

EXPERIENCE

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE SOUTH COAST

CULTURAL  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
AND WILDLIFE  
FIELD PROGRAMME



**Gabbie Kylie**  
FOUNDATION



NATIONAL TRUST



This highly unique field programme offers travellers, students or interested groups the opportunity to experience the incredible cultural heritage, seascapes, outback, and wildlife of Western Australia's south coast. The programme provides practical field training, cultural activities, and workshops, centred on:

- Traditional Culture and Life Styles
- Indigenous and Maritime Archaeology Methods and Fieldwork
- Human-Environment Interactions over the last 15,000 years
- Methods of archaeological survey, mapping, recording, and excavation
- Wildlife surveys and threatened species monitoring
- Practical experience in heritage conservation and rehabilitation
- Bush survival, hiking and navigation



The field work is part of a holistic research programme conducted by a range of specialists in collaboration with the Traditional Owners:

- Modelling and understanding past climate change and the formation of the **Recherche Archipelago** and the present-day mainland.
- Archaeological surveys and excavations to examine patterns of human occupation and use of this landscape over the last **15,000 years**, and documenting known and recently discovered rock art sites and other cultural features.
- Searching for evidence of the rich maritime history, including the investigation of shipwreck sites and the activities of Australia's only known pirate, **Black Jack Anderson**.
- Surveying for and monitoring populations of rare and endangered flora and fauna, including the Australian Fur Seal, Western Ground Parrot, Cape Barren Geese, Whales, and Great White Sharks.



## RESEARCH & DISCOVERY:

A thrilling aspect of these field programmes is that each participant gains practical skills and experiences while participating in real research projects, so you quickly become part of the team and share the real-life drama and adventure of archaeological field work and wildlife adventures in this stunning and unique environment. Some of the core research areas of each programme include:

### THE ICE AGE & ARCHAEOLOGY:

There are 105 islands and 1,500 islets in the Recherche Archipelago. Up until 8,000 years ago, at the end of the last Ice Age, these islands were part of the mainland, surrounded by a sweeping coastal plain, comprising of rivers, inlets and lagoons. The Gabbie Kylie team have discovered a number of **archaeological sites** and developed a model from sea-floor mapping data and other sources to trace the pattern of rising seas following global warming at the end of the cold period. For each field programme, the team carry out regional **surveys** and localised **excavations** to complement the landscape approach, and participants gain practical, high-level skills in all **methods** of archaeological investigation.

### WHALERS, SEALERS AND - AUSTRALIA'S ONLY KNOWN PIRATE:

The islands were used intensively by sealers and whalers in the 19th and 20th centuries, including **Black Jack Anderson** – Australia's only known pirate. Black Jack Anderson terrorised the Recherche Archipelago in the 1830s. A number of structures on Middle Island are said to have been built and/or used by Black Jack during his stay. These structures are the subject of detailed archaeological investigation and conservation. The team is also carrying out research on the unique whaling and sealing history, searching for and recording sites across the mainland and islands.

## ROCK ART & SYMBOLIC LANDSCAPES:

The Gabbie Kylie team have been involved in large-scale rock art documentation and protection projects, focused on the Marbleerup (Mt Ridley) Heritage Complex and other local sites. The work is aimed at assessing and addressing the impacts of water erosion. Assessing the impacts of dust and other biological build-up; removing graffiti, and controlling visitor access. The protection work is ongoing, and **new rock art sites and ceremonial places** are continually being identified by the GK team, including complex stone arrangement sites.

### ENDANGERED WILDLIFE - SURVEY & WORKSHOPS:

The Islands and National Parks of Esperance are home to a several species of the critically endangered animals, and the Gabbie Kylie team are working with the Department of Environment and Conservation, in order to integrate data on the movements, behaviour, breeding and feeding habits, and to understand how to protect and increase numbers. Participants will take part in the monitoring, in order to contribute to the protection of these critically endangered species such as the **Western Ground Parrot, Cape Barren Geese, Australian Fur Seal, Black-flanked Rock Wallaby, Ash-grey mouse, and Australasian Bittern**. Data on **Great White Sharks, Dolphins and Whales** are collected, when encountered, which is often! The team also carry out conservation projects to protect natural habitats.



## CULTURAL COORDINATOR & LOGISTICS:

**RON 'DOC' REYNOLDS**

**KEPA KURL ECO-DISCOVERY TOURS**

Doc Reynolds is a Cultural Custodian, Traditional Owner and Community Leader in the Esperance region of Western Australia. He has worked tirelessly over many years with his people to preserve 'The Culture' and to create the pride and a sense of belonging. Having lived in Esperance all of his life and learning about cultural protection and caring for country from his Elders, he has been actively involved in sharing his **cultural knowledge** and Natural Resource Management skills for many, many years. Doc is also the Director of Kepa Kurl Eco-Cultural Discovery Tours in Esperance, outright winner of the Western Australia Tourism Award in 2006 and 2007

**More info:** doc@kepakurl.com.au

**Web:** www.kepakurl.com.au

## LANDSCAPE & INDIGENOUS ARCHAEOLOGY:

**DAVID GUILFOYLE AND TEAM**

**APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGY AUSTRALIA**

David Guilfoyle is an archaeologist with many years of experience throughout Australia and the western United States (including Alaska). He has presented at a number of national and international conferences, trained/tutored university students and field crews in both Australia and the USA, coordinated numerous field projects, often in remote areas, and published widely in the field. David is a Research Associate with the WA Museum and the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management, University of W.A.

**More info:**

davidg@appliedarchaeology.com.au

**Web:** www.appliedarchaeology.com.au

## MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY:

**ROSS ANDERSON**

**MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT,  
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

Ross Anderson is a maritime archaeologist at the maritime Archaeology Department, Western Australia Museum. Ross has extensive knowledge of shipwreck archaeology from the Western Australian coast. He is involved in developing artefact management and cataloguing strategies, outreach and wreck-access programs, site-inspection techniques, and studies of diverse maritime sites. Ross has a particular interest in the sealing and whaling industries of the South Coast of WA and brings expert knowledge, methods and experiences to field participants.

**More info:**

Ross.Anderson@museum.wa.gov.au

**Web:** www.museum.wa.gov.au

## HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY:

**RENÉE GARDNER AND TEAM**

**EARTH IMPRINTS CONSULTING**

Renée is an archaeologist with experience in historical and Indigenous archaeology, and cultural heritage management. She is passionate about all aspects of heritage and is committed to working towards a model that supports and shapes the way communities engage with cultural and natural resource management. Earth Imprints Consulting brings together knowledge and experience in the fields of archaeology, history, cultural heritage management and community development and is based in Perth and Melbourne, providing services throughout Australia.

**More info:** renee@earthimprints.com.au

**Web:** www.earthimprints.com.au



## WHAT TO EXPECT:

Given the intensive and field based nature of this field work, each participant is expected to work full days, including some work in the evening, in order to complete tasks related to the archaeological surveys, excavations and related conservation and management projects. Often conditions will be demanding, such as carrying out field tasks during inclement weather, hot conditions or walking through dense or steep/sandy terrain. The conditions will be similar to those commonplace when carrying out archaeological fieldwork and for working professionally in the discipline.

This field programme operates under the guidance of the Traditional Owners of the various areas that we will be visiting and working. A major component is to learn and share aspects of daily life with these Custodians. The projects are carried out in various locations from base camps (tents) with a field cook and work areas.

## SKILLS & METHODS:

Although there is no previous experience necessary for this field programme school you will be instructed on and undertake a range of field skills that includes the use of GPS, use of topographic maps, site recording forms, identifying and recording stone artifacts, use of a dumpy or total station, field surveying, excavation and understanding stratigraphy, sieving, sorting, data analysis, and photography.

## WHAT TO BRING:

The weather can be quite variable, ranging from wet and very cool to warm and sunny, especially during the sailing component. Make sure you bring appropriate clothing. If you find yourself without the appropriate gear, we will be in close proximity to shops and other outfitters and can make arrangements during the programme. The programme provides all camping equipment, including individual tents and swags.

## SAFETY & ENJOYMENT:

Every effort is made to develop this programme within a safe yet adventurous environment. The Australian landscape offers a diverse set of hazards, however, the team are qualified in wilderness and outback first aid survival and maintain regular communications with local rangers and emergency services.



*Senior Assist. State Solicitor's Office, Michele Payne:*

"I really enjoyed being part of this field school. I have learnt so much and have gained many skills. I benefited from working with people with different areas of interest. It was interesting to see their views and skills that helped in understanding certain matters. The archaeology teachers were great. They made everything so easy to comprehend. I love a challenge and this field trip helped me achieve things I thought I could never do. Overall thank you to all for organising such an amazing field trip. Thank you for a wonderful time."

*French Archaeology Student, Lucie Amami:*

"I was expecting a lot and I think these have been largely overtaken. I will bring back in my country more professional experiences that I could imagine, first of all I was there speaking English (!) and learning how to record artefacts and use surveying instruments. And we met some very professional and interesting people with who we shared experiences and received some open minds for our suggestions. I really felt listened and respected by professionals and that is one of the main things to keep going in this way. Moreover, sharing a passion with people who have the same is... waoooooooooooo!"

**WHEN:**

Four field programmes are run per year:

October (Spring)  
 December (Summer 1)  
 February (Summer 2)  
 April (Easter)

**COST:**

Programmes range from \$2,500 AUD to \$3,500 AUD per individual.  
 Discounts for group bookings available.

**INCLUDES:**

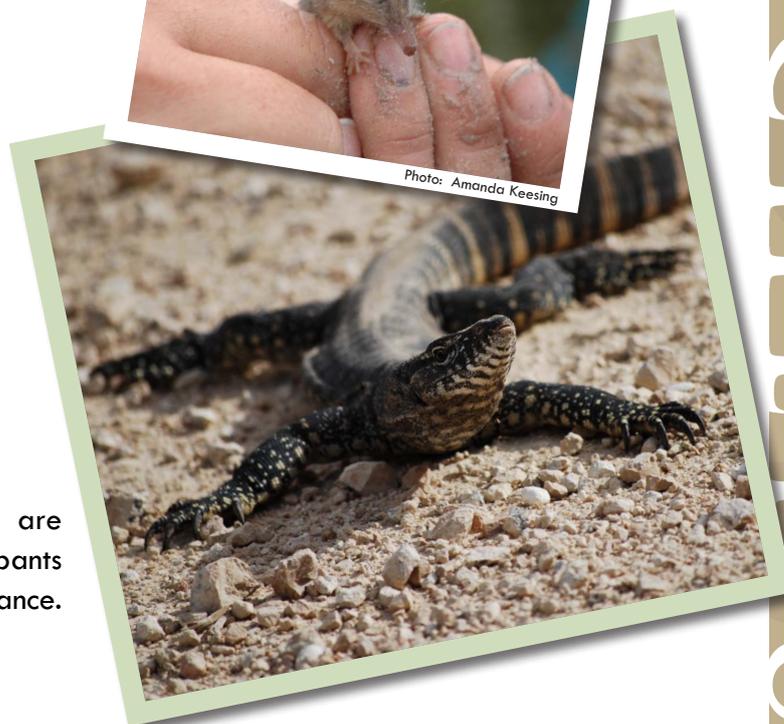
Accommodation, food and equipment are provided for the entire session. Participants must find their own way to and from Esperance. Limited places available.

**ABOUT:**

The Gabbie Kylie Foundation was established in late 2007 to conserve and interpret the Indigenous heritage values of WA's south coast region and to enable Traditional Owners to re-establish connections with country. The Foundation's core programme provides a holistic approach to Caring for Country that integrates diverse groups and agencies involved in land and heritage management with a highly effective delivery model. Local coordinators and specialists work directly with Elders and Indigenous work teams. Gabbie Kylie has established a wide range of partnerships with government and private sector organisations. Gabbie Kylie is currently auspiced by the National Trust of Australia (W.A.), which provides support for governance, policy and administration. The Foundation has delivered high-level rock art protection projects; documented a number of unrecorded rock art panels, motifs and stone arrangements; developed the first model



Photo: Amanda Keesing



of marine transgression and island formation of the Recherche Archipelago; identified and recorded numerous, complex archaeological sites; excavated sites showing evidence of human occupation extending over 4,500 years ago; identified native rodent populations on Woody Island; and carried out a number of environmental conservation projects. The Foundation was a category finalist in the 2010 Banksia Environmental Awards. The Foundation has delivered these projects in partnership with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Western Australian Museum, and is hosting two MA-level research projects with the Australia National University and the University of Leicester (UK). Funding has been provided by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (Indigenous Heritage Programme), BHP Billiton, and South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.



## GABBIE KYLIE DECEMBER 2011 FIELD SCHOOL

### FROM INTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, EXCAVATION, MAPPING, RECORDING, AND ANALYSIS, WE AIM TO ADDRESS THESE RESEARCH QUESTIONS\*\*:

- Given the location of Cape Arid as near the traditional Nyungar and Western Desert group boundary can we compare the Cape Arid archaeological signature with the Cape Le Grand area?
- Can we determine any chronological associations from open-site test excavations of stone artefact scatters on Middle Island, and how does this link the GK model of Holocene marine transgression?
- What was the nature of contact between seasonal whalers and Indigenous people and different groups of Indigenous people during the shore whaling season?
- Were Aboriginal people living on a more seasonal basis near the whaling stations, as opposed to traversing the area?
- What is the significance and condition of the whalers' lookout at Barrier Anchorage?
- What is the significance and condition of the small island named by the US whalers 'Hawes Island' in the anchorage (including the lookouts that were built by US whalers on the Julian and Hamilton in 1840)?
- What is the significance and condition of the Gabtoobitch Historical Homestead in Cape Arid National Park.
- What does the associated stone artefact scatters around Gabtoobitch tell us about how people utilised this area throughout the pre- and post-settlement period?

In addition to this, the team will document any natural or human threats to the identified heritage places, including weeds, feral animals, erosion, or other disturbances. On Middle Island, the team will work with DEC to cut a walking path from the granite outcrops to the Pink Lake, to keep visitors to a defined route and so avoid impacts to the fragile dune system and historical ruins. All the information will be analysed as part the wider Gabbie Kylie research programme, with the information also being used for interpretive materials for a museum display and other education materials.

DAY	DATE	PLAN
1	Mon., Dec. 5th	Orientation and Workshop. Drive out to Cape Arid National Park to set up camp.
2	Tues., Dec. 6th	Maritime Archaeology Surveys - Barrier Anchorage. Indigenous archaeology survey, site recording and mapping.
3	Wed., Dec. 7th	Maritime Archaeology Surveys - Thomas Fisheries and Barrier Anchorage. Indigenous archaeology survey, site recording and mapping.
4	Thurs., Dec. 8th	Maritime Archaeology Surveys - Survey and site recording. Indigenous archaeology survey, site recording and mapping.
5	Fri., Dec. 9th	Maritime Archaeology Surveys - Hawes Island. Endangered animals workshop.
6	Sat., Dec. 10th	Historical Archaeology Investigations - Gabtoobitch Homestead. Indigenous archaeology survey, site recording and mapping.
7	Sun., Dec. 11th	Historical Archaeology Investigations - Gabtoobitch Homestead. Indigenous archaeology survey, site recording and mapping.
8	Mon., Dec. 12th	Middle Island - Open archaeological site text excavations. Conservation work.
9	Tues., Dec. 13th	Middle Island - Open archaeological site text excavations. Conservation work.
10	Wed., Dec. 14th	Belinup Walk Trail surveys, site recording, interpretation workshop.
11	Thurs., Dec. 15th	Workshop Debrief. Travel.

\*This agenda is a guide only. The programme may be subject to slight changes given variables such as weather or the nature of survey findings.

\*\* Please contact David Guilfoyle if you would like to arrange course credit through your University and contribute to one of these research aims.



## Gabbie Kylie Field School Registration Form (Dec 2011)

### Personal Details

Name .....

Address .....

Date of birth .....

Phone .....

E-mail .....

Special dietary needs .....

Special health needs .....

### Payment

Full payment (\$2,500 AUD)

*(Includes course handbook, all instruction, travel, food, accommodation and transport from Esperance).*

### Payment options *(\*Please include Reference # 00280)*

Cheque:

Money Order:

Credit card:  MasterCard  Visa  American Express

Card number:

Exp:  /

Security code (Last 3 or 4 digits on back of card)

Name on card .....

Signature .....

*Please return this completed registration form with cheque, credit card details, or money order to:*

**National Trust of Australia (WA), PO BOX 1162, WEST PERTH, WA, AUSTRALIA, 6872  
Tel: +61 8 9321 6088 Fax: +61 8 9324 1571**

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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FOUNDATION



Category Finalist



**Australian Government**

Department of Sustainability, Environment,  
Water, Population and Communities

