



# BECAUSE OF HER, We Can!

## Tamahina Cox

Story by Tayla Westley with input from friends and colleagues



Tammy Cox is a Ranger with Eyre Peninsula based in Ceduna. Tammy's passion for the Far West Coast natural environment, her Aboriginal Heritage, and her work as a Ranger, has made her a great asset to the Department. Working with the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and Mirning, Kokotha and Wirangu people toward the establishment of the Nullarbor and Yumbarra Co-Management Boards and development of their Healthy Country Plans. As an employee of DEW and a member of the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation, Tammy's understanding of her community and the Department has been instrumental in the development of relationships built on trust and mutual understanding.

"Tammy has been a great role model for other Aboriginal people in the Ceduna area and more recently has worked with the senior Far West Aboriginal women in developing a cultural seasonal calendar, capturing Aboriginal traditional use of plants and animals as it relates to the seasons, helping maintain cultural knowledge for Aboriginal people to use in generations to come." Said Mark Anderson, District Manager, Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula.

"I had the pleasure of working with Tammy whilst based on the Eyre Peninsula. Tammy is a highly respected member of the community and an invaluable part of the Eyre Peninsula team. Tammy was always happy to be involved and she shared her knowledge willingly and openly with myself, other colleagues and members of the community and surrounds. Tammy gave me the opportunity to join in on the Far West Aboriginal Women's Council Camp in 2017 and the experience was amazing, I was honoured to be able to meet and observe a whole group of inspirational women sharing knowledge and stories." - Tayla Westley, Graduate Ranger.

"Tammy is strong; she works hard, and quietly makes great things happen for people and country. Tammy is kind; she brings diverse people together in positive ways, is supportive for those who need it, and looks after everyone. Tammy is wise; she navigates through difficult situations with grace, solves problems for others and knows how to bring out the best in people. Tammy is proud; she cares for her community, the country and her work. Tammy is an inspiration for those who know her, and indispensable for those who are lucky enough to work alongside her." - Ollanta Lipcer from Eyre Peninsula.

"Tammy is an outstanding person in our community. There are many examples I can think of where Tammy has inspired me to think twice about how better to work with community, both at work and in the wider west coast community. The most recent project Tammy (and Auntie Cecelia) have been working on is the Far West Coast Aboriginal Women's Corporation Seasonal Wheel. This project is in its second stage and the recent visits to five communities involving many women was fantastic. Tammy's quiet and unassuming manner has been essential in getting this project happening, and the draft seasonal wheel brings together the cultural knowledge from all the women across the five communities, the first of its kind for the Far West." - Liz McTaggart, Senior Natural Resource officer, Eyre Peninsula.

Tammy has opened up many opportunities for young and old in her community and *because of her* many have had access to knowledge and inspiring life changing experiences that they otherwise wouldn't have had.

*"I'm passionate about my work and especially with recent projects I've been running like the Seasonal Wheel. I'm determined to continue to practice/ document and pass on knowledge to maintain for my two beautiful children and for future generations." – Tamahina Cox.*

NAIDOC Week



8-15 JULY 2018