



**DEVELOPING NEW SKILLS:** Twin Rivers Aboriginal Conservation Services trainees Jonathan Cotteril, Carl Green, Rodney Kelly, Shane Hawkins, Owen Hawkins, Gerald Taylor, Leon Mongoo, James Little built a hide as a part of their training

# New weapon in war on invasive species

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INVASIVE species are a major problem in out-back Western Australia, according to Twin Rivers Aboriginal Conservation Services.

The services project co-ordinator Bill Crisp said Western Australia was 10 to 20 years behind other States in terms of invasive species management.

He said feral cats, camels, foxes, dogs and pigs were causing serious degradation to land and native animals.

"It's all out in the desert so no-one sees it," he said.

To combat the worsening issue the service is offering a Certificate II

in Conservation and Land Management to Aboriginal men wishing to pursue a career on the land.

He said the course incorporated nationally recognised competencies but all training and assessment took place in the field.

"The whole idea is to give these guys a skill set no-one else has got in terms of how it is delivered," he said.

He said it was a skill set delivered "outside the square".

Mr Crisp said some of the students had limited education and came from broken families with no support network.

He said they found this method of delivery

more constructive than traditional teaching techniques inside a classroom.

Course participants are subject to a stringent selection process and must demonstrate a genuine desire to work on the land.

He said trainees would develop the skills required to secure sustainable employment over an extended period.

Mr Crisp said the Department of Land and Conservation and the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council had been supportive of the project.

He said in order to implement an effective invasive species management plan they needed everyone to work together



**FRONT LINE:** Trainees Dave Nannup, Jonathan Cotteril, James Little, Leon Mongoo, Carl Green are working towards their Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management

er and set achievable outcomes.

"It's going to be slowly, slowly but it can be

achieved with cooperative efforts from multiple stakeholders regardless of land tenure," he said.