



**CLCAC**

CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



## Edition 41 | January - March 2022







# CLCAC CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

At CLCAC we take our responsibility to community safety in light of the COVID Pandemic seriously and operate in compliance with Public Health Directions and all restrictions on businesses, activities and undertakings.

Our staff adhere to personal distancing and other requirements as much as is practically possible.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers are advised this publication may contain images of people who have passed on.

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 organisations for their continued support:



## Contents

CEO's Update .....	4
Lardil Headdress Return Ceremony .....	6
Native Title Update .....	7
Land & Environment Update .....	8
Normanton Rangers Update .....	10
Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers Update .....	12
Wellesley Islands Rangers Update .....	14
Ngumari Waanyi Rangers Update .....	16
PBC and Economic Development .....	18
Staff and Training Updates .....	20
What's On .....	22
Members Contact Information Update .....	23

## Directory

- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Rachel Amini-Yanner
- Deputy CEO/Corporate Services Manager – Trish Steineck
- Principal Legal Officer (PLO) – Ryan Ellis
- Land & Environment Manager – Dr Donna Kwan
- Chairperson – Thomas Wilson (Lardil)
- Director – Marlene Logan (Gkuthaarn)
- Director – Delma Loogatha (Kaiadilt)
- Director – Donald Bob (Garawa)
- Director – Joseph Rainbow (Kurtijar)
- Director – Hayden Tyrell (Kukatj)
- Director – Murrandoo Yanner Jnr (Gangalidda)
- Director – Henry Aplin (Waanyi)
- Director – Lawrence Burke (Yangkaal)
- Contact Person – Apryl Ford





## CEO's Update

*Welcome to 2022!*

I hope everyone enjoyed their festive season holiday and have come back refreshed and eager to face the new year.

The team is ready to launch straight in to face new challenges and achieve new goals on behalf of our constituents.

We also take this opportunity to remember our loved ones family, friends and colleagues that have passed on in the last 12 months, may they rest in peace.

Highlight of this edition is the Lardil Head dress Return Ceremony that was held in Canberra.

We thank ATIATSI for their assistance in the repatriation of these cultural items.

A wonderful event for the Lardil people of Mornington Island as we celebrated in spirit this special occasion with them and hope that there are more items to be returned home as part of the repatriation process.

Regrettably we say fond farewell to two members of our senior

management team, PLO Kevin Murphy who has retired and L&E Manager Jory Stariwat.

We wish them all the best in their future endeavours and thank them for their dedication to CLCAC during their time with us. In saying that, we welcome the new additions to our management team incoming PLO Ryan Ellis and L&E Manager Donna Kwan.

Both bring expertise and knowledge to their respective roles and we congratulate them on their successful appointments.

I hope you enjoy the first quarter edition of our 2022 newsletter and until next time stay safe.







## Lardil Headdress Return Ceremony

### *A Gifted Treasure Finally Heading Home*

On behalf of the Lardil people, GRAC Chairperson Michael Gavenor and Director Lawrence Burke recently travelled to Canberra to formally accept the return of a ceremonial headdress at an official event at AIATSIS.

To say the impacts of colonisation are an enduring aspect of modern day reality for many Indigenous people can be considered somewhat of an understatement.

Repatriation is a very important for Aboriginal people as it forms a part of the healing process

For more than 150 years Aboriginal ancestral remains, sacred objects and other artefacts have been removed from all over Australia.

According to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), more than 105,000 cultural items are known to be held overseas in close to 300 collecting institutions. It is increasingly being recognised that the interpretation of these items tells only a colonial version of history.

The movement to return these is thankfully gaining traction both nationally and internationally, and plays an important part towards cultural autonomy allowing for our peoples to preserve and share our history in the way we choose.

This special headdress doesn't return with the same darker history as many of these stolen items. It was gifted by the late Mr Philip Jack, a member of the Lardil Dancers (known as the Mornington Island Dance troupe) who performed at the 1973 opening of the Sydney Opera House to his former neighbour, Mr Routhan.

Mr Routhan clearly had a full appreciation of the significance of this artefact, as after having it in his home in the UK for many years he has recently sought to return it to where it belongs.

The formal event to receive the headdress was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions last year and was rescheduled for March.

Arrangements are currently underway to ensure the artefact has an appropriate climate controlled storage space so that it can soon make its final journey back to Mornington Island.

## Native Title Update

### *Introducing CLCAC's New Principal Legal Officer*

CLCAC is pleased to welcome aboard, Ryan Ellis our new Principal Legal Officer.

As a solicitor for close to eighteen years, Ryan brings to CLCAC a wealth of experience. Most of those years were spent in the native title and cultural heritage field, with the last four as a Senior Solicitor at P&E Law in Cairns, advising native title groups and PBCs on Cape York Peninsula, the Lower Gulf region and elsewhere in Queensland.

Prior to that, Ryan held the position of Senior Legal Officer with Cape York Land Council for eight and a half years, where he successfully negotiated for the transfer of millions of hectares of Aboriginal freehold land and assisted numerous language groups to pursue economic development initiatives and return-to-country projects.

Before native title, he worked in diverse fields of law including veterans' and war widows' entitlements, insurance law, family law, property law and commercial litigation.

Ryan believes that the recognition of native title rights, although

critically important, is just one step on the road towards genuine reconciliation, self-determination, economic opportunity and justice for Aboriginal people.

He is excited for the opportunities ahead for the Lower Gulf Region as we move into the post-determination phase and looks forward to supporting the CLCAC board and our nine language groups in maximising the cultural, social and economic benefits of native title.

We are delighted to have him as part of CLCAC!

CLCAC takes the opportunity to farewell Kevin Murphy, as he steps down from the role of Principal Legal Officer.

Commencing on the CLCAC team in August 2018, Kevin has played an instrumental part in several determinations over the last few years.

As he now heads into a well-earned retirement, all of us at CLCAC thank him for everything he's brought to the organisation during his time with us and wish him the very best in his future adventures.





## Land and Environment Update

### Welcoming CLCAC's New Land & Environment Manager

We now warmly welcome a new member to the Senior Management team, Dr Donna Kwan who has joined us in the Land and Environment Manager role.

Donna holds a PhD in dugong reproductive biology and has spent her career working in research, conservation and management of dugongs.

Her areas of expertise include population biology, collaborative research, conservation and management with local communities, as well as policy development and implementation at local, national and international levels, and she is considered a world-leading researcher of turtles and dugongs.

Donna came to James Cook University (JCU) from Papua New Guinea to pursue her passion for marine biology.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science, she returned to PNG and worked for the Department of Fisheries as a turtle biologist. She was based in Daru, a remote island on the PNG side of Torres Strait where facilities were extremely basic and challenging.

Donna completed her Masters degree as an external candidate and then her doctorate, conducting research on the dugong fishery in Torres Strait and in remote Indigenous communities in the Outer (Australian) Islands of Torres Strait.

After four years working as an Assistant Director in the Marine Division of the Federal Environment Department in Canberra, Donna was appointed to the United Nations Environment Program as the foundation head of the Secretariat for the Dugong MoU, under the Convention of Migratory Species. She was based in Abu Dhabi in the UAB for twelve years.

We are excited to embrace the formidable expertise and knowledge she brings to CLCAC.

We are sad to farewell a much respected team member, former Land and Environment Manager, Jori Stariwart.

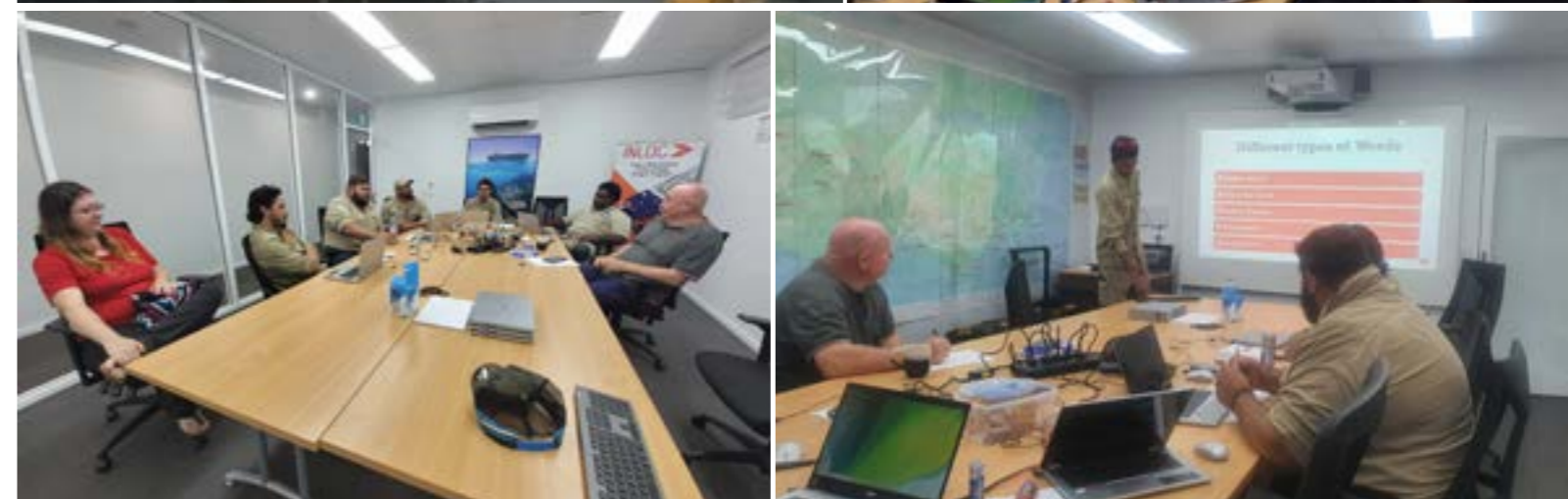
Jory commenced work with CLCAC in May 2018, as the Land and Environment Project Officer for the Normanton Rangers and was promoted to the Manager role in early 2021.

He brought much to the organisation and played a pivotal role in developing and implementing CLCAC's Land and Environment Database and GIS mapping systems.

Personal commitments have meant Jory has now accepted a new role taking him away from Cairns and we bid him a warm fare-thee-well and sincerely thank him for everything he has contributed to CLCAC.



Recent Leadership & Management Training in Cairns with participants from each of the Ranger units







## Normanton Rangers Update

### CAST NET SURVEYS

The Normanton Rangers checked local rivers and creeks for invasive fish species through conducting cast net surveys. Areas visited included Bynoe Big Crossing, Flinders River (top and bottom) and Corduroy Creek. Several native fish species were captured, measured and then returned to the river. Luckily, no invasive species were found.

### WEED MANAGEMENT

In February and March the Rangers spent a number of days at Old Camp treating invasive weeds including rubber vine, neem tree and belly ache bush.

The Rangers conduct follow-up weed treatment at Old Camp during the same time each year to remove any juvenile plants that have grown since initial treatment of adult plants.

Follow up treatment is required to continue for a minimum of seven years following the removal of adult plants, as seeds can remain dormant in the soil waiting for the right environmental conditions for germination.

### WETLANDS NOT WASTELANDS PROJECT

The Normanton Rangers visited several local fishing spots to collect discarded materials to ensure bottles and other rubbish do not wash down into the Norman River catchment.

The Rangers picked up broken fishing gear, styrofoam takeaway containers and single use aluminium cans and plastic bottles.

A number of these items are recyclable at the local Containers 4 Change Depot or will be baled by the Normanton Rangers to be shipped out of the region.

The Rangers have more pollution collection activities scheduled this year along the Norman and Leichhardt Rivers and along the foreshore at Karumba.

These are vital to keeping the river systems clean of this debris which can be harmful to turtles, fish and other marine animals.

This project is delivered in partnership with Earthwatch Australia and Plastic Collective and funded by Coca Cola Australia Foundation.



Butter Bream



Freshwater Cherabin



Boney Bream being measured as part of the cast net surveys







## Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers Update

### FEE FOR SERVICE WEED CONTROL

During the month of February the Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers were contracted by Mougibi Housing to conduct weed control on 18 of their housing blocks/lots.

Neem is used to produce insecticide and was planted across northern Australia for this reason. However, it has escaped cultivation and has unfortunately become more widespread across north-western Queensland. In dense stands, it can have adverse impacts on native plants and animals, especially insects.

The weeds had become overgrown, damaging infrastructure such as fences and taking over yards. The Rangers cut larger trees down to stumps and then chemically treated to stop regrowth whilst smaller trees and plants were chemically treated by basal barking.

They did a mammoth effort in removing close to 3,000 trees. Most of the trees were neem trees and leucaena, with a smaller number of rain trees, rubber vine and calotrope removed. Due to the high quality of recent work completed by the Rangers for Mougibi Housing, the local shire council has negotiated fee for service work weed and tree removal on council owned blocks.

### CAST NET SURVEYS

During and immediately after the wet season, the Rangers conducted cast net surveys in local riverways and creeks to record and check the health of fish populations, as well as detect the presence of invasive fish species that may have moved into the river system during the floods.

Cast net surveys play an important role in monitoring the health of local river ecosystems and ensure invasive species are detected early so that intervention can be promptly implemented.



A healthy freshwater cherabin (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) captured during cast net surveys







## Wellesley Islands Rangers Update

### WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The second phase of the Wellesley Islands Ranger water monitoring program has been underway, and the team is now better trained and equipped than ever to incorporate the monitoring into their yearly workplan.

During the second training period researchers from Griffith University joined the team to revisit the original 20 monitoring sites across Mornington Island established last year, to resample and take new measurements of the water health at each site.

Using the same techniques as last year, the team used their own newly purchased highly sophisticated probe to take readings, measuring pH, salinity (saltiness) and turbidity (water clarity).

Rangers then collected three filtered and three unfiltered water samples at each location, which were immediately frozen to be sent to a testing lab in Cairns, where the samples will be analysed for nutrient levels and contaminants.

This year, the team also learned new techniques to add to their monitoring program: invertebrate sampling and fish sampling. For the invertebrate sampling, the team learned how to use a small net to collect what is living at the bottom of the sites, scooping up the debris, organisms and mud across a 5 metre section of the site.

The Rangers then sorted through the sample to collect the tiny insects living there, which they later identified back at the Ranger base.

The unit also learned how to deploy a Fyke net, a fish trapping net set in the evening and left overnight. The nets are checked in the morning to see which fish or other underwater animals were captured and the Rangers identified the species at each site. This provides good information on the overall health of the water. There are certain species that can only live in clean, healthy places, so if these are found we know the water quality is good. Many of the sites the Rangers test are water sources for people and animals, and these different methods help the Rangers keep an eye on the health of our water and community here on Mornington.

### CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE MORNINGTON

The team has been passionate about reducing plastic waste and marine debris on Mornington Island since they learned about the bad impacts plastic and microplastics have on our local fish and turtle populations.

While much of these discarded materials float in from overseas, there is still a lot of plastic pollution coming from our community on our beaches, seas and streets.

One way the team is trying to reduce Mornington's rubbish and

waste impacts is by developing a local recycling program on the island. The Rangers are working with the Mornington Shire Council and Carpentaria Freight to collect and remove items eligible for the Containers for Change program from the island, transporting them to Normanton where they can be processed and recycled.

An initial trail run of the program was quite successful; Rangers set out four giant bags at specific locations over several weeks. These were filled with over 2,500 water bottles and soft drink cans by community members, then collected by Rangers and shipped off on the weekly Carpentaria Freight barge back to the mainland. The team is planning permanent collection points at specific locations including the Ranger base, council building, school and church, and will roll out the project fully once appropriate signage is produced.

The challenging part of the program is ensuring the community does the right thing and only puts the correct containers crushed and without lids in the collection bins.

The Rangers are planning community events and educational talks to help everyone understand what should be collected. The more bottles and cans collected means more fun for community members because all money raised will be fully directed back to support activities and events for the Mornington Island community.







The temporary Ranger base



## Ngumari Waanyi Rangers Update

### NEW NGUMARI WAANYI RANGER COORDINATOR

The Ngumari Waanyi ranger unit has now kicked off with the employment of Glendon Connolly, CLCAC's newest Ranger Coordinator.

Glendon started in mid-January and after several weeks undergoing familiarisation and induction training in Cairns and Burketown, has now returned to Gregory where he will head-up the new ranger team.

He is now busy organising a new ranger base and equipment for the upcoming team. Three new Ngumari Waanyi Rangers will join Glendon in Gregory once these positions are filled in May.

While awaiting delivery of the new ranger vehicle, the Ganalidda-Garawa rangers have graciously loaned one of their vehicles to the Ngumari Waanyi Rangers.

### WEED MANAGEMENT

Glendon has hit the ground running and teamed up with Kevin Anderson, CLCAC's Natural Resource Management Support Officer, to tackle the various weeds in Gregory and the surrounding area.

Due to the lack of management over the past several years, weeds have become prevalent in some areas of the community. Bellyache bush, sickle pod and Mossman River grass infestations were targeted around Biddungu and the Q-Crush quarry and have now been sprayed.

These priority weed species will continue to be the focus of further attention in the coming months. The Ngumari Waanyi ranger unit has also secured the first fee-for-service contract, spraying sickle pod and bellyache bush around the Gregory tip for the Burke Shire Council.

### RANGER BASE

The Burke Shire Council has kindly agreed to provide land, infrastructure, and utilities to the newly formed Ngumari Waanyi Ranger t to use as a temporary ranger base.

An area beside the Council works depot in Gregory has been offered and will allow the development of temporary offices, accommodation units and work area from which rangers can operate.

The council has also provided demountables as well as access to water and power.

This temporary facility will allow the new ranger unit to commence work immediately upon joining the Ngumari Waanyi team. We thank the Burke Shire Mayor, Ernie Camp, CEO Dan McKinlay and Councillor John Clarke for their support.

The development of a permanent, built-for-purpose, ranger station is planned for Gregory and will commence once a site has been secured.

Negotiations are currently underway.





Apryl and Murrandoo Jnr checking out the Gangalidda dictionary



## PBC Capacity and Economic Development

### *A new edition of Gangalidda Dictionary*

With support from CLCAC, GGNTAC recently secured \$10,000 through Queensland Government's Indigenous Language Grants program to print a further 300 copies of the Gangalidda to English Dictionary.

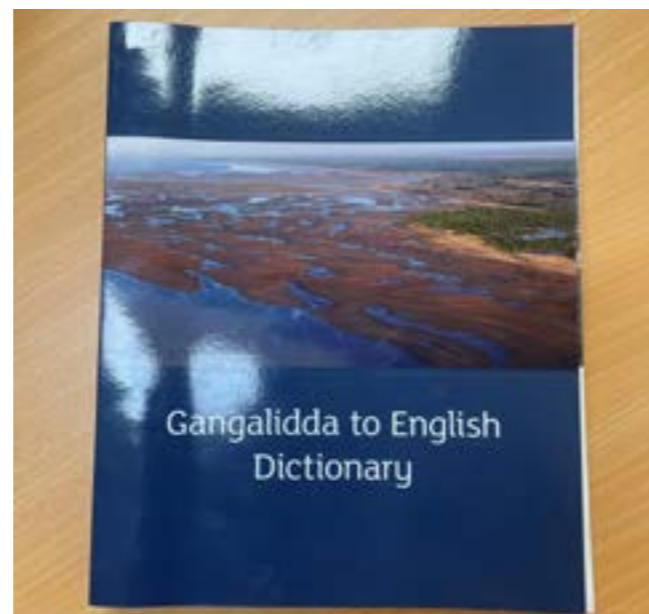
Since first publishing the dictionary in 2014, GGNTAC has overseen its distribution to Gangalidda adults, youth and culturally appropriate learning programs such as Burketown State School's successful Gangalidda Language revival program.

Ensuring the dictionary continues to be accessible to Gangalidda people is a top priority for GGNTAC, in particular its young people.

Having hard copies of the dictionary available is one part of this, but equally important is the development of learning environments that support culturally appropriate teaching of the dictionary.

GGNTAC's oversight of programs such as Burketown State School's ensure that language is protected and taught in line with Gangalidda culture and law.

All requests for copies of the dictionary should be directed to the GGNTAC via their Contact Person, Emma Hedditch, at [GGN-TACSupport@clcac.com.au](mailto:GGN-TACSupport@clcac.com.au) or 4034 5525.



### *GRAC Update*

GRAC held a 2 day Directors meeting at the end of March to progress all Board matters.

The final drafts of the 5 year Economic Development Plan and the 10 year Strategic Plan were presented to and endorsed by the Board. These will now be printed and forwarded to all GRAC members.

In other exciting news, the new GRAC website is currently being produced and we look forward to seeing it live in the coming month.

The Board of Directors congratulated Chairperson Michael Gavenor (Wilson) and Director Lawrence Burke on their successful and insightful journey to Canberra to welcome the ceremonial headdress and speak on behalf of GRAC and the community to AIATSIS and the attending dignitaries, including Traditional Owners of the Canberra area.

The Wellesley Islands Ranger team presented their Ranger update to the Directors, showcasing all the work they have achieved this year so far and spoke of the works to be achieved over the next three months.







## Staff Updates

### CLCAC @ CAIRNS JOB FAIR

This quarter CLCAC had a presence at the recent Cairns Job Fair produced by Workforce Australia.

HR Coordinator, Bronwyn Morgan and Media and Corporate Compliance Officer, Lisa Christensen represented CLCAC promoting vacancies and the organisation to a large cohort of 760 jobseekers and 50 other exhibiting organisations.

"We went in to spruik four vacancies and talked with so many keen and enthusiastic job seekers. We were pleasantly surprised at how many of them were genuinely interested in CLCAC and the great work being done on Country. If nothing else, it was a wonderful PR opportunity for CLCAC!" said Bronwyn of the experience.

### WELCOME TO THE CLCAC TEAM!

- Glendon Connolly, Ngumari Waanyi Ranger Coordinator
- Ryan Ellis, Prinicpal Legal Officer
- Donna Kwan, Land and Environment Manager



Name: Glendon Connolly

Position Title: Ngumari Waanyi Ranger Coordinator

CLCAC start date: 11/01/2022

What do you enjoy most about your role?  
Working on Country and looking after it for the future for our kids.

Hobby: Going bush with the family

Favourite food: Bush Tucker

Favourite music: Country-reggae

Favourite sport: NRL- GO THE BRONCOS!







## CLCAC Member's Contact Details Update and Electronic Nomination Form

It is important that CLCAC can contact our Members and Traditional Owners of the Southern Gulf of Carpentaria region to keep you informed of what is happening in and around your community, and notify you of important meetings.

If you have changed your postal address or contact numbers or would like to nominate an email address for receipt of notices please complete the attached form and post to:

CLCAC's Contact Person, Apryl Ford, PO Box 71, Burketown Qld 4830 or request a form by email: [aford@clcac.com.au](mailto:aford@clcac.com.au).



**CLCAC** CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

*United we stand.*

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Personal Details	
Name: _____	
Address: (residential) _____	
Address: (postal) _____	
Home Tel: _____	Mobile: _____
Email: _____	

I prefer to receive notices via (please tick selection)

- Post
- Email

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## What's on?

15-18 April	Easter
18 April	World Heritage Day
22 April	Earth Day
25 April	ANZAC Day
27 April	Incorporation of CLCAC (1984)
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work
2 May	Labour Day Public Holiday
8 May	Mother's Day
26 May	National Sorry Day
27 May	1967 Referendum
3 June	Mabo Day (30th Anniversary)
5 June	World Environment Day
8 June	World Oceans Day
9 June	Normanton Public Holiday
11-12 June	Normanton Rodeo

Want to stay up to date with all the news from CLCAC and our Ranger teams? Find us on socials!

#### Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/carpentarialandcouncil/>

#### Facebook:

CLCAC - <https://www.facebook.com/CLCAC>

Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers - <https://www.facebook.com/ggrangers>

Normanton Rangers - <https://www.facebook.com/Normantonrangers>

Wellesley Islands Rangers - <https://www.facebook.com/Wellesley-Islands-Rangers-169423313641451>





# CLCAC

## Cairns Office

A Suite 2, Level 1, 104 Mulgrave Road, Cairns QLD 4870  
P (07) 4041 3833  
E [info@clcac.com.au](mailto:info@clcac.com.au)  
W [www.clcac.com.au](http://www.clcac.com.au)

## Burketown Office

A 24 Musgrave Street, Burketown QLD 4830  
P (07) 4748 6000  
Freecall: 1800 445 115

## Normanton Office

A 11 Wurrup Street, Normanton QLD 4890  
P (07) 4747 8601

## Follow us:



<https://www.facebook.com/CLCAC/>



[@carpentarialandcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/carpentarialandcouncil)