



Hi All

On Wednesday the 13th September 2023 I attended the CCWA Annual Conference at the University Club of Western Australia representing NRPG.

A good networking event and I took the opportunity to advertise and promote our upcoming "Forest Festival".

In the main the conference was as expected with good speakers and participants. <https://www.ccwa.org.au>

After an introduction to the conference theme of "UPLIFT" by MC Dylan Storer, we were prepared for the online survey "MENTI" to be conducted at various times by phone during the expo. <https://www.menti.com/>

The welcome to Country was conducted by Oral McGuire.

It was planned to have a smoking ceremony inside, however, smoke detectors and the alarm system precluded that. So, the whole assembly moved outside for the Ceremony. The torrential rain on the day excluded that as well! Resin smoke by Heidi Mippy was proposed as an alternative, but Heidi could not be found!



Tyronne Garstone is the CEO of the Kimberley Land Council and spoke at length of the Indigenous leadership/guardianship in the Kimberly. It is the largest group in Northern Australia comprising of 9 protected area and 18 Ranger Groups.

CCWA Executive Director Joe Heffernan emphasised that CCWA was a "Voice for the Environment" being selective and targeted in its operations. It should also be seen as a partner of choice for environmental Groups.



Hayleigh and Maddie are Tjaltjraak Rangers of the Wuduri people in the Esperance region of WA. They presented 2 short films. "Week in the life of a Tjaltjraak Ranger" and "Benwerinup

Corridor". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWW116XNQ40>

They then spoke of the highlights and downside of being a ranger. Looking after Country is paramount as well as fire mitigation - removing rope nests from the Ocean - salinity damage repair and plantings.

One aspect that they were not so fond of was seed collecting and sorting. Looking after Country can be so tedious and long. As was Weeding the Victorian Tea Tree. So bad that Hayleigh was seeing them in her "Dreams"!

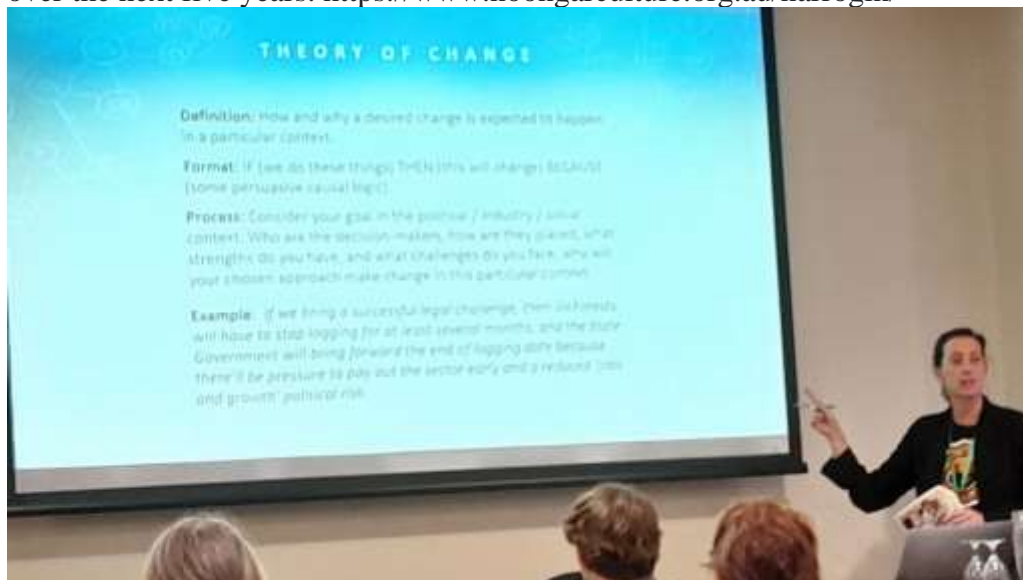
On the plus side, they loved coming across the White-Faced Storm Petrels on the coast.

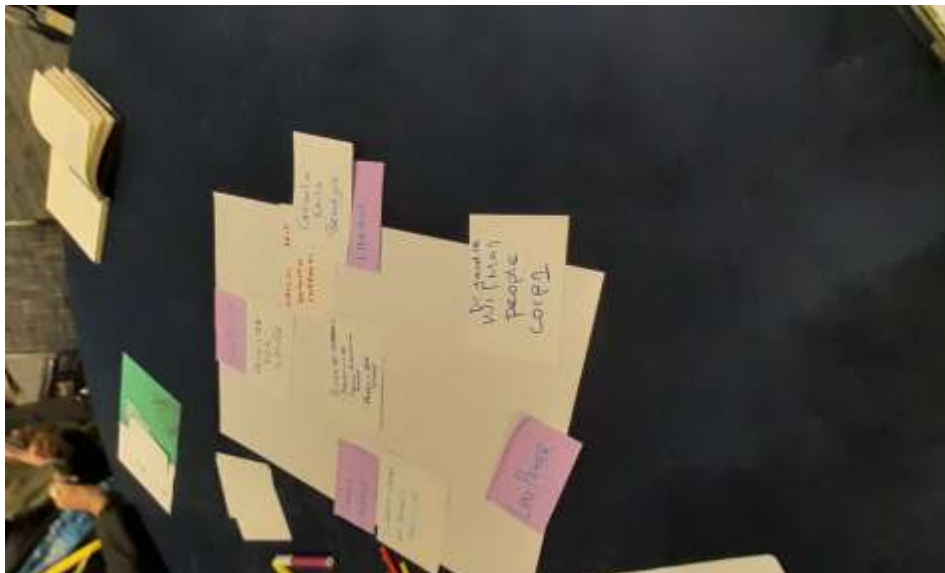
Fostering and encouraging family and youth was also ongoing as a ranger. Re-establishing the Corridor and Song-lines was also important.



WA FOREST ALLIANCE

I attended a WAFA (<https://wafa.org.au/>) strategy workshop "The Theory of Change" conducted by Jess Beckerling and Giz Watson former leader of the Greens spoke of being "Focused". Our table group focused on directing what Raylene Cory's efforts should be over the next five years. <https://www.noongarculture.org.au/narrogin/>





After a good Vegetarian and gluten free lunch, I spoke with Julian Beasley of Trillion Trees in Hazlemere. He was describing the work they carry out and lamenting the damage the 28 parrots inflict on seedlings. Clear felling by Parrot!

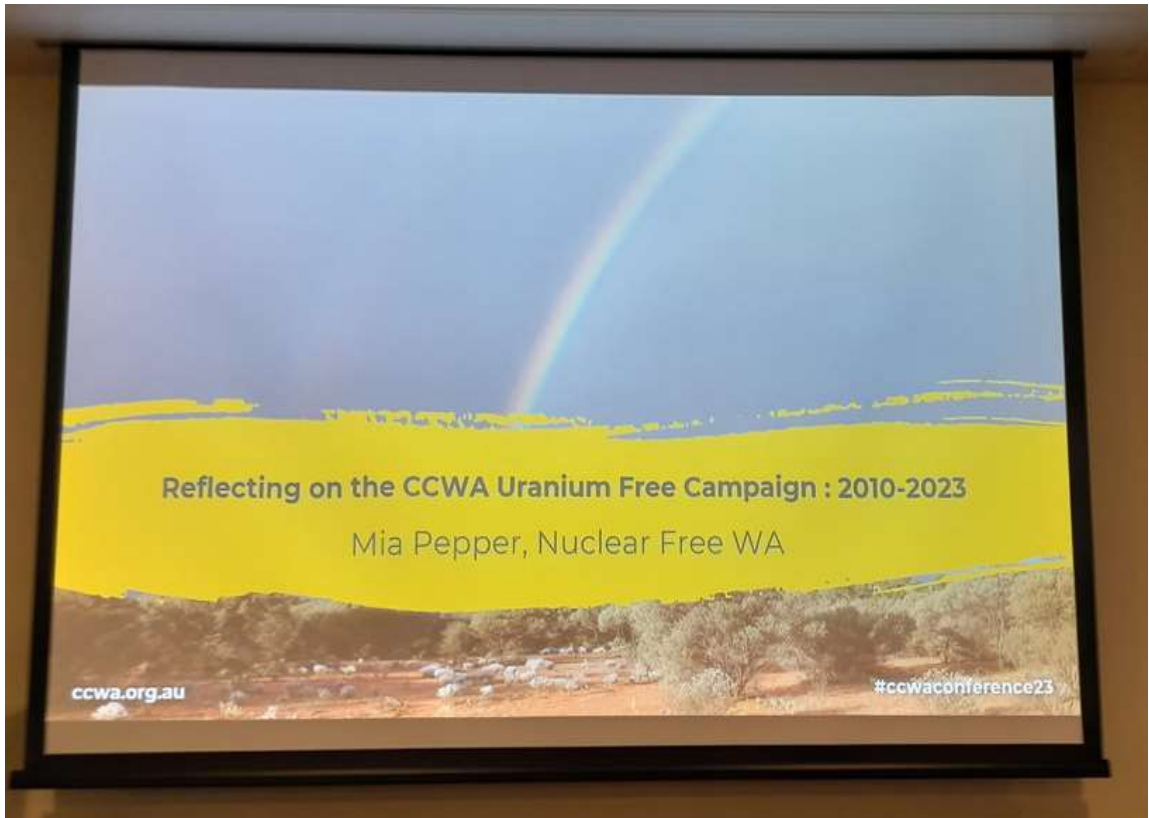
The conference continued with a panel talk of farmers and land-care restoration. Its ongoing hard work, and mining, was regarded as being in a "Sphere of its own"! The opportunities are there but we are still at the beginning of repair.

Oral McGuire gave a mention of the upcoming VOICE and was hopeful of a "YES" saying that 3% of the people were reliant on 97% of the population. He also stated that he was "Sick of being treated as sub-humans".

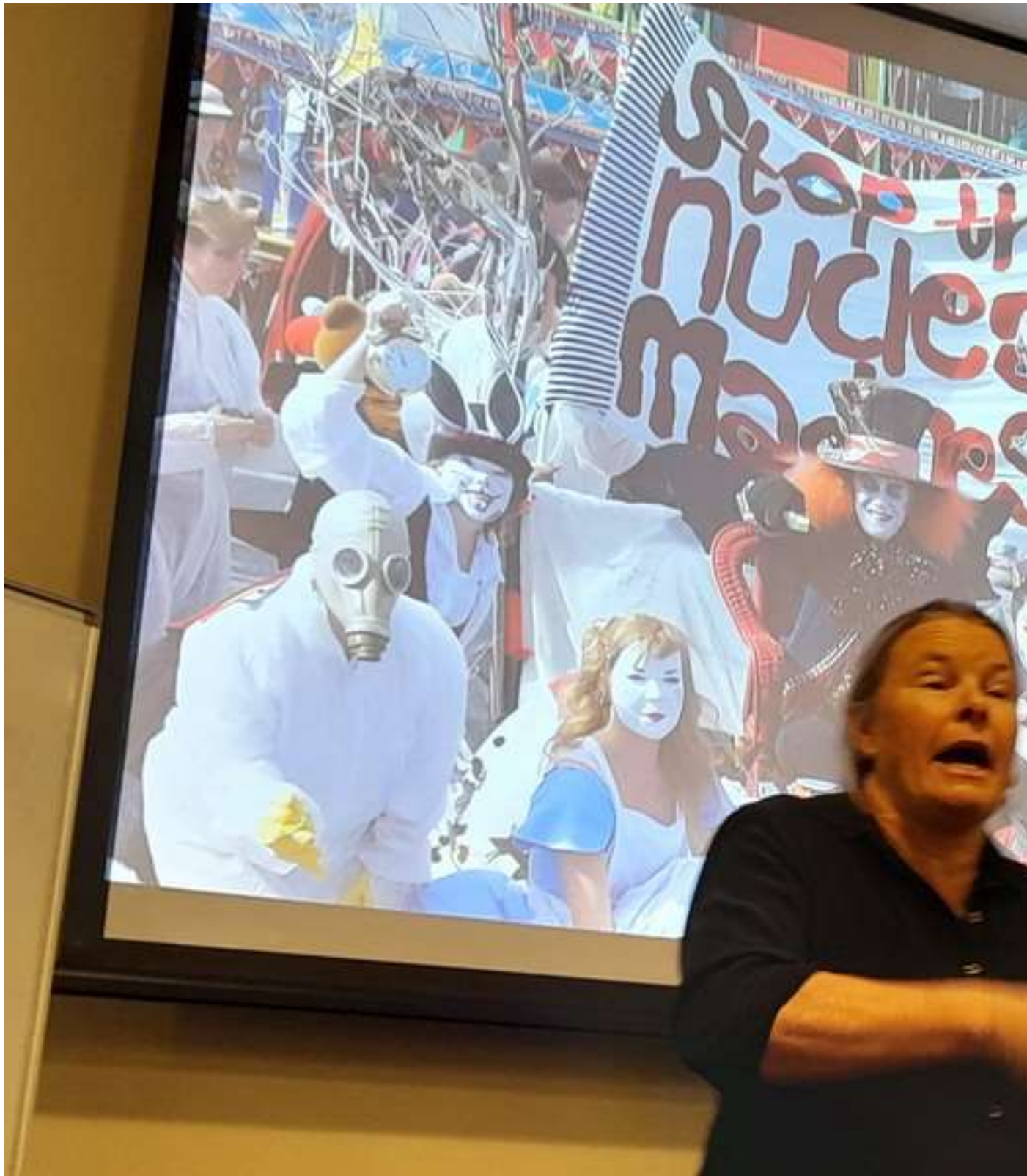
Another workshop I attended was with Mia Pepper and Kay. A Nuclear Free WA Reflecting on the CCWA Uranium Free campaign between 2010 and 2023 including the "Walk" a ten

week walk from Wiluna to Perth in 2011. The walk was organised to demonstrate the opposition to uranium mining, and at the request of people in the Leonora community the walks have continued. Smaller walks have been held every year since 2011 from Wiluna to Leonora via the proposed uranium mine at Wiluna and Yeelirie.

<https://nuclear.australianmap.net/wiluna/>







Also discussion of the AUKAUS agreement and the Yeelirie Storybook '*Yeelirrie 50 years of resistance*' is the incredible true story behind Western Australia's longest and most bitter battle to prevent the mining of uranium in our state. It is the story of how three multinational mining companies tried – and failed – to dig up one of Australia's largest uranium deposits, 650 km northeast of Perth. The afternoon continued with th ARC Training Centre for Healing

Country. Panellists spoke of Gilgaran seed operations in Kunnanurra and Bio-logic working with Rio Tinto for rehabilitation of the Argyle diamond mine in the Kimberly.

A Plenary Forum concluded with the speakers' taking questions from the audience. Interesting to note that the micro-phone being passed between panel members answering questions, always ended up back at Oral McGuire. He Stated " Wish Mum hadn't named me Oral!"



A Sun-downer finished the day with music provided by Kobi Morrison.

Many Thanks to NRPNG for its support. <https://nrpg.org.au/>



Best Wishes to All

Clive