



## NLP Invests in Mardigan Peoples' "Welcome to Country" Signage

The Mardigan people, one of eight recognised Aboriginal nations in the South West NRM region, have been implementing a project for "Welcome to Country" signage through funding from the National Landcare Programme Ecosystem Services investment theme. Over the coming year, the Mardigan people will be designing appropriate signage for placement at key locations on their traditional homelands to inform visitors and locals that they are now entering Mardigan lands. Kevin Collins, South West NRM's Indigenous Liaison Officer, has been working with the Mardigan people, signage suppliers and renowned linguist, Mr Gavin Breen in developing appropriate content for the signage. South West NRM looks forward to working with the Mardigan people on this, and other, projects in the future.

### Did you know?

- The spelling for Mardigan people has many variations: *Margany, Marrgayn and/or Markayn.*
- King Bismark, the last of the great Mardigan kings, is buried on *South Commongin*, just past the river crossing between Quilpie and Toompine.
- The other seven traditional owner groups in the South West NRM region are: *Kooma, Bidjara, Kunja, Budjiti, Kullilli, Murrawarri and Boonthamurra.*

## Flora Survey in the Paroo Catchment

South West NRM has recently conducted flora inspections in the Paroo Catchment, through the National Landcare Programme's Ramsar investment theme. Validation of flora prevalence and health has been undertaken at four key sites in the Paroo Catchment of various land types, including lush riparian zones with sedges and mature coolibah trees, and hard red rocky ridges of copper burr and turkey bush. This information will be consolidated over the coming months, and will be available to land managers and the wider community to utilise for plant identification.



Above: Yellow Billy button (*Calocephalus platycephalus*) in the Cooladdi district. It often appears in isolated communities, but can form thick widespread colonies after Spring rainfall.



Above: Soft Spinifex (*Triodia pungens*), west of Cooladdi. This fascinating grass grows further out into a ring shaped formation each consecutive year, and it is also currently the focus for new textile research products!