



A SCHOOL FOR KABULWARNAMYO

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The Mok clan started to build their outstation at Kabulwarnamyo in 2002 — after Governments stopped funding new housing in the bush. Thirteen years later they're still working on country and striving to deliver 'two way' education on their own land.

NAWARDDEKEN ACADEMY — A SCHOOL FOR KABULWARNAMYO

'We are teaching young people about the country, the walking routes, the place names, experiences with the country and then they in turn follow this way. This is not a new thing. It's just what our old people before us taught us'

— Mary Kalkiwarra Nadjamerrek, an indigenous professor



Kabulwarnamyo is a remote outstation community, located in the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), West Arnhem Land. It was established as a permanent community in 2003 by well-known artist Bardayal 'Lofty' Nadjamerrek AO, who guided his extended family back to live on their ancestral lands, where they enjoy a healthy and purposeful lifestyle living and working on their country.

Kabulwarnamyo outstation is now the headquarters for the Warddeken Rangers, an Indigenous ranger team managing 1.4 million hectares of country of global conservation and cultural significance. Kabulwarnamyo is an exemplary community, providing meaningful employment on country, family continuity and the opportunity to keep long-standing cultural practices alive. Kabulwarnamyo is also one of the very few communities to continuously hold cultural camps for its young people, run by the elders, during the dry season school holidays, when many children return home from schools in neighbouring townships and participate in intergenerational learning activities.

However, due to its size and remoteness, Kabulwarnamyo does not currently qualify for a Government school. To attend school, children must move to far-away towns, predominantly Gunbalanya (Oenpelli), causing families to be separated for extended periods, and exposing young people to the dysfunction of Indigenous so called 'growth towns'. With the help of the Karrkad-Kanjidji Trust, the community of Kabulwarnamyo is establishing a school like no other in Australia.

The Nawarddeken Academy will be owned and guided by Nawarddeken, the people of the Stone Country, and will be administered by Warddeken Land Management Limited, a non profit public company set up by the traditional owners of the Warddeken IPA.

Children will learn in their traditional language alongside English. Specific curriculum will be developed

in partnership with community elders, and taught in tandem with the Australian Curriculum, valuing both cultures and imparting the skills needed to develop meaningful careers living and working on country.

Under the leadership of passionate volunteers such as Rick Tudor OAM (former principal of Trinity Grammar School) and Hagar Bulliwana (a community elder and an experienced Indigenous educator) the project has made significant progress. At this stage, the school is entirely privately funded and has achieved over 70 per cent of its target for the first year.

To support this unique school and to join us on our journey you can contribute through our crowd funding campaign at:

<https://chuffed.org/project/nawarddeken/>

or make a donation through the school website at

www.nawarddekenacademy.com

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