

Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

NEWSLETTER

EDITION 29. APRIL - JUNE 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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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
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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 April - June edition of the CLCAC newsletter for 2017. Wow another three months have just flown by and as usual CLCAC staff have been hard at it in their usual professional and committed way.

A big thanks to the Finance Team who once again closed of the end of financial year in a professional and efficient manner.

Again in this edition you will find many interesting articles about the great work the Rangers have been doing including remote crocodile management training, biodiversity surveys near Hell's Gate, remote first aid and 4WD training, migratory shorebird training at the Tarrant Flyway site and protecting turtle nesting sites around Gunnamulla Beach.

Crocodiles are part of the Gulf however CLCAC remains concerned about the large numbers of crocodiles that are becoming increasingly aggressive and may pose a threat to tourists and fisherman. We urge everyone to take care when using rivers and waterways in the Gulf. If you are concerned about crocodile behavior, please contact our Rangers on the numbers listed on page 4.

Congratulations to Gangalidda and Garawa Services Pty Ltd who have developed the innovative Jigija Indigenous Fire Training Program. Terrance Taylory, Ranger Coordinator and Lead Fire Training Instructor, will be outlining the concept and development of the Training Program at the AFAC17 conference: *Collaborating for Success - Improving performance in emergency management*.

You can also read all about what has been happening Native Title wise in the usual Native Title up-date pages.

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

Charles Hammond



Remote Crocodile Management Training

In June, Dr Adam Britton travelled to Normanton to work with our Normanton rangers to deliver training in Remote Crocodile Management. The Normanton rangers successfully undertook theory sessions covering crocodile management, survey methodology, as well as crocodile biology, ecology and behaviour.

At night, the crew braved the cold winter weather to carry out spotlighting of crocodiles on the Norman River. The survey focused on key areas most frequented by locals and tourists. The largest crocodile identified was nearly twelve foot long! CLCAC Rangers in both Normanton and Burketown have now completed qualifications in crocodile management and it is hoped this will assist the Land & Sea Unit to become more actively involved in managing this species across the region.

CLCAC remains concerned about the large numbers of crocodiles that are becoming increasingly aggressive and may pose a threat to tourists and fisherman. We urge everyone to take care when using rivers and waterways in the Gulf. If you are concerned about crocodile behavior, please contact our Rangers on the numbers below:

Burketown Office: 07 47455 132

Normanton Office: 07 47451 556

Reports of medical emergencies should always be made to '000' in the first instance.

Safer Waterways Bill 2017

We also note that the Katter Australia Party has introduced laws in Queensland parliament that would legalise crocodile safaris and culls. The proposed Bill will also allow the removal of crocodile eggs along the coast. CLCAC is considering providing a submission in response to the Bill. The Bill was referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee for consideration. The committee is required to report to the Parliament by 27 November 2017. The Committee seeks submissions on the Bill from the public and interested stakeholders. Information can be found at:

http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/guidelines/Guide_MakingASubmission_WebVersion.pdf

Cover page: photo taken by Adam Britton: Rangers launching the boat.

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Above photo: The team spotted this monster in the main street!

Below photo: One of the many crocodiles spotted during the survey.



Bio-Diversity

The Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers recently conducted a biodiversity survey near Hell's Gate Roadhouse to obtain a better understanding of the various species of animals living in the area.

Over 4 nights the Rangers set traps in select locations, checking the traps each morning and collecting data. The Rangers also conducted opportunistic sightings recording all animals.

By the end of the survey, the Rangers had recorded 10 species of frog, 38 reptile species, 8 mammal species and 79 bird species, making it a very successful survey. This data will be collated and retained by the Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers as part of their longitudinal studies of biodiversity in this area of the Gulf.



Above photo: Donald Bob collecting data.

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Above left photo: Squatter pigeon.

Above right photo: Double barred finch.

Below photo: Lurick Sowdensetting a pitfall trap.



Remote Area First Aid and 4WD Training

CLCAC Rangers work in a diverse range of beautiful but remote and challenging locations across the lower Gulf. Our Rangers undertake accredited training to ensure they are equipped with the skills to tackle any challenges that these environments might throw at them and to ensure that they can respond appropriately in an emergency situation.

In May and June this year, the Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers and Normanton Rangers undertook courses in Remote Area First Aid and 4WD. This training contributes to their completion of a Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management.



Above photo: Des Armstrong and Clayton Johnson preparing to do a vehicle recovery.

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Above photo: Normanton Rangers Fred Pascoe Jnr and Lawrence George participating in 4wd training .

Below photo: Normanton Rangers Fred Pascoe Jnr and Lawrence George participating in Remote Area First Aid



WILSSED Rangers

The WILSSED Rangers on Mornington Island have been busy finishing off their 2016 – 17 work plan activities and planning for upcoming projects. Shaun Seymour, of Seymour Out Bush, recently travelled to Mornington Island to assist the Rangers with project planning and to further their development as a Ranger group. Mark Hogno, CLCAC Regional Ranger Coordinator, has also been travelling to the Mornington Island to work with the WILSSED Rangers and provide support as the team starts back up.

The WILSSED Rangers have completed several presentations at the school to share with students emerging NRM issues and the importance of caring for country. The students were given instruction on how to identify plants and Head Ranger Lawrence Burke has worked with students on an on-going basis to teach traditional dancing and songs.

The WILSSED Rangers have undertaken training with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and worked with the local fire brigade to undertake controlled burns. The WILSSED team will continue to undertake fire management and awareness raising activities within the community about best practice fire regimes. A big effort has been put into weed control targeting Calotrope, Bellyache and Rubber vine infestations with further monitoring and on-ground chemical work planned. Marine debris clean-ups have been undertaken in collaborations with Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) and the Rangers will continue to assist with biosecurity activities on a fee-for-service basis.

There is a lot of exciting work on the horizon for the WILSSED Rangers in the 2017-18 financial year. Of note, the WILSSED Rangers will be working with marine biologists from the Queensland Government's Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) to recommence a marine turtle monitoring program in the Wellesley Islands, including foundational scientific research into the Gulf of Carpentaria's Green turtle population. We look forward to bringing further updates in the future as the WILSSED Rangers hit the ground running!



Left photo: L - R Dirk Loogatha, Roy Amini, Dirk Loogatha and Braedon Linden.

Right photo: L - R Shaun Seymour and Dirk Loogatha.

Migratory Shorebird Training

The Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers have continued training to monitor and survey migratory shorebirds and in April undertook both indoor theory and field exercises with renowned Ornithologist, Roger Jaensch.

The Rangers made observations around the Tarrant Flyway site and Wambalbayi Lake. Through these activities the Rangers are honing their identification and survey skills as well as establishing valuable scientific knowledge regarding migratory shorebirds in this region.



Above photo: Roger Jaensch with the Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers.

Protecting Turtle Eggs

For the last month, the Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers have been very busy carrying out weed work around Gunnamulla Beach. They have mainly focused on the eradication of calatropé along the sand dunes and beach area.

This area was the main focus as this is where the turtles come to nest. Calatropé is a quick and thick growing plant and it tends to interfere with the turtles when they are trying to lay their eggs.

Gunnamulla Beach is a known turtle nesting site for a number of northern turtle species mainly the Flat Back turtle and the odd Olive Ridley turtle. In total the Rangers sprayed, cut and pasted, and also using the basil bark methods a total of 800 plants.

The Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers have been conducting weed works at the coastline for 6 years.



Above photo: Gangalidda and Garawa Ranger, Clinton Taylor spraying calatropé.

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Above photo: Des Armstrong spraying calatropé.

Below photo : Lurick Sowden spraying calatropé.

Protecting Turtle Eggs



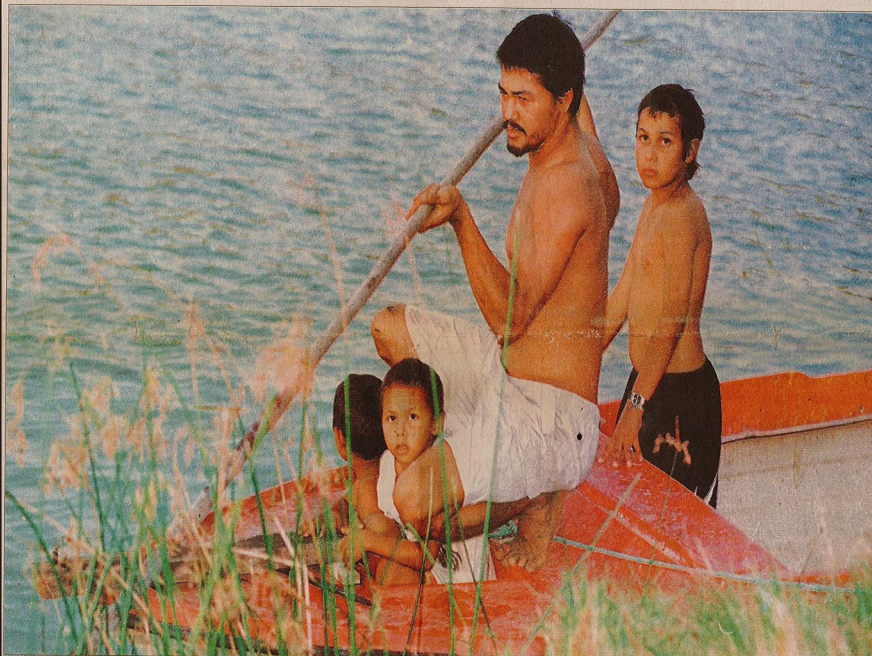
Native Title Update

The 3rd of June 2017 marked the 25th anniversary of the historic Mabo decision, which finally rejected the legal fiction of 'terra nullius' and recognised native title. To celebrate this significant occasion the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) has launched its new website '25 years of Native Title Recognition'.

The website features some of CLCAC's significant achievements: Yanner v Eaton (Crocodiles in the High Court), The Waanyi High Court Challenge and Recognition of Native Title Rights to the Sea.

Make sure to check out the NNTT website for more stories and calendar of events <http://www.nativetitle25.gov.au/>

Legal win puts indigenous people back in the hunt



MAKING a point . . . Murrandoo Yanner celebrates yesterday with sons Murrandoo jnr, 3, and Mangubadjirri, 5, and nephew Thungalee Yanner, 12. Picture: Anna Rogers

Tony Koch and David Solomon

MURRANDOO Yanner yesterday celebrated the High Court's confirmation of indigenous people's hunting and fishing rights by going out and spearing a young crocodile for dinner.

The High Court decision handed down yesterday — acknowledging

hunting, gathering and fishing rights for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in Queensland — is the last stage in a long legal battle which started with a few bits of crocodile meat in a freezer.

The court decided by a five-two majority that the Queensland Fauna Conservation Act, which declares all fauna the property of the Crown, was not inconsistent with native-title rights to hunt and fish. Mr Yanner was prosecuted in 1995

because he used a traditional form of harpoon to catch two juvenile crocodiles in Cliffdale Creek in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

He and other members of his clan ate some of the crocodile meat, then he froze the rest and kept it and the skins at his home.

Mr Yanner claimed he was exercising native title rights and the magistrates court found in his favour. However police asked for the decision to be reviewed.

The Queensland Court of Appeal decided that the magistrate was wrong in holding that Mr Yanner had native title rights to take the crocodiles and ordered the magistrate to reconsider the case.

However Mr Yanner obtained special leave to appeal to the High Court and yesterday the majority decided that native title did protect Mr Yanner from prosecution.

Speaking from Burketown yesterday, Mr Yanner said he was pleased

with the High Court decision, which he said "was snappy and had a bite to it".

He said the issue had come about because police had searched his house looking for more than 300 items stolen from a local business.

But nothing had been found until they looked in his refrigerator freezer and found the skins of two small crocodiles.

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Native Title Update

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS: RECOGNITION OF NATIVE TITLE RIGHTS TO THE SEA

On 23 March 2004 Justice Cooper of the Federal Court delivered his judgment 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 the second native title claim in Australia relating solely to the sea.

The claim ran for eight years before it was finally determined following a lengthy trial on Mornington Island. The Court recognized 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.

THE WAANYI HIGH COURT CHALLENGE

In June 1994, with the support of CLCAC, the Waanyi People had lodged a native title claim over part of the Lawn Hill cattle station on which the Century Mine was planned.

The native title claim was not registered by the President of the National Native Title Tribunal on the basis of the extinguishing effect of prior pastoral leases granted in the area of the claim. The Waanyi People appealed that decision to the Federal Court on a number of grounds, including the procedural ground that it was arguable that native title co-existed with pastoral leases, whether or not those leases contained a reservation of Indigenous rights, and in those circumstances the NNTT did not have the power to reject the application. They lost their appeal by two to one.

Undeterred, the Waanyi People, then appealed the Federal Court's decision to the High Court. Against the opposition of all State Governments, the Northern Territory Government, the Commonwealth and CRA, the Waanyi won. In February 1996, the High Court determined that the procedure adopted by the NNTT, which included receiving material and submissions from the State and CRA, was wrong and that the claim was arguable and should have been accepted.

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 PBCs in our region and we have recently developed a transition plan in order to assist PBCs and native title holders in the Gulf region to understand the role of CLCAC in the native title post-determination environment. This document sets out a framework and timeframe to build capacity in Gulf PBCs over a five year period.

It will provide for all Gulf PBCs to be established, independent and fully operational by 2022. We hope to have a copy of this plan available on our website shortly.



Above photo: Charter plane flying into the Gulf for Staff and Consultants to attend meetings.

Winter Sunsets over the Gulf



Keep an eye out in the next edition!

Exciting news!!!

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

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

If you around make sure to come by the exhibition space and visit our stall to learn more about the innovative Jigija Indigenous Fire Training Program!



Above photo: Donald Bob.

Keep an eye out in the next edition!

Morning Glory to begin and hopefully we will capture some stunning images to share!

Checkout the images below from last year!



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