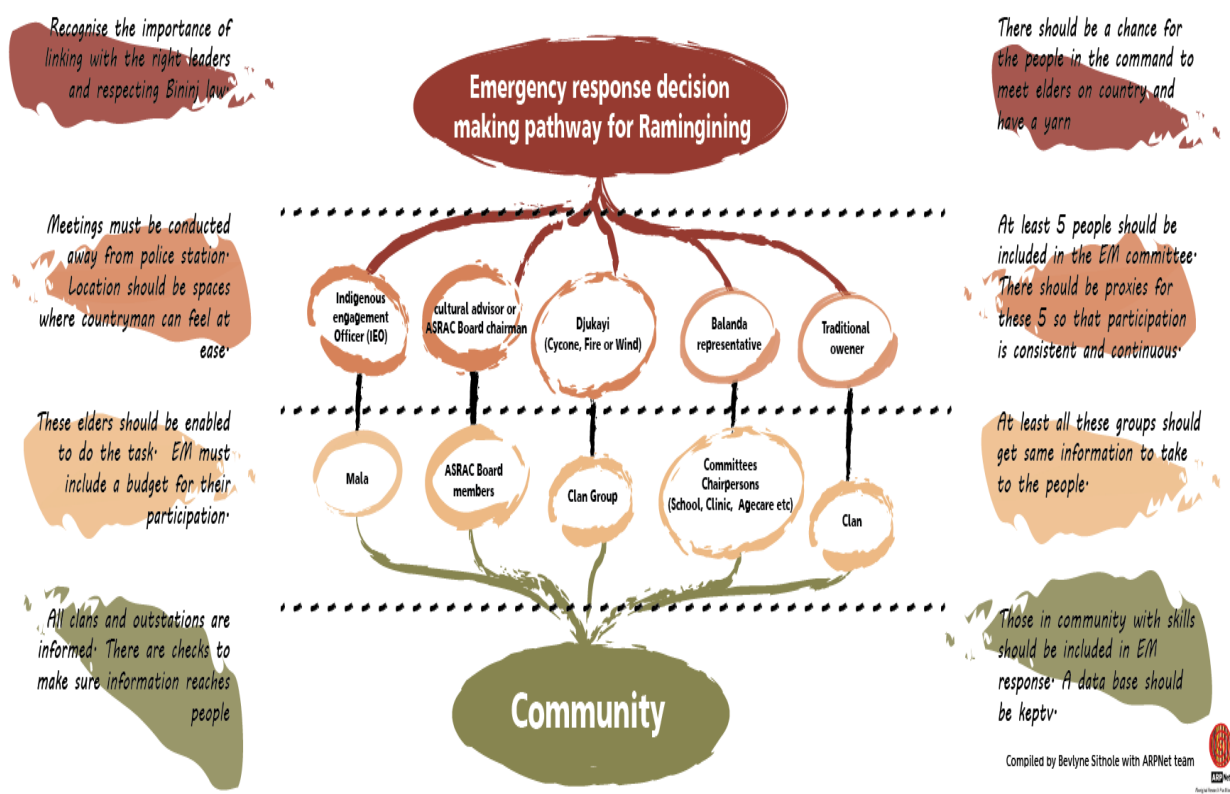
- This project title should be about **supporting** local institutions rather than **building** them.
- Some of you are looking at me funny and thinking what is he talking about?
 - We have institutions, you need to open eyes and see them
 - We are happy to work with government, but we need that recognition from government that they see our institutions and can work with them

So you ask how do we want NTES to connect with us?

Institutions that we have



How ER can work with these institutions



To become strong for decision making for ER we developed a different type of training for leadership with BNHCR Training project

Situation on the ground

1. People don't know about ER plans
2. Leaders are not involved
3. NTES only talking to 2 people



BUILDING STRONG EMERGENCY RESPONSE (ER) INSTITUTIONS IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Protocols for effective engagement in Ramingining

Building strong institutions for emergency response in remote communities involves sitting together with the right people, it involves working continuously with the knowledge holders and bringing together both ways of knowing - Balanda knowledge and Bininj knowledge. It also involves whole community engagement and continuously building community skills not just targeting particular groups. It includes an acknowledgement that Balanda way is different from Bininj way but through 'yarning'/talking we can move forward and be stronger together for the future. Balanda need to move away from ticking boxes, we need to sit down and work together to come up with a plan where we are all players - where there are bits that countryman are good at and can do and bits that the Balanda are good at and can do. We can all do our part. But to do this, agencies need to cost engagement properly so that there is time and resources to do engagement more effectively.

Know the hazard and identify the right people (holders of the key) for that hazard.

For example, that cyclone belongs to the Gupapuryu clan, and they have a kinship relationship with the cyclone

Each hazard has a different configuration of people who hold knowledge and have the acknowledged responsibility for responding to that hazard. There are recognised ways of communicating about the hazard among those that hold the knowledge and responsibility. In each community there will be individuals or clan groups identified with a hazard. This is an important group to engage with. Check in each community to find out who these people are. Involving them will mean that more people in the community will hear about warnings and what to do. We must value inclusion as a strength not a problem.

Know what constitutes the community (and what sub groups are in it) you are working with.

Know what the constituent elements of the community are and how leadership is connected. This can be clan groups, outstation communities or visitors to the community. Most communities are able to give clear directions to the way the community is constituted. If this is not available, the community elders are often able to identify sub groups within the general community. Though this version is unofficial, it is probably more accepted therefore not contested. This does not always provide enough information about the layers of leadership. This means there is not one but many leaders and each or all per group needs to be engaged.

Emergency Response governance structure and our mobs they not connected proper way yet

Working together is hard but we have some protocols you can follow...

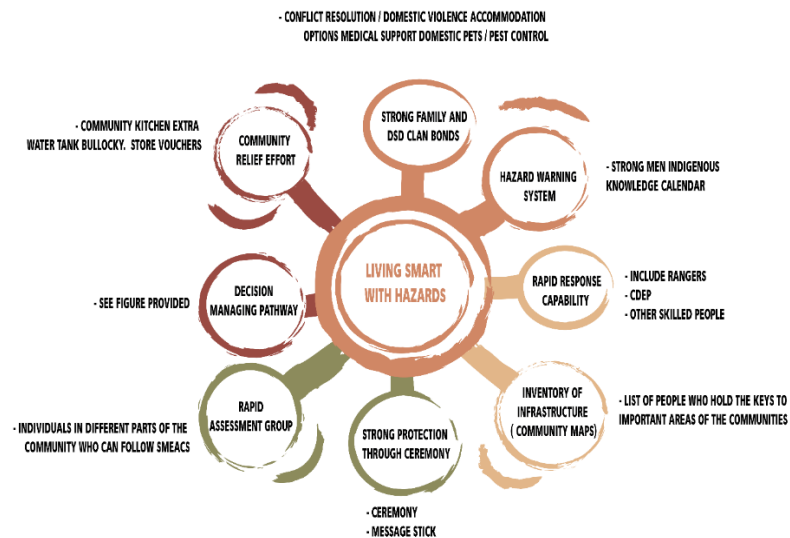
- Sometimes we hear
 - Both ways
 - Shared responsibility
 - Community involvement
 - Closing the Gap
- But what does it mean?
- We don't see it on the ground.
- There are fences everywhere keeping us mob out even on their own land, everything you gotta get permission, some Balanda gotta say YES before you can do anything.

How do we make a plan
so everyone is involved
and play a part

Situation now:

- Few people see or know about the plan
- Few people want to go to Police station to ask for that plan

ARPNet have helped us put our ideas online where all the people can help with the plan.



[A Living Handbook](#)



BNHCRC project outcomes

- ❑ **Model of an inclusive decision-making pathway** for Emergency management (Poster). NTES now knows who to speak to even if they don't do it.
- ❑ **Community Emergency Response Plan** – a Living Handbook accessible online (under preparation, will need additional funding to teach key agencies and community members how to update the plan)
- ❑ **Rapid Assessment and planning tool** using 3D model map of Ramingining (needs to be mounted and finalized with the on-ground team)
- ❑ **3-day training on-Country cultural training course** outline

Outputs from the project

Posters

Sithole B, Campion B.M., Brian C., Bununggu J, and Sutton S with ARPNet team. 2020. Unmasking the hidden structures within – A pathway for effective community level decision-making for emergency response in central Arnhem land. AFAC 2020.

Sutton S, Sithole B. Hunter-Xenie H., and Campion B. O. 2019. To change a culture you have to understand it. Presented at AFAC 2019.

Sutton S., Sithole B., Sutton I., Campbell D., Cameron M., Campion O., Campion M., Brian R., (2018) Training as Research and Research as Training in remote north Australia. Presented at AFAC (2018).

Sithole B., Sutton S., Pickering S., Hunter-Xenie H., Sutton I, Campbell. D., Yibarbuk D., Campion O., Brian C., Redford M., Campion J., Campion M., and Brian H. 2017. Time to get the balance right with them government mob – building resilience in BNH management through stronger community participation. AFAC 2017.

Conference presentations

Sithole B. 2020. The future in our own hands. ADRC 2020

We have participated in the BNHCRC Research forums (Adelaide and Darwin) and the NAILSMA enduser workshop in darwin. We have presented every year at the AFAC Research Forum.

Sithole B with ARPNet 2019. Hazard smart remote communities in Northern Australia – Community led preparedness. Presented at the APRU Conference, 2019, ANU, Australia.

Sithole B, Hunter-Xenie, H with the ARPNet 2019. Hazard smart remote communities in Northern Australia. Presentation at the AFAC research forum 2019, Perth. (see paper in AJEM)

Sutton S., Sithole B., Sutton I., Campbell, D., Cameron M., Campion O.B., Campion M., Brian R., 2017. Training as Research and Research as Training in remote north Australia.,

Sithole B., Hunter-Xenie H., Sutton S., Sutton I., Campbell D., Yibarbuk D., Campion O., Brian C., Redford M., Campion J., Campion M., and Brian H., 2017. Time to get the balance right with them government mob – building resilience in BNH management through stronger community participation. AFAC 2017, Sydney Australia.

Sutton S, Sithole B. Hunter-Xenie H., and Campion B. O. (2019). To change a culture you have to understand it. Presented at AFAC 2019.

Sithole B., Campbell D., Sutton S., Sutton I., with Campion O., Campion M., Brown C., Daniels G., Daniels A., Brian C, Campion J., Yibarbuk, D, Phillips E., Daniels G., Daniels D., Daniels P., Daniels K., Campion M., Hedley B., Radford M., Campion A., Campion S., Hunter -Xenie H; and Pickering S. (accepted for publication). Blackfella way, our way of managing fires and disasters bin ignored but im still here - Indigenous governance structures for fire emergency management to be published in ed H. James et al the APRU series Vol 1 Palgrave. Presented at AFAC 2017. Sydney, Australia

Sithole B. (2018) Lost and found among the Aboriginal people of Arnhem Land, Australia. Issue on Education, Journal for Research and Debate. 3

Sithole B. Campion O. B., and Hunter-Xenie H (2018). Hazard smart remote communities in Northern Australia – community led response to disaster preparedness. AJEM Volume 31, No. 4, October 2016 ISSN: 1324 1540

Sutton S., Sithole B., Sutton I., Campbell D., Cameron M., Campion O., Campion M., Brian R., (2018) Training as Research and Research as Training in remote north Australia. Presented at AFAC (2018).

Sithole B, and Hunter-Xenie H, Yibarbuk D, Daniels C, Daniels G, Campion O. B, Namarnyilk S, Narorroga E, Dann O, Dirdi K, Nayilibibj G, Phillips E, Daniels K, Daniels A, Daniels G, Turner H, Daniels C.A, Daniels T, Thomas P, Thomas D, Rami T, Brown C. (2017). Living with Widditjth - Protocols for building community resilience. (Accepted), In D. Paton & D. Johnston (Eds., Disaster resilience: An integrated approach (2nd ed.). Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas.

Sithole B., Hunter-Xenie H., Sutton S., Sutton I., Campbell D., Yibarbuk D., Campion O., Brian C., Redford M., Campion J., Campion M., and Brian H., (2017) Time to get the balance right with them government mob – building resilience in BNH management through stronger community participation. AFAC 2017, Sydney Australia.

We want the future of
ER to be in our own
hands

Let us push that shopping trolley
together....



- Commit, Respect and work with institutions and follow our protocols
- Respect our knowledge, let us conduct ceremony and manage disasters our way
- Realistically cost engagement - Give us enough resources so we can really be involved. A big investment in community capability and resources now is a cost saving later.
- We can organize ourselves and provide an effective on-ground service, BUT pay for the service.
- EM agencies send their staff for cultural courses on country

Thanks