

Respecting Aboriginal people and their knowledge:

Protocols for people involved in commercial bush
foods enterprises, research and development with
produce and knowledge from Central Australia

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Merne Altyerre-ipenhe (Food from the Creation Time)

Reference Group



Veronica Dobson
M.K. Turner
Lorna Wilson
Rayleen Brown
Bess Price
Maree Meredith
Gina Smith
and past members
Myra Ah Chee
Sandy Marty
Marilyn Cavanagh

How protocols were compiled



Protocol workshop 2006



Visits to local traders/wholesalers



Workshop with researchers, industry and government representatives 2007



Photo: Central Land Council

Gina Smith, MK Turner & Rayleen Brown at CLC's full council meeting, August 2008.

Bush foods have always been a part of our economy, daily life and wider culture



Jilly Holmes



Betty, Jessie & Gladys Beasley



Eileen Bonney



Janie Long



Eileen Campbell (Photo © Jenny Green)

Handing down knowledge to children and keeping it strong



Kunapuka (Acacia coriacea) seed harvest near Tjukurla. Photo: NPY Women's Council



Acacia tenuissima seed harvest by three generations of women from the Holmes family, Ampilatwatja

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Bush foods in restaurants, tourism, supermarkets, horticulture



Trial plot at Alice Springs Desert Park



Cooking competition



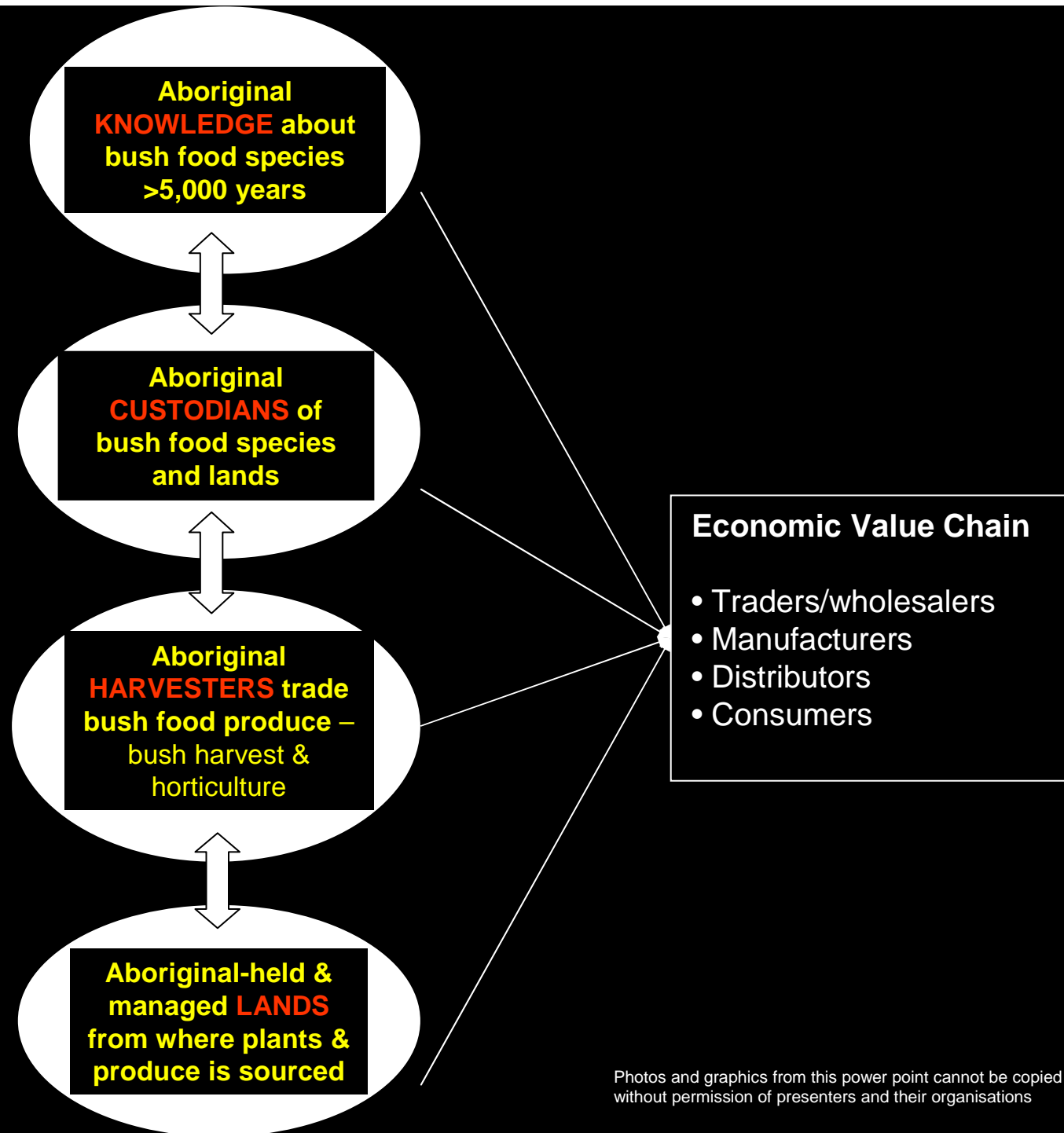
International chef, Athol Wark



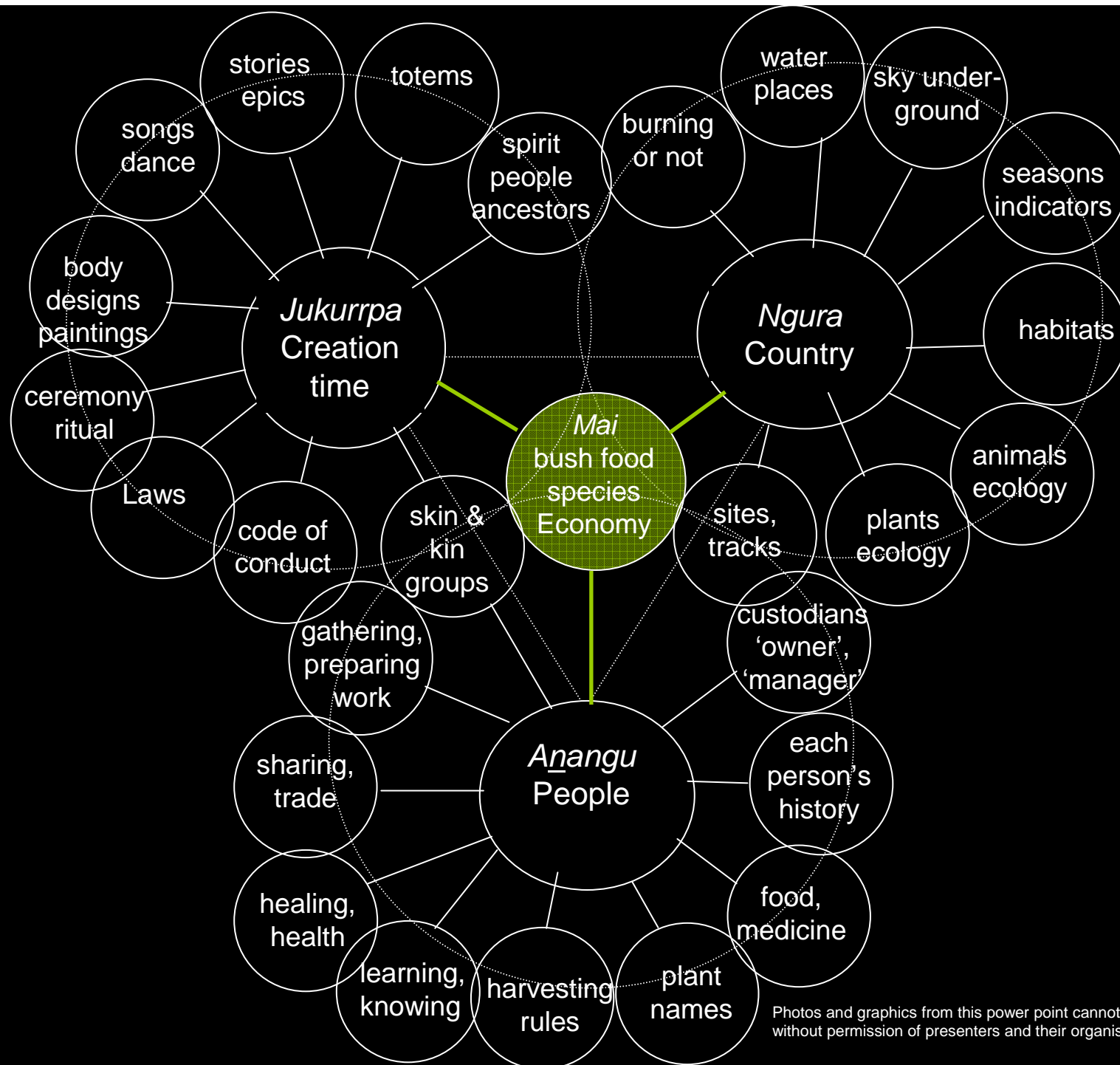
Cooking competition



Supermarket



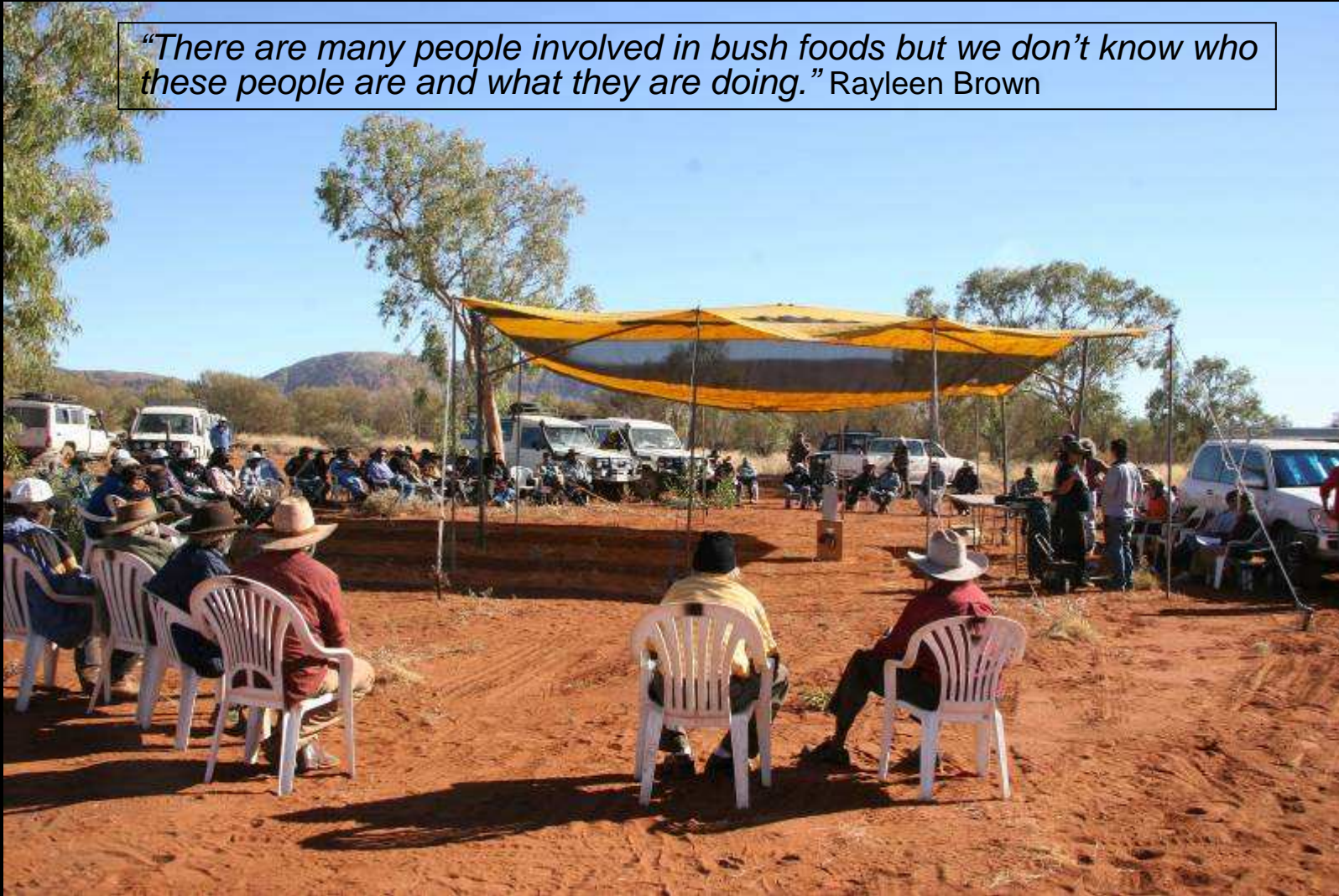
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Governance by Aboriginal people

"There are many people involved in bush foods but we don't know who these people are and what they are doing." Rayleen Brown



Full CLC Council meeting attended by Merne Altyerre-ipenhe Reference Group members, August 2008. Photo: Central Land Council

Geographic origin

"Need to keep recognition of where plants are collected from and the community. Our people are being left out. Need to know which country or community it comes from." Veronica Dobson

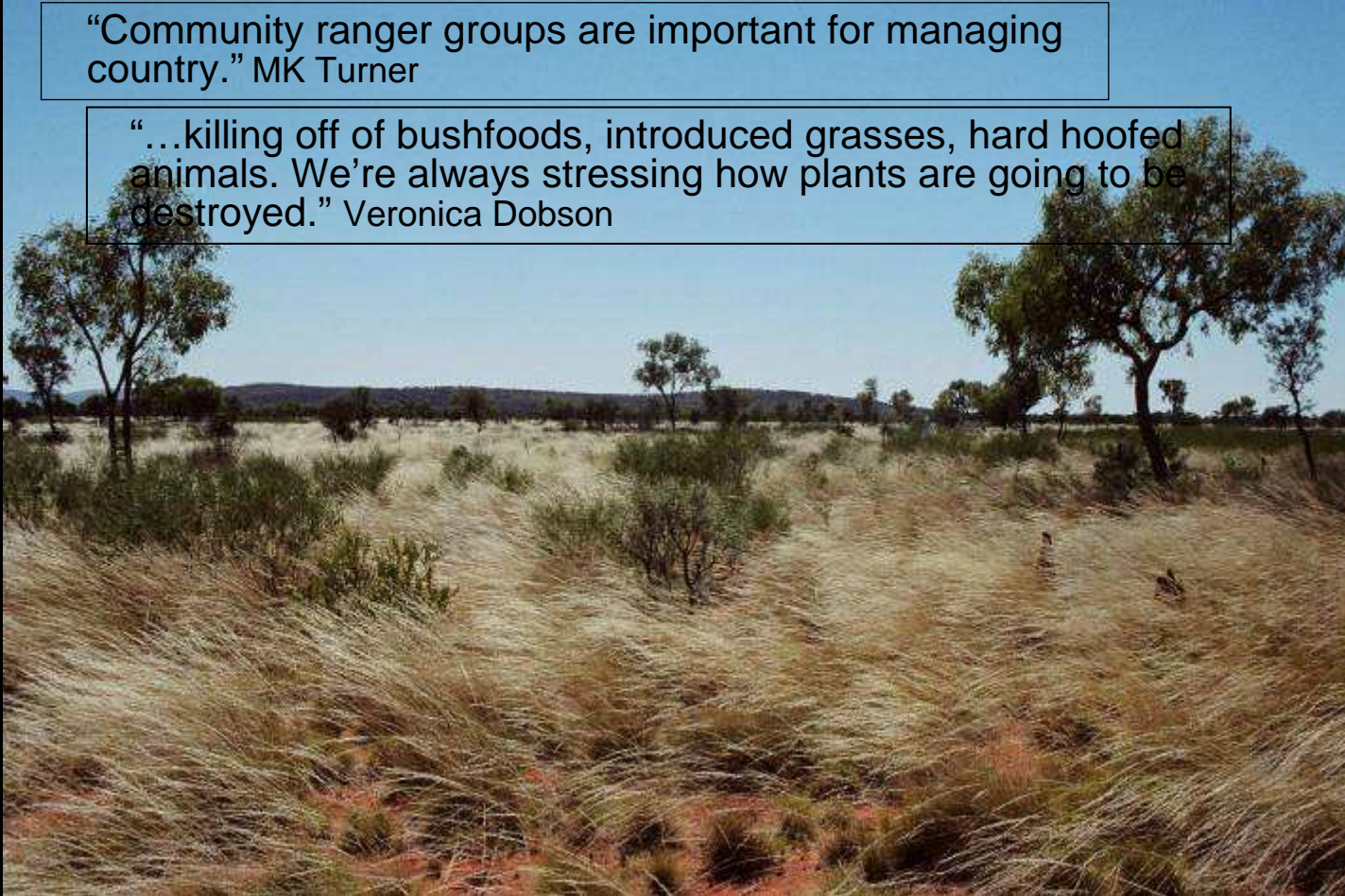


Anmatyerr women from Ti Tree searching for *Akatyerr* (Desert raisin/bush tomato)

Restoration of country, ecology and landcare

“Community ranger groups are important for managing country.” MK Turner

“...killing off of bushfoods, introduced grasses, hard hoofed animals. We’re always stressing how plants are going to be destroyed.” Veronica Dobson



Well known *Akatyerr* patch overgrown by spinifex



Burn on akatyerr patch

Aboriginal employment, training and learning

“Get younger people involved so they can learn.” Bess Price



“Non-Aboriginal people come and go. Our children will stay here. They need to be the researchers. Jobs mustn't just go to outsiders, otherwise our children will be in the river.” Veronica Dobson

Women from Epenarra bring Desert Raisin and Wattleseed to sell to trader Peter Yates

Agreements and intellectual property

Desert Aboriginal Laws

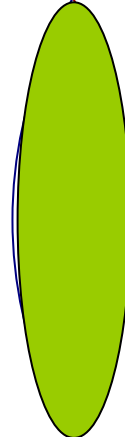
Include:

- *Altyerre, Jukurrpa*
- collective ownership
- custodial rights and obligations to certain species
- different rules for different species
- wait to be offered or invited
- always ask
- respect for plants & lands of other groups

Australian Laws

Include:

- intellectual property rights
- copyright
- plant breeders rights
- patents
- trademarks
- legal agreements



Protocols can sit between two Laws

For Aboriginal roles to be appreciated & valued, they first must be recognised



Photos: Genevieve O'Loughlin)



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Thank You



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