

# JESSICA HERDER

AUSTRALIA, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT,  
CLIMATE CHANGE & WATER

RANGERS: HOLDING THE THIN GREEN LINE. SERIES ONE

*"Keep up the good work! Many hands make light work; we have a lot of work to do. Let's recruit as many people as we can! Education is the key & the youth are our future".*

I am an Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer. Australian Aboriginal culture is considered the oldest living cultural history in the world. I have been working for this Department since 2002. I have the responsibility to record, protect & assess sites, objects & places of cultural significance to Aboriginal communities.

I grew up spending a lot of time in Royal National Park, bush walking, camping, picnicking, rowing & fishing. I always knew I wanted to be a Ranger. In school I studied subjects that would help me get to University. I got into Environmental Science & in my first year applied for an Aboriginal Cadet Ranger with the National Parks. The cadetship allowed me to continue studying full-time & part time work as a Ranger. When I finished my degree I was offered a Ranger position at the Royal National Park, Australia's oldest National Park. I worked at Royal for 3 years before I started in the AHCO role.

I always wanted to be a Ranger to work outdoors; to protect the park for future generations. I like contributing to the protection of my people's cultural heritage & to foster appreciation & understanding of my people's culture & heritage.

My biggest challenge is finding the time to do everything that I want to do! There is a lot of work to be done, we have lost so many Aboriginal sites to development. Much of our cultural knowledge is lost with the passing of an elder. My work seems very urgent, there is not enough time to do everything I would like to do.

I would like to see a lot more understanding of the linkages between natural & cultural heritage management reflected in the way areas are managed. We need to think long-term, be solution focussed, think & coordinate actions globally & act local.

I'd like to think that in twenty years we don't refer to a "thin green line" because the thin green line had evolved into a big green blanket, covering the earth.



Image: V.Harnadi

*"I celebrate the work that my colleagues are doing, I celebrate what other rangers & people in natural & heritage conservation are doing all over the world, I celebrate the lives of people that have given their life for conservation & I celebrate the work I get to do now as an AHCO in cultural heritage conservation".*



Environment,  
Climate Change & Water  
National Parks & Wildlife Service



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