“I believe the changes we create for people makes a real difference, through our work we see people making changes that improve their lives and I want to keep seeing that.”

Stuart owes his expertise in Healthy Country Planning to over twenty-five years of experience, working at the forefront of Natural Resource Management. Stuart is renowned for a pragmatic approach to land management, ensuring all stakeholder needs are met while helping to find solutions and an effective path forwards.

Stuart has been instrumental in developing the widely used Healthy Country Planning concept – a community-based adaptation of the Open Standards adaptive management framework in the context of remote Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia. He manages and supports Conservation Management’s highly experienced, skilled and innovative team of planners and facilitators, connecting clients to the team members best suited to project needs.

Stuart specialises in:

Healthy Country and Conservation Action Planning | Facilitation & training for the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation | impact focused and values based project design | strategic planning | innovation in MERI | collective impact and collaboration

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We work with:

Indigenous Groups | Natural Resource Managers | Government Agencies

Non-Government and Not for Profit Organisations | Funding Groups | Pastoralists and Mining | Collaborative Projects
“Our work makes me happy to get up in the morning, I feel we make a difference in people’s lives and landscapes. I really enjoy working with first nations people and that’s what inspires me.”

David’s pragmatic skills apply to all aspects of land and sea operations, organisational risk, safety and governance, and have been demonstrated nationally in both the public and private sectors. He brings more than twenty years of leadership experience in managing protected areas, and is committed to making communities stronger and landscapes healthier.

Dave specialises in:
- Implementation of land and sea programs
- Organisational risk
- Governance
- Fundraising and partnerships
- Ranger program development
- Backbone support & organisational strength

David Whitelaw – Director
Operations | Partnerships

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“I feel fortunate that the things I have learnt and applied have had lasting and positive outcomes for many landscapes and people I’ve worked with – I think if we can do this in our work, we have a responsibility to do the best we can because the planet needs our help and we need to make it better for our kids.”

Alistair Dermer – Director
Communications | Operations

Alistair owes his knowledge and skills of operations and implementation to over twenty years of experience in practical land management. He has managed properties from the rainforests of Tasmania to remote dune fields in Western Queensland and has worked from within many communities across Australia.

Alistair specialises in:

operational program management | planning, implementation, monitoring and communications |
managing large protected areas and associated complex programs |
incorporating ‘cultural landscape values’ into protected area management | connecting people and places

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“For me, working for Conservation Management is all about supporting the team - a group of inspirational, intelligent people who are endeavouring to make lasting and sustainable impact in an ever-changing environment.”

Astrid has a diverse skillset and knowledge base which she brings to the Office Manager role. Astrid’s skills include Human Resource Management, along with administrative support, design and photography.

Astrid’s role in Conservation Management allows her to work with local and remote teams utilising current online technologies. Astrid supports the Conservation Management teams to build the governance, communication and fundraising capacity of clients.

Astrid supports:

Building governance capacity of clients | communications projects | fundraising research and opportunity identification

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Toona Berwick
Philanthropy and Client Relations

“I love that I get to work with people doing great things in their communities, but I also see them struggle to look into broader spaces. I feel very privileged to help make connections that will enrich their work and others’.”

Toona has worked for the past ten years with a wide range of community groups and organisations to lift innovative project ideas off the ground. Her extensive fundraising, conservation and land management experience combined with knowledge of the Australian grants networks and e-NGOs helps build support for clients and enables access to supportive networks.

Toona specialises in:
Philanthropic fundraising | articulating and extending your organisation’s impact | articulating your projects for an external audience – partners and funders | mentoring staff | connecting people and projects

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“I love seeing a diverse group listen to each other’s concerns with respect, developing shared goals to look after a place for the generations to come, honouring its spirit and its people. It’s so uplifting to see people put strategies into action, bringing about the positive changes they’ve longed for.”

Mel’s extensive experience includes developing Aboriginal community ranger groups, planning for private conservation reserves and fieldwork in National Parks. She has worked in landscapes from the Kimberley region of Western Australia to the East coast of Australia in roles such as negotiating joint management with government, capacity building projects for Aboriginal Corporations, and developing commercial partnership agreements.

Mel specialises in:

project management | developing Indigenous Ranger groups | planning and communications | making stuff happen

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Saras Kumar
Conservation Impact Specialist

“I help to bring diverse groups of people together to appreciate each other’s culture, knowledge, skills and passion. This helps them work together to build strong communities supported by healthy landscapes.”

Saras has extensive experience in monitoring and evaluation, community engagement and cooperative management of protected areas. Her expertise is in bringing together local communities, governments, NGOs and corporations to wisely use natural resources and protect areas of conservation significance.

She has over twenty years’ experience in South East Asia and Australia in leadership positions within NGO, private and government sectors.

Saras specialises in:
managing Open Standards and Healthy Country Planning projects | monitoring and evaluation | community engagement | cooperative management of protected areas | Saras facilitates project support staff as needed

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https://www.linkedin.com/in/saras-kumar-7622002/
Adam Pennington
Planning & Conservation Impact Specialist

“I enjoy working with people and groups to help them realise their aspirations for conservation and improved wellbeing – for people, communities and the planet. Linking these people and groups to others, watching the relationship and positive outcomes grow while overcoming the inevitable challenges together is a big part of what it’s all about for me.”

Adam has extensive experience working with communities and stakeholders to establish, run and manage multi-million-dollar Indigenous Ranger Programs. His innovative solutions and approaches to long-running and new challenges has seen him deliver outstanding results with Indigenous organisations in Western Australia and South Australia.

Adam has developed and implemented Healthy Country Plans and has successfully carried them through to reporting and evaluation using the Open Standards principles and tools.

In another life, Adam also worked collaboratively to deliver positive conservation outcomes within the Tasmanian Forest Practices system

Adam specialises in:

developing, operating and managing Indigenous Ranger groups | delivering effective & efficient program management | building and maintaining relationships | innovative integration of Indigenous knowledge and western science in management and monitoring of country | cooperative management of protected areas | managing Open Standards and Healthy Country Planning projects | identifying funding opportunities | funding application preparation and support | strategic planning | collective impact and collaboration

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Daniel Sprod
Spatial systems | Planning | Facilitation

“I’ve always focused on helping people see how things fit together, and how their actions in our shared landscapes can be more sustainable”

Daniel’s primary skills are in environmental planning. He is a coach and trainer in the Open Standards in the practice of conservation. His other areas of expertise include facilitation, Geographical Information Systems (GIS/mapping) and getting the big picture agreed for people to take action.

He is passionate about maps and data visualization: the way this helps people understand what is important in a landscape, and how things fit together.

Daniel specialises in:

GIS/Mapping services | Coaching and Training in Open Standards | Plan development | Data visualisation

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Anton Ingarfield
Miradi Specialist | Planning | Policy Development

“I gain a great deal of satisfaction from helping Indigenous land managers achieve their visions, goals and aspirations”

Anton worked for nearly twenty years in environmental education and park management roles on the NSW North Coast. He is passionate about Indigenous land management and cultural landscapes, as well as the dynamics of vegetation communities.

In addition to qualifications and skills in planning for protected areas, Anton has specialist knowledge in forest ecology, geomorphology and human sciences. Anton is now based in Tasmania.

Anton specialises in:
Miradi support services | evaluation and reporting for landscape conservation and healthy country programs

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Ross Kermode – Associate
Creative Design | Collaborations

“I like to work with good people on things that matter. Culture and environment is really important to me and if I can help make peoples work or lives a bit easier or better, then I am always happy to assist in any way I can.”

Ross has been actively involved in environmental project management, creative design, and publishing for over 25 years, with many projects focusing on promoting environmental and indigenous awareness.

Ross’s ability to simplify complex information and develop visual aids, helps people to understand and connect with information. His all-around skills and experience enable him to identify the many layers and perspectives involved in understanding, implementing and then communicating detailed projects and ideas.

Ross specialises in:
- developing creative and practical communication products
- customized art-based applications to suit needs
- supporting Indigenous Ranger groups with foundation skills and processes
- developing iconography, communication tools and products to assist with community engagement.

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