

Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

NEWSLETTER

EDITION 28. JANUARY - MARCH 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.

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Australian Government
Department of Industry



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Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



Queensland Government



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Message from the CEO

Dear Members, Claimants, Stakeholders and Readers,

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2017. Its hard to believe a quarter of the year has passed already! The year kicked off with a CLCAC strategic planning workshop involving our Board of Directors, PBC Chairs and key PBC Directors. The focus of the workshop was to discuss preferred service delivery models for the PBC's moving forward.

In this edition you will read more interesting articles about the great work the Rangers have been doing including turtle monitoring, bird monitoring, weed management along with assisting the Department of Environment and Heritage Wildlife Officers remove a dangerous crocodile from Mornington Island. This dangerous crocodile had been threatening the community for months. Well done Rangers.

Congratulations to Gangalidda Garawa Services Pty Ltd for establishing their very own tourism venture: Yagurli Tours. Yagurli Tours will be offering a rang of tours for visitors in the coming months including river tours, tag-along tours, fishing tours, bush-tucker walkabouts, stargazing (with a cultural twist!) and seasonally available birdwatching.

In this edition we welcome two new Rangers in the Gangalidda and Garawa Ranger Unit: Tre Yanner and Lurick Sowden. We also welcome three new support staff: Peter Wood, Dynieka Taylor and Mangu Yanner.

You can also read all about what has been Native Title wise in the usual Native Title updates on pages 18 and 19.

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

Yours Sincerely
Charles Hammond



Welcome Back!

Well the wet season definitely kicked in this year cutting off road access to the region but that didn't stop CLCAC from hitting the ground running for a productive 2017.

First meeting of the year was the CLCAC Strategic Planning meeting held in Cairns on 24-25 January. The meeting was attended by the CLCAC Board and representatives from each of the PBC's to map out the strategic direction for the CLCAC over the coming years in a post determination model.





Above photo: CLCAC Strategic Planning meeting.

Mon Repos

On the 28 January - 3 February Fred Pascoe and Paul Logan of the Normanton Office and on the 17 - 26 February Murrandoo Yanner Jnr, Brenton Yanner, Clinton Taylor and Des Armstrong of Burketown Office attended the Mon Repos Marine turtle research center & training camp at Bundaburg Qld to get hands on experience and learn about the ecology and life cycle of Marine Turtles from one of the World's leading expert's Dr Col Limpus.

It was a great opportunity and life changing experience for all to go to Mon Repo to learn more about marine turtles and an eye opener actually seeing one crawling up onto the beach to lay her eggs and not in an aquarium swimming around.

During the week at the research center we learnt so much about marine turtles, including: the basics of identifying the different turtle species, differences in tracks to identify species, different shells sizes, sizes of each species of marine turtle, length of the turtle, weight of the turtle, egg sizes of each species plus how many eggs they lay. All other species besides the Flatback turtles migrate to their feeding grounds around Australia and into international waters to build up their fat reserves for the breeding season. The Flatback turtle is the only marine turtle species that does not migrate out of Australian waters.

We learned about the life cycle of Marine Turtles from hatchlings to adults and the stages a turtle goes through. Once hatchlings have emerged and made it into the water they will swim non-stop for three days out to open waters. Only about 1 out of 1,000 turtles may reach adulthood. They live and feed off plankton, insects as well as other small creatures, but other than this not much is known about what is referred to as the 'missing years'. Once marine turtles reach the juvenile stage, they will move from the open waters and into the reef, living, feeding off hard and soft coral, sponges, and shell fish until it reaches adulthood and is ready to breed for the very first time. Weight and size plays a big part in breeding. A female must have plenty of fat to travel from her feeding grounds back to her breeding grounds where she will mate with several partners before coming onto the beach where she was born to lay her eggs.

This project is supported by the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program, jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments.





Above left photo: Murrandoo Yanner Jnr.

Above right photo: Clinton Taylor and Des Armstrong.

Below photo: Large Female Loggerhead Turtle at Mon Repos.

Fire Management

CLCAC Rangers would like to remind property owners of the importance of planning for the upcoming fire season.

The Southern Gulf has received average rainfall in areas to date and the outlook for the rest of the monsoon season shows that we have a good chance of reaching our annual rainfall average.

Vegetation across the region is showing good returns with grasses reaching maturity and holding good seed heads. As part of your early fire mitigation plan you need to consider where strategic mineral earth breaks can be constructed and when and where you can conduct strategic early dry season burns.

For further information please contact Kevin Anderson, Fire Project Officer, on 07 48 6000.



Above photo: Gangalidda Ranger, Des Armstrong on fire patrol.



Above photo: Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers on fire patrol.

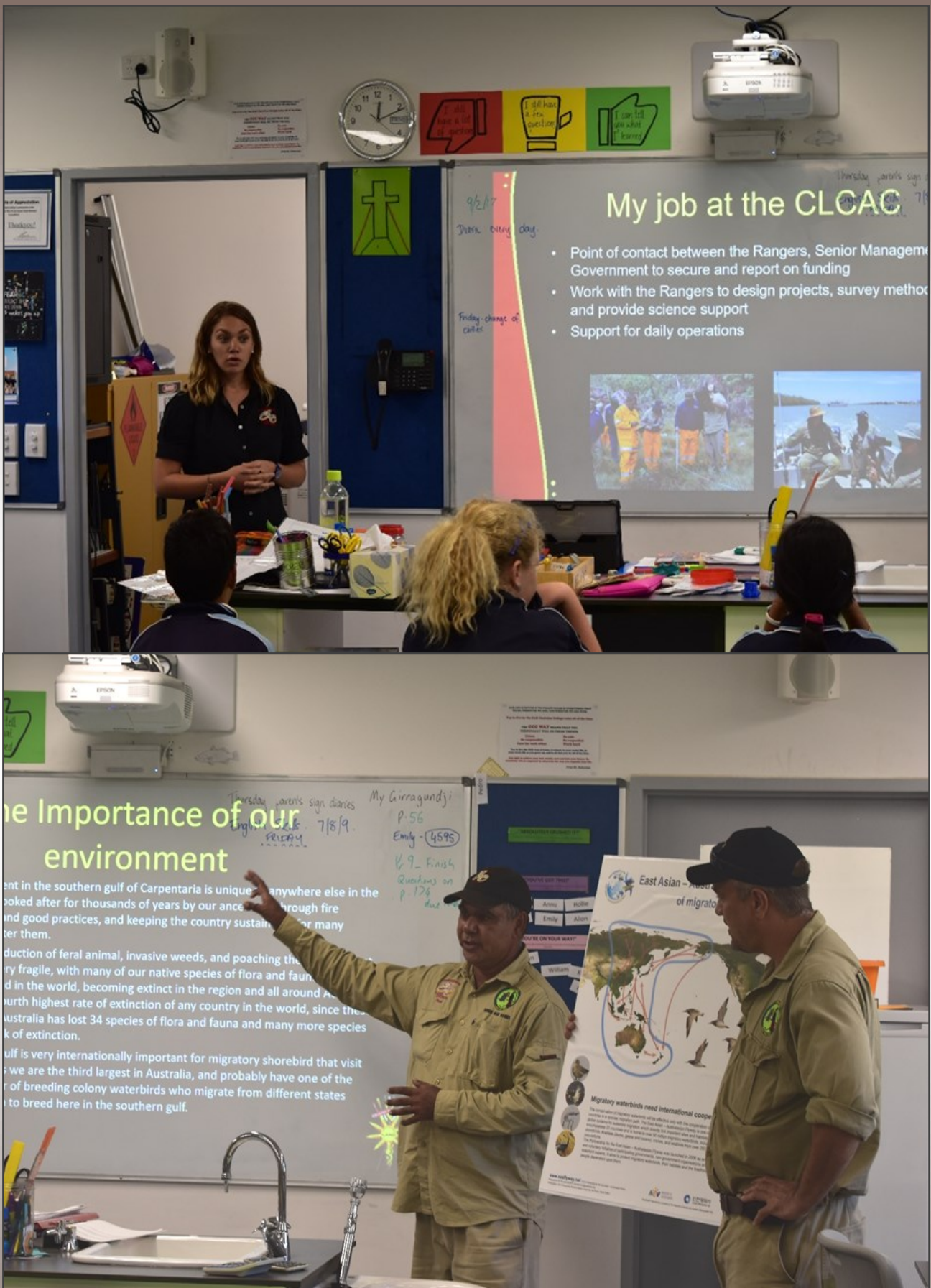
Gulf Christian College Presentation

This year two separate presentations were held at the Gulf Christian College which covered the variety of conservation and land management activities that the rangers carry out to help protect our fragile environment in the Southern Gulf of Carpentaria. The second presentation concentrated more along the lines of career paths for young students to think about when they leave high school and options at university if they are looking at becoming future environmental specialists. The school provided Rangers with a list of topics of interest and subjects that complimented the curriculum to incorporate into their presentation.

These presentation extended on previous presentations conducted at the school and went into a lot more depth. Rangers discussed how fragile and unique the rivers systems, waterways, wetlands are in our region, and how they play the most important part in the ecosystems survival. Without healthy water systems nothing would survive. It was also explained to students how our region is connected to other parts of the world through different animals that migrate, or pass through here, and why it is important to look after our country as a lot of their natural habitat overseas is being destroyed through human impacts such as, Industries, agriculture, and over populated areas. The Rangers also presented interesting facts to the students from published articles, such as:

MOST PEOPLE DON'T REALISE THAT NORTHERN AUSTRALIA HAS THE LARGEST INTACT TROPICAL SAVANNAH LEFT ON THE PLANET. THE SAVANNAHS OF AFRICA AND ASIA HAVE BEEN HEAVILY IMPACTED BY HUMAN CIVILISATION AND DEVELOPMENT OVER THE YEARS, WHEREAS AUSTRALIA HASN'T. THE COMBINATION OF WOODLANDS, GRASSLANDS, RIVER SYSTEMS AND WETLANDS MAKE THE SAVANNAH A VERY PRECIOUS ENVIRONMENT."
WHISHAW, 2016 ([HTTP://WWW.ADVENTURETOURS.COM.AU/AUSTRALIA-OUTBACK-YARNS/WHY-SUSTAINABLE-TOURISM-IS-KEY-TO-THE-FUTURE-OF-NORTHERN-AUSTRALIA/](http://www.adventuretours.com.au/australia-outback-yarns/why-sustainable-tourism-is-key-to-the-future-of-northern-australia/))

The second presentation gave the opportunity for students to think about their future when they left high school and options to go onto university studies. The Rangers explored how they work with a lot of different agencies and scientists to achieve shared conservation goals and to look after our environment and its natural values. The presentation encouraged students to start thinking outside the box, look at electives for further studies, and think about what they might want to become, for instance, Marine Biologist or Ornithologist (studies birds). This presentation also discussed opportunities to travel around the world and work in other countries to learn about what efforts are being made internationally.



Above photos: Normanton crew providing presentations at the Gulf Christian College.

Wellesley Island Rangers Update

The Wellesley Islands Rangers and CLCAC's Gangalidda Garawa Rangers undertook a joint patrol with EHP's Crocodile Management Team at the start of March in the Appel Channel to remove a large estuarine crocodile that had been menacing community members for over nine months.

The crocodile was eventually shot by EHP's Tony Frisby in the late hours of Sunday 5 March after three previously unsuccessful patrols to locate the animal. This was a big effort by the guys with 16 hour days being worked over three days to achieve this result. As to the demise of the crocodile, word quickly spread in the community, despite the late hour and in true TO style the croc was immediately cut up and all the meat was shared around so nothing went to waste.

The Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC) would like to take this opportunity to thank Christopher Loogatha for the use of his boat for patrols prior to the arrival of the Gangalidda Garawa Ranger team and EHP and during the joint patrols; Dirk Loogatha for the use of his vessel during the joint patrols and Gununamanda for donating five shirts that were presented to the Gangalidda Garawa Rangers and Tony and Dinook from EHP, thanking them for their assistance.



Above photo L-R: Murrandoo Yanner, Lawrence Burke, Brenton Yanner, Dirk Loogatha, Braedon Linden and Terrence Taylor.

Ranger Coordinators Workshop

On the 7 - 9 March the Ranger Coordinators workshop was held at Paradise Palms, Cairns. The workshop started with a Welcome to Country and presentations by the Yirrganydji Rangers which was then followed by workshops, housekeeping and ground rules.

The Normanton crew provided a presentation about **The Journey to Ranger Coordinator** describing the personal journey we have been on to becoming Ranger Coordinators for both Normanton and Burketown.

Over the three day workshop there were a lot of interesting presentations by other Ranger groups from around the State such as Corporate Partnerships (Gidarjil Rangers), Soil and Erosion management (Balnggarrawarra Rangers and Lamalama Rangers), Managing Knowledge and Culture (YRSA and QYAC), Stepping up Training (Balnggarrawarra Rangers, Djunbunji Rangers, Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers and Yirrganydji Rangers). Most of the presentations were presented jointly with Rangers from different groups and all of the workshops were held in three main function rooms with different presentations running concurrently. On the last day we had the opportunity to speak with other key groups and agencies from Biosecurity Queensland, Indigenous Land Corporation and Marine Turtle Conservation – EHP.

Overall, the workshop was different from previous years and we had the opportunity to see a lot of new faces and learn from different presentations.



Above photo: Senior Head Ranger Paul Richardson Presenting at the 2017 Workshop Cairns.

Coxswain

On the 18 - 25 January 2017 Brenton Yanner, Gangalidda and Garawa Ranger and Rodney Kumsing, Gangalidda and Garawa Tourism Operations Coordinator travelled to Newcastle to undertake training in "All Hands on Deck Maritime Training".

The course is made up of different modules which included both theory and practical sessions concentrating on:

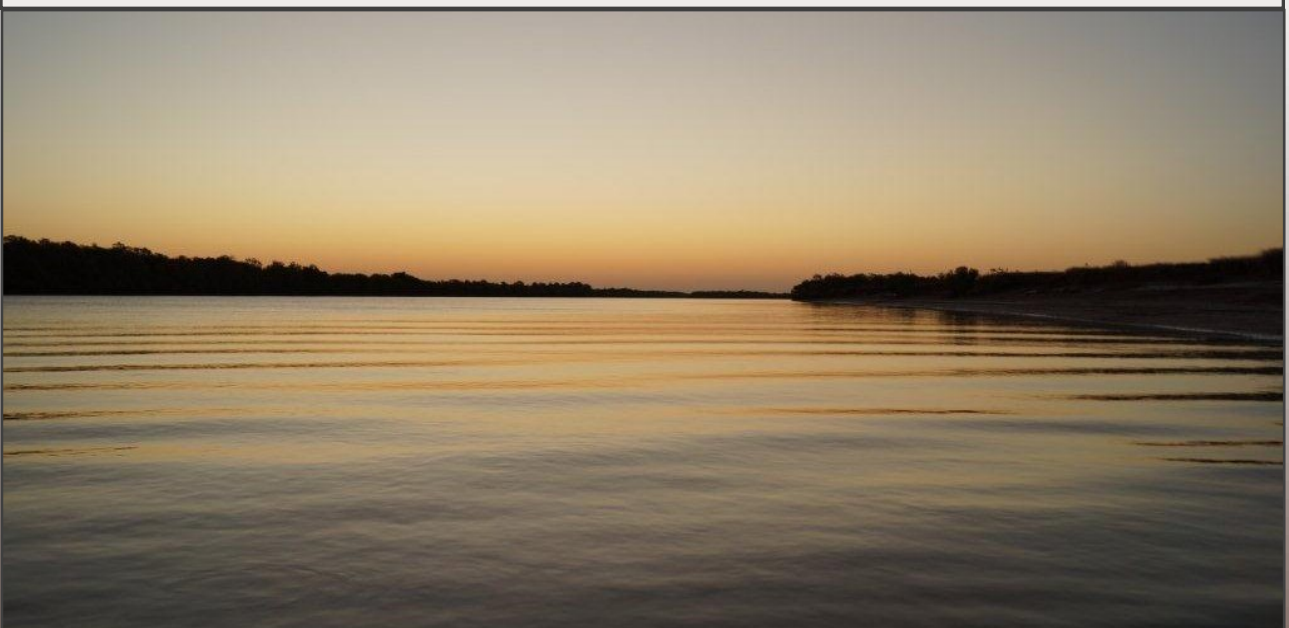
GPH Certificate (Deck hand)

- Fire training;
- Survive at sea;
- Rope Work;
- Docking;
- Anchoring; and
- Marine Radio License

NC1 Commercial Coxswain ticket

- Vessel Engine Activities;
- Vessel Maneuvering;
- Marine Radio;
- Col Regs;
- Boat Handling; and
- Passenger Briefing.

We are very proud of Brenton and Rodney for passing all the modules!



Burketown Weeds

In the last month the Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers have been very busy carrying out weed work at the Meatworks, Bottleheap areas and the designated camping sites.

In total the Rangers sprayed, cut and pasted a total of **10,241** Rubbervine and Calatropo plants.



Gangalidda Garawa Tourism Update

Things might appear a bit quiet on the tourism front with the continuation of the wet but its full - on behind the scenes with planning and organising for the year to come! The Gangalidda Garawa Tourism Rangers are gearing up for what promises to be a full-on busy year offering tours and other experiences never before available in Burketown.

You might recall in previous editions we've mentioned that the guys plan to run fishing charters and scenic river cruises this year. How? Well, they commissioned the production of a custom vessel to be manufactured by Cairns Custom Craft. Construction of the vessel is now completed and it has been delivered to Burketown ready to rock and roll for the kick off of tourist season in April.

Yagurli Tours, wholly owned by Gangalidda Garawa Services Pty Ltd, will be running these tours everyday as demand requires throughout the of the year. Other tours will include tag-along tours, bush-tucker walkabouts, stargazing (with a cultural twist!) and seasonally available birdwatching.

Meanwhile, back at the Burketown Visitor Centre Sophie and Nikita will be presenting some of the best art produced across the region for sale to the discerning buyer. Not just the usual paintings which are a standout feature but also sculpture, jewellery, books (in language with English translation), wrapping papers and gift cards. This will be your number one stop if you're after a truly unique gift that reflects the spirit of the region!!

Don't forget to sample the goodies while you are there! Chocolate Ooze proved a favourite last year, but the author can testify to the fact they were all seriously good!! Served along with your favourite types of coffee and tea and you have a high tea experience not provided for this side of the Great Divide! The fruit slushies also proved a favourite with kids of all ages.

"It's going to be an exciting time in Burketown this year with plenty on offer for visitors and locals alike. We need to make sure that we all get out there and support local business and local events." said Burketown Shire Cr Murray, herself a proud Gangalidda person. "It's been a long time coming for my mob, but we're determined to make the best of it, now we've got the opportunity!"

There's a couple of websites that have been created we recommend you check out. First www.gangalidda-garawa.com.au has information about Gangalidda country, the IPA and the permit system around Burketown, including a booking platform where you can select your camping site based on its location to town, how many vehicles can be catered for at each site, a photo of the site and the date range of your stay. Then secondly www.burketown.com.au. This is the host site for Yagurli Tours. Here you will be able to get broader information from across the region, as well as to book your tour.

Next page above photo: New signs for Burketown signal a new begin for tourism.

Next page middle photo: L-R Rodney Kumsing, Gangalidda and Garawa Tourism Operations Manager and Donald Bob Gangalidda and Garawa Ranger, proudly showing the new camping signs.

Next page below photo: The new vessel "Mabuntha Yipipee" seating configurations can be changed easily to suit any group and any use!

BURKETOWN NATURALLY



DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE GULF OF CARPENTARIA!

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Native Title Updates

Throughout January to March 2017 CLCAC has been working with Traditional Owner groups in the southern Gulf to progress Native Title Claims by providing legal advice, project support and administrative assistance.

The following Native Title claim group meetings were held between January and March 2017.

6 February: Gkuthaarn and Kukatj People Native Title Claim Group Meeting held at Normanton.

7 February: Gkuthaarn and Kukatj People meeting with DATSIP and Carpentaria Shire Council.

27 February: Kurtijar People Native Title Claim Group meeting held at Normanton.

29 March: Gangalidda and Garawa Native Title Holders meeting held at Burketown.

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 PBCs manage the Native Title rights and interests of the Lardil, Yangkaal, Kaiadilt, Gangalidda, Garawa and Waanyi Peoples.



Above photo: Kurtijar People Native Title Claim Group meeting.

13th Year Anniversary

On the 23 March 2004 Justice Cooper of the Federal Court delivered his judgement in the Wellesley Sea Claim. This was the first and only native title case run to trial by CLCAC and involved an application by the Lardil, Yangkaal, Gangalidda and Kaiadilt Peoples. The claim was the first fully contested native title claim in Queensland since Mabo and only second native title claim in Australia relating solely to the sea.

The claim ran for 8 years before it was finally determined following a lengthy trial on Mornington Island. The Court recognised that non-exclusive native title rights and interests are held by the Lardil, Yangkaal, Kaiadilt and Gangalidda peoples over the seas surrounding the Wellesley Islands and over part of the Albert River.

Many people gave evidence in support of the claim, including a number of important and respected Elders who are no longer with us. This case served to lay the foundation for future native title claims in CLCAC's region, providing a legal precedent for the recognition of the Lardil, Yangkaal, Gangalidda and Kaiadilt Peoples as native title holders.



Crane survey Delta Downs 2017

On the 19th of February 2017, Dr George Archibald from the International Crane Foundation and Tim Nevard (Naturalist), travelled out to Normanton to carry out research on the Brolga and the Eastern Sarus cranes in nesting sites around Delta Downs station. These sites had been previously surveyed by Dr George Archibald in 1984 as part of the study 'Comparative ecology and behaviour of the two species'.

Interestingly, up until 1953 the Brolga was thought to be the only crane species living in Australia. The Sarus cranes population and range has increased dramatically over the years. During the breeding season, both species of cranes will lay 2-3 eggs per clutch and nest in shallow laying swamp areas. Having nests in shallow laying areas makes nests vulnerable to an array of predators such as, Feral Pigs, Dingos, Water Python, Goannas, and Cattle. Both species have different nesting sites to one another and feed in different habitats. The results of this research will be of great interest in the future by providing comparative data for populations of both species and might indicate if there is a decrease in one species or if they remain the same.



Above photo: Brolgas nest with two eggs.

Staff Updates

CLCAC would like to take the opportunity to publically welcome our newest recruits: Dyneika Taylor, Mangu Yanner, Lurick Sowden, Tre Yanner and Peter Wood.

Full Name: Dynieka Taylor.

Position Title: Administration & Project Support Officer.

Qualifications: Certificate III in Business & I also did a Certificate II in Health Support Services but I didn't get to complete it.

Experience: I graduated high school last year, I've had work experience while I was at school in Townsville at the Mater Hospital, Lady Gowrie Early Childhood Centre and I worked at Nowlands Engineering in Burketown from 2011 – 2016.



Where are you from/mob? My tribal group is Gangalidda. I grew up in Burketown and have family ties from Doomadgee and Mount Isa.

Hobbies/Interests: Fitness, fishing and being outdoors.

Full Name: Mangubadijarri Phillip Balyarinyi Yanner.

Position Title: Land & Sea Project Officer.

Qualifications: I studied Law & International Relations at Bond University (although I haven't completed my studies yet).

Experience: I used to be the Administrative Assistant for Mougibi Housing Co-op Society and the Administration & Project Support Officer for the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. I also worked as a Cultural Heritage Officer and Monitor for the Gangalidda-Garawa Native Title Aboriginal Corporation and as a Special Field Officer for the Australian Bureau of Statistics during the 2016 Census.



Where are you from/mob? I am a Gangalidda man of the Gunnamulla clan and I live in Mougibi (Burketown).

Hobbies/Interests: I like reading, politics, culture and raising awareness of issues relating to mental health and indigenous peoples.

Staff Updates

Full Name: Lurick William Sowden.

Position Title: Ranger.

Experience: Cert III in Surface Extraction.

Where are you from/mob? Mount Isa.

Hobbies/Interests: Soccer, football and fishing.



Full Name: Phillip Balyarinyi Tre Peter Brian Yanner.

Position Title: Ranger.

Experience: Manual labour.

Where are you from/mob? Moungebibi.

Hobbies/Interests: Fishing, motorbikes and reading.



Full Name: Peter Wood.

Position Title: Geographic Information System (mapping) and Data Management Officer.

Qualifications: PhD in Ecotourism.

Experience: 20 years of GIS with organisations such as Wet Tropics Management Authority and James Cook University.

Where are you from/mob? Mossman and Cairns.

Fun Fact: North Melbourne supporter.

Hobbies/Interests: Swimming and volunteering.



Standing Strong with CLCAC

CLCAC would like to acknowledge the following staff for their continuous fulltime commitment for over 10 years dedication and hard work:

Kelly Gardner commenced in 2002. Kelly is our Planning and Policy Officer based in Burketown;

Kevin Anderson commenced in 2006. Kevin is our Fire Project Officer based in Burketown;

Rachel Amini-Yanner commenced in 2006. Rachel is our Native Title Service Manager and Deputy CEO based in Burketown;

Charlene Levers commenced in 2006. Charlene is our Corporate Services and Project Support Officer based in Cairns; and

Simone Arnol commenced in 2006. Simone is our Corporate Service Project Officer



Above photo: L-R Rachel Amini-Yanner and Simone Arnol.

Below photo: L-R Kelly Gardner and Charlene Levers.

Right side photo: Kevin Anderson.

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