

Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

NEWSLETTER

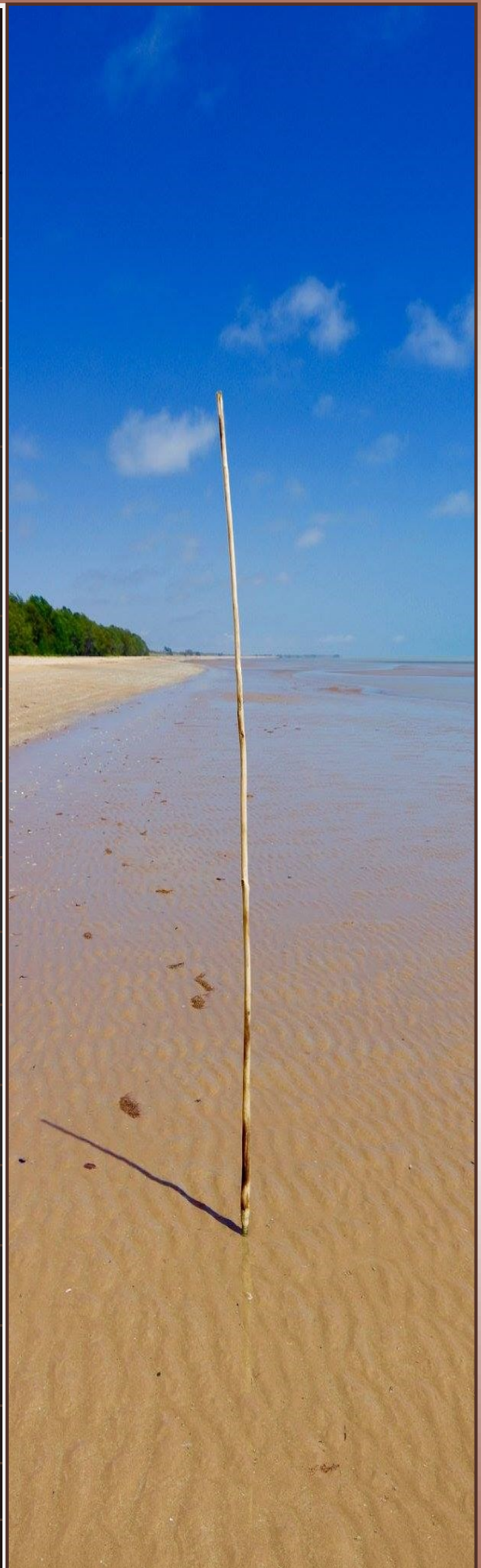
EDITION 30. JULY - DECEMBER 2017



Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to respect cultural traditions, Indigenous readers are advised that the publication may contain images of people who are deceased.

What's in this edition?

Message from the CEO	3
AFAC17	4
Feral Pig Management	5
Studies of Shorebird Resources	6 - 7
Wellesley Island Ranger's Turtle Survey	8
Marine Debris Patrol	9
Marine Turtle Monitoring	10
Shorebird Surveys & Wetlands Inventory	11
Wernadinga Fencing	12 - 13
Fire Management	14 - 15
Savannah Guides	16
Tarrant Flyway	17
Crocodile Management Program	18
Crocodile Survey	19
New CLCAC Board of Directors	20
Native Title Updates	21
Staff Updates	22
Christmas Message	23
Subscribe here	24



Message from the CEO

Dear Members, Claimants, Stakeholders and Readers,

Welcome to the July - December edition of the CLCAC newsletter for 2017. Wow another six months have just flown by and as usual CLCAC staff have been hard at it in their usual professional and committed way.

Again in this edition you will find many interesting articles about the great work the Rangers have been doing.

Congratulations to Gangalidda and Garawa Services Pty Ltd who have developed the innovative Jigija Indigenous Fire Training Program. Terrence Taylor, Ranger Coordinator and Lead Fire Training Instructor, outlined the concept and development of the Jigija Program in September this year at the AFAC17 conference: *Collaborating for Success - Improving performance in emergency management.*

You can also find out what's been happening with native title claims in the Gulf in our Native Title Update section.

Finally I hope you all enjoy reading this edition of our Newsletter and don't forget check us out and like us on Facebook.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Amini-Yanner
Chief Executive Officer



CLCAC is a not for profit Aboriginal Corporation incorporated under the CATSI Act 2006 (Cth) and primarily funded by State and Commonwealth departments and agencies. We wish to acknowledge and thank the following departments agencies for their continued support:



Australian Government
Department of Industry



Australian Government
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



Queensland Government



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

AFAC17

This September Traditional Owners from the lower Gulf attended the AFAC17 powered by INTERSCHUTZ event in Sydney. It was an exciting opportunity to promote the newly developed soon to be nationally accredited Jigija Indigenous Fire Training Program.

Terrence Taylor, Coordinator and Lead Instructor, outlined the concept and development of the Training Program and reflected on its pilot delivery in May 2017. The conference is all about *Collaborating for Success – Improving performance in emergency management* and Terrence described the effective partnership developed with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and how this has achieved outcomes for fire management across the region.

CLCAC would like to recognise support from Southern Gulf NRM who is funded by the Australian Government under the National Landcare Programme for Rangers' attendance to the AFAC17 Conference.



A graphic containing three logos. At the top right is the Southern Gulf NRM logo, featuring a stylized blue bird with a red beak. Below it is the text "Southern Gulf NRM" in blue. At the bottom left is the Jigija logo, featuring a stylized orange and yellow flame with the text "JIGIJA" and "INDIGENOUS FIRE TRAINING PROGRAM" below it. At the bottom right is the AFAC17 logo, featuring a stylized green and blue bird with the text "afac17" and "powered by INTERSCHUTZ" below it.

Left photo: Jigija Fire Rangers Desmond Armstrong & Lurick Sowden @ AFAC17 Exhibition.

Feral Pig Management

Aerial culling operations were undertaken in the Wernadinga project area over a week in October with just under 1,000 feral pigs removed from country in total. The cull was carried out by CLCAC's Gangalidda & Garawa Ranger Murrandoo Yanner Jnr who recently completed an aerial shooting course led by CLCAC's Regional Ranger Coordinator in Normanton. Aerial culling is one of a number of specialist training courses that are available to CLCAC Rangers and enables the Land & Sea Program to deliver a range of high quality environmental management services. Check out the photos below!



Studies of Shorebird Resources

CLCAC Rangers have begun new research into shorebird food resources with sampling at both of the region's Flyway Sites – Nijinda Durlga (Tarrant) and Delta Downs. CLCAC Rangers worked with Dr. Andrew Storey of Wetland Research & Management to undertake sampling over a week in October.

At each location samples were taken around healthy mangroves and mangroves impacted by the recent dieback. The Rangers hope this information may contribute to understandings of the mangrove dieback event, particularly in relation to how it may impact on the availability of food for shorebirds. The Rangers carried out sampling at targeted sites on the mudflats and then stored samples overnight in the freezer. The samples were subsequently sorted and Rangers identified a range of worms, small crabs and shells. The samples collected have now been sent to a lab in Western Australian to undergo detailed analysis by a team of specialist scientists.



Above photo: Rangers working with Dr. Andrew Storey .

Next page

Above photo: This information will help CLCAC Rangers to understand the impacts of the recent mangrove dieback on their traditional lands and waters.

Below photo: Sampling on the mudflats can be hard work!

Studies of Shorebird Resources



Wellesley Island Ranger's Turtle Survey

In October the Wellesley Island Rangers hosted Alastair Freeman of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to carry out preliminary investigations into marine turtle populations in the Wellesley Islands. Alastair came to Mornington Island on request of the Wellesley Island Rangers who are keen to establish a long-term monitoring program. Night patrols were undertaken on the beaches of Mornington and data collected on nesting success, turtle's curved carapace length, nest temperatures and predation. A helicopter survey captured a broader picture of turtle nesting in the Wellesley Islands with track counts completed for Bountiful and Little Bountiful, Pisonia and Wallaby. The density of turtle nesting recorded during this fieldwork was similar to other important rookeries in Australia such as Raine and Crab Island and the Wellesley Islands may even be the most important area of nesting Green turtles in the eastern Indian Ocean. The Wellesley Island Rangers are eager to build on this initial work as part of a long-term monitoring program to ensure the protection and conservation of turtle populations. Thank you to Alastair Freeman and the Department for their support.



Above photo: Wellesley Island Rangers Roy Amini and Lawrence Burke on night patrol.

Marine Debris Patrol

The Normanton Rangers have continued to carry out biosecurity work in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resource's Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS). From 11 – 15 October NAQS staff and the Normanton Rangers undertook activities on Delta Downs Station. The team met with the Station Manager Paul Edwards and Normanton Ranger and Kurtijar man Lance Rapson provided a welcome to country.

A marine debris patrol was undertaken on Smithburne Pt Austin and the beach was surveyed for anything suspicious including illegal fishing or camping. CLCAC Rangers regularly carry out patrols on the remote beaches of the Gulf to remove rubbish and collect samples that are tested in the NAQS lab to identify any pests or diseases. These patrols are an important contribution to ensuring the biosecurity of Australia.



Left photo: Harry Tamwoy, Community Liason Officer for NAQS, showing Ranger Coordinator Philip George the new promotional 3D headset which allows the viewer to see a range of biosecurity activities. This technology provides great insight and the Normanton Rangers hope to utilise it in the future for school presentations and community education activities.

Marine Turtle Monitoring

This nesting season the Normanton Rangers have been out on the beaches of Delta Downs collecting vital baseline data. From 11 – 14 September the Rangers hosted Dr. Ian Bell from the Queensland Government's Department of Environment and Heritage and completed surveys on Smithburne, Vandiemens and Kelso. Ian was invited to work with the Normanton Rangers to share his expertise and provide any recommendations for improving their monitoring program.

Data was collected on turtle species and nesting activity. A decomposed Leatherback turtle was found on Kelso beach which was the first observation of this species since the Normanton Rangers commenced monitoring. During this nesting season an aerial survey was also completed from the Gilbert to Karumba to gain a broader picture of nesting occurrence. As part of the marine turtle monitoring program, the Rangers undertake educational activities with Traditional Owners, tourists, the local community and schools to raise awareness of turtle nesting and how to use coastlines with caution in order to avoid disturbing turtles and their nests.



Above Photo: Dr. Ian Bell with the decomposed Leatherback turtle .

Shorebird Surveys & Wetlands Inventory

In early September the Normanton Rangers worked with renowned ornithologist Roger Jaensch of Jaensch Ornithology and Conservation to carry out shorebird surveys on the Wernadinga coast and complete the first round of a wetlands inventory.

The team accessed the remote shorebird roosts via helicopter and fifteen species of migratory shorebirds were recorded including all seven of the threatened species under the EPBC Act 1999. In particular, the survey found high numbers of Eastern Curlew and Black-tailed Godwit. The coast of the southern Gulf is internationally important for the large numbers of migratory shorebirds that travel through each year on their 20,000km migration. Additionally, the Normanton Rangers are establishing a wetlands inventory to collect systematic information on the characteristics and values of Wernadinga's wetlands.

An aerial reconnaissance was conducted to provide a broad overview of the entire wetland system with detailed assessments carried out at each of the major lakes. Five sites were selected in relation to the newly established fence and on-going observations at these sites will allow the Rangers to identify any changes to country.



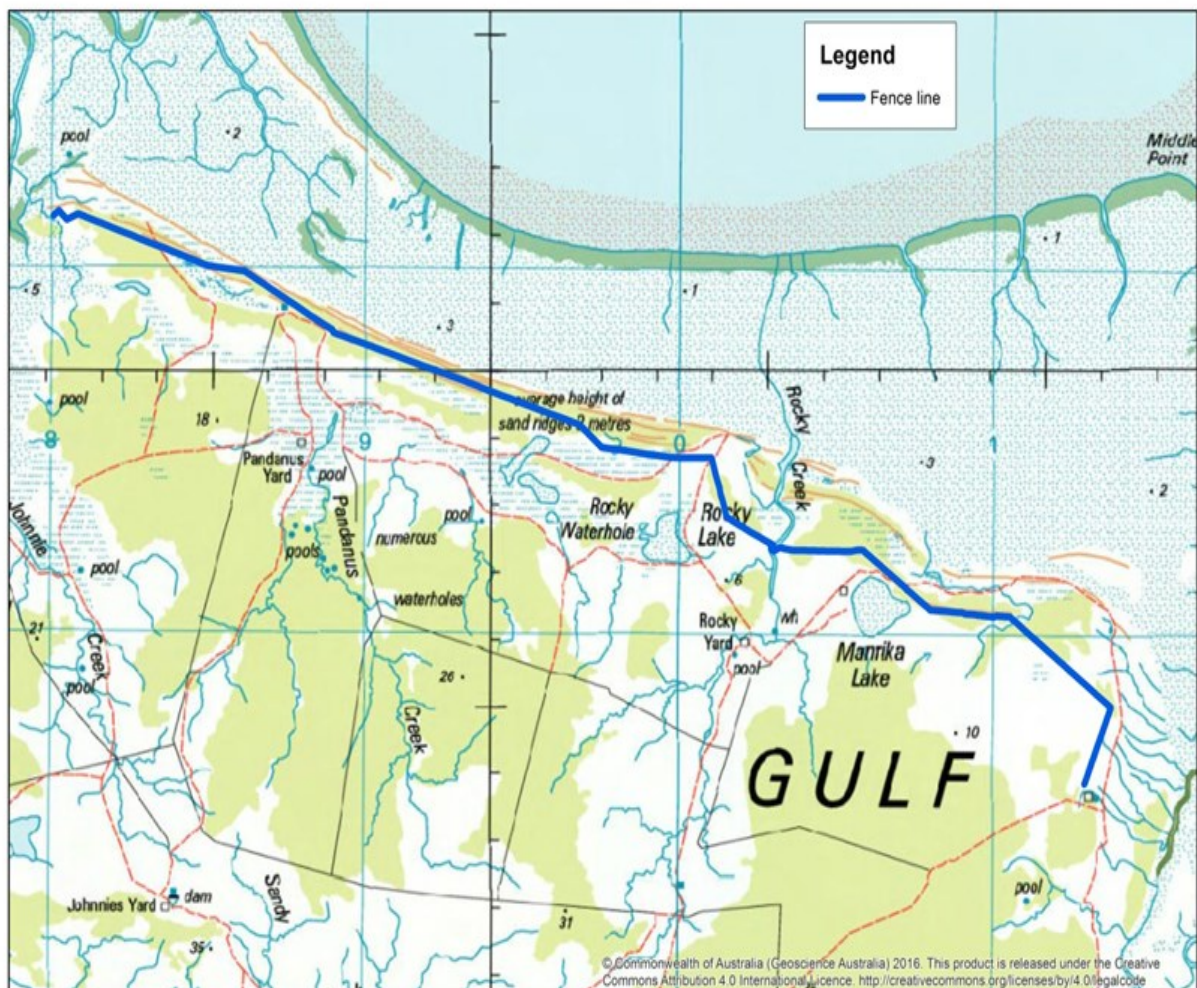
Above photo: Wetlands on Wernadinga

Wernadinga Fencing

CLCAC is working with Southern Gulf NRM and Wernadinga Station to undertake a major fencing project and a number of environmental monitoring activities on Wernadinga.

In early October the Normanton Rangers completed 40 km of fencing out at Wernadinga station. This was a major project and the team started working on the fence on 21st of September 2017. The Normanton Rangers collaborated with Wernadinga Station to see this project to fruition, completing 25km of the fence line and the station's contractors completing 15km. This fence is the first of its kind in the region and will assist with the management of cattle to reduce the impact of grazing on important coastal habitat.

Map showing the completed fenceline in blue.



Wernadinga Fencing



Above photos: Wernadinga Fenceline and Normanton Rangers on site at Wernadinga.

Fire Management

The Normanton Rangers undertook fire management at the Thawil Thuddawaarn Pikel Reserve on the northern side of the Normanton Hospital and Recovery Centre from 23 – 24 November. Actions were carried out according to annual plans with late season burning to reduce fuel loads, woody thickening and target key weed species. Fire management is a key way to look after country combining Traditional Ecological Knowledge and western science and technology.

During this burn senior Rangers utilised their years of experience in fire management to mentor newly recruited Rangers and it sparked a keen interest in these budding fire practitioners!



Above photo - Back Row: Haydon Tyrrell, Bryce Rainbow, Richie Bee Jnr and Lawrence George. Front row: Lance Rapson, Phillip George and Kate Bellchambers.

Next Page

Above photo: CLCAC Support Officer Kate Bellchambers running a line with a drip torch with supervision from team leader Richie Bee Jnr. Normanton Rangers take measurements at a 1 metres ground cover plot. Monitoring methodologies are put in place so that Rangers can evaluate the impact of fire management on country.

Below photo: Ranger Coordinator Phillip George stands near a Townsville Wattle Tree radius burn at post fire.

Fire Management



Savannah Guides

On 18 October 2017 the Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers together with Yagurli Tours hosted the Savannah Guides Field School in Burketown which went over 4 days. A number of activities were planned including croc spotting and fishing tours.

Over the course of the training Rodney Kum Sing from Yagurli Tours & Brenton Yanner, Head Ranger for Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers were accredited as Savannah Guides. A Savannah Guide is a protector and interpreter of the natural and cultural environment, a tour guide who continually develops their knowledge of the flora, fauna, history, geography and geology relevant to their region of operation. Congratulations to Rodney and Brenton!

Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers and Yagurli Tours would like to thank Savannah Guides for the privilege of hosting the Savannah Guides Field School in Burketown over the last 4 days. A special thanks to Russell & Sam Boswell and Mick Clark and we look forward to building a long and productive relationship with the Members of Savannah Guides.



Above photo L - R: Brenton Yanner, Head Ranger for Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers and Rodney Kum Sing from Yagurli Tours.

Tarrant Flyway

On the 18th of October 2017 a ceremony was hosted by the Gangalidda People in Burketown to recognise the inclusion of the Nijinda Durlga (Tarrant) site within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).

This ceremony was an opportunity for the local community to come together with a range of stakeholders to celebrate the successful nomination and reflect on the on-going work of the Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers in migratory waterbird conservation.

For further information on the Nijinda Durlga (Tarrant) Flyway Network Site ceremony check out the article recently published on the EAAFP website. <http://www.eaaflyway.net/delegates-flock-to-gangalidda-cou.../>



Above photo L-R: Thomas Wilson CLCAC Chairperson, Roger Jaensch of Ornithology and Conservation, Amelia Selles from Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Murrandoo Yanner and Rob Hughes from Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

Crocodile Management Program

The Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers recently worked with the Normanton Rangers and Officers from the Department of Environment & Heritage Protection in Burketown on crocodile management, monitoring and education training.

We remind all community members to BE CROCWISE when camping and fishing in the Gulf. Saltwater crocodiles are dangerous to people and pets. Remember you are at risk of saltwater crocodile attack in all Gulf waterways. Check out the photos below!



Crocodile Survey

Following on from the Crocodile Management program the Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers undertook crocodile surveys in Burketown. The Rangers collected important data on crocodile behaviour and habitat. Their work will help conserve viable populations of estuarine crocodiles and protect humans from problem crocodiles. Crocodiles most commonly live in the tidal reaches of rivers and associated inlets and wetlands. However, they also occur along beaches and across the Wellesley Islands, and in freshwater lagoons, rivers, and swamps up to hundreds of kilometres inland from the coast.

An adult crocodile's prey may include sea turtles, goannas, wallabies, cats, pigs, dogs, kangaroos, cattle, horses, buffalo, other crocodiles, and very occasionally, people.



Above photo: New recruit Alex Fraser, Land & Sea Planning and Business Support Officer was invited to attend the survey.

New CLCAC Board of Directors

Congratulations to our new Board of Directors elected at our Annual General Meeting on 18 October 2017 and at General Meetings held on 10 November 2017. Our Board is made up of one Director and one Alternate Director from each of the nine Gulf language groups.

Congratulations to Tommy Wilson who was subsequently re-elected as Chairperson by the Board.

GROUP	DIRECTOR	ALTERNATIVE
Gangalidda	Murradoo Yanner	Rodney Kum Sing
Garawa	Donald Bob	Keith Rory
Waanyi	Henry Aplin	Kinglee Brown
Lardil	Thomas Wilson/ Chairperson	Wayne Williams
Kaiadilt	Delma Loogatha	Gerald Loogatha
Yangkaal	Lawrence Burke	Chicko Toby
Gkuthaarn	Marlene Logan	Simone Moses
Kukatj	Phillip George	Macus George
Kurtijar	Joseph Rainbow	Lance Rapson

Native Title Update

CLCAC continues to work with native title claim groups in the southern Gulf to progress Native Title Claims by providing legal advice, project support and administrative assistance.

CLCAC is also committed to supporting Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC), Gangalidda and Garawa Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (GGNTAC) and Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (WNTAC) as the prescribed bodies corporate (PBC).

These PBC's manage the Native Title rights and interests of the Lardil, Yangkaal, Kaiadilt, Gangalidda, Garawa and Waanyi Peoples.

CLCAC assisted with the following PBC AGM's held in November 2017:

- GRAC on 8 November 2017;
- GGNTAC on 9 November 2017; and
- WNTAC on 30 November 2017.



Above photo: New GRAC Board of Directors - Chiko Toby (Chairperson), Lawrence Burke, Robyrta Felton, Delma Loogatha, Rene Simpson, Clarissa Paul, Thomas Wilson, Lester Benn, Karimah Chong, Murrandoo Yanner, Dale Amini & Brenton Yanner.

Staff Updates

CLCAC would like to welcome newest recruit Alex Fraser. Alex has taken on the position of Land & Sea Planning and Business Support Officer based in Burketown.

Alex tell us about you...

Full Name: Alexander Fraser
Position Title: Land & Sea Planning and Business Support Officer
Belongs to: Land and Sea Unit
Experience: Bachelor of Environment (Management)
Where you from? Adelaide, South Australia

Fun Fact: I have spent time living and working in Canada. During this time I lived on top of a mountain, 8,960 ft above sea level. In the winter months the temperature frequently dropped below -30 degrees Celsius.

Hobbies/Interests: I love participating and watching all sports. I support Essendon in the AFL. I also enjoy fishing and photography, both of which I will look to take advantage of in Burketown.



Christmas Message

The CLCAC will be closing its offices at 5:00pm Thursday 21 December 2017 for the Christmas and New Year's Festive Season. Please note our office doors will re-open on 8:30am Thursday 4 January 2018.

We would like to take the time to thank you for your support during the year and we look forward to working with you in 2017.



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Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

PO Box 6662

CAIRNS QLD 4870

or subscribe online at www.clcac.com.au

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