

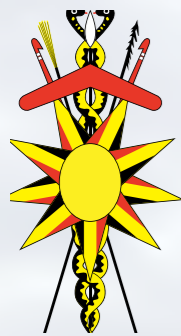


CLCAC

CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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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:



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- Director – Joseph Rainbow (Kurtjar)
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- Director – Murrandoo Yanner Jnr (Gangalidda)
- Director – Henry Aplin (Waanyi)
- Director – Lawrence Burke (Yangkaal)
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CEO's Update

And that's a wrap on the third quarter of 2022.

July 26 was a very special day for the Kurtjar People with the long awaited Determination Ceremony that saw the Federal Court formally recognising a large tract of land in the Southern Gulf.

We also give you an update on the important Rainbow vs State of Queensland case and what the implications this important precedent has for the future of Native Title rights.

NAIDOC 2022 brought about numerous events including community project and presentations on Country, Culture and food, activities all facilitated by our Ranger teams.

This quarter also brought the finalisation of the three-year Wetlands not Wastelands project, which saw CLCAC partnering with Earthwatch Australia and Plastic Collective, funded by The Coca Cola Foundation Australia. The project piloted a marine pollution and wetland management program with a sustainable, community-based solution to managing and recycling discarded plastics, marine debris and ghost nets.

Straddling September and October was the annual traditional

knowledge camp at Gunnamulla Beach where our Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers conduct important sea turtle monitoring work.

The Ngumari Waanyi Rangers unit have been busy with public speaking engagements across the region. It is wonderful to see the rapid development of our newest Ranger unit.

This quarter also saw some significant training milestones reached with both Aerial and Underwater Drone Training; Aerial Firearms training; and an exciting beyond training milestone in water monitoring on the Wellesley Islands.

And finally... it's wonderful to welcome new people to the ever expanding CLCAC team- new Gangalidda and Garawa Ranger Maxine Snowden; Deborah Cesari, Land & Environment Projects Officer; People and Payroll Officer, Natasha Runcevich and Benjamin McDermid, PBC Capacity and Economic Development Officer.

We are now looking forward to the final quarter of what has been another very busy year!





Kurtjar Determination Ceremony

Celebrating the End of a Long Road

CLCAC congratulates the Kurtjar People on the decision of the Federal Court to formally recognise their non-exclusive native title rights over land and waters spanning from the east of Normanton up to Yagoonya, an area covering more than 1.2 million hectares in the Lower Gulf of Carpentaria.

This decision (*Rainbow on behalf of the Kurtjar People v State of Queensland (No 3) [2022] FCA 824*) handed down by the Honourable Justice Rares at Delta Downs Pastoral Station on Tuesday 26 July 2022, is the first positive determination of native title for the Kurtjar People and was a long-fought battle in the Federal Court spanning almost a decade.

We are pleased to say it also means all nine traditional owner groups in the Lower Gulf, represented by CLCAC, have now achieved at least one determination of native title.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the many Kurtjar People who have contributed to the claim over the years, many of whom have sadly passed and did not get to celebrate this important

achievement. Their strength and courage to fight for their right for access to country will never be forgotten.

The event featured several moving speeches by Tommy Wilson, Joseph Rainbow and Freddie Pasco, each touching on different aspects of the long road the Kurtjar people have travelled to reach this formal determination ceremony and celebration.

And what better way to celebrate than with a big cookup? Event attendees were greeted with a lavish spread of food including kup murri meats cooked by the Rangers.

CLCAC is honoured to have been able to assist the Kurtjar People and their legal team in achieving this successful determination and look forward to supporting them with any future native title determination claims in the region, should they decide to pursue them.

Breaking New Legal Ground With Court Victory

As Kurtjar People celebrated their historic determination of native title on 26 July 2022, the legal significance of the judgment of Justice Rares sent ripples throughout Australia's legal community. Native Title rights and interests have traditionally involved recognition of the right to take resources for personal, domestic and communal purposes. The purpose for which resources could be taken was restricted in that manner and excluded other purposes, such as commercial use.

The position changed somewhat with the High Court's 2013 decision in *Akiba*, which related to the Torres Strait Sea Claim. In that case, the High Court held that native title holders had the right to access and take marine resources for any purpose, which by extension extended to commercial purposes.

Until now, there has not been an equivalent finding in a contested hearing relating to native title rights on land. In some locations, including in our region, the State has agreed to consent determinations recognising the right to take resources for any purpose, but this is in areas without any significant co-existing

rights, such as those of pastoralists.

Rainbow is the first case in which the Court has made a finding that the native title holders of a land estate have the right to access and take resources for any purpose, and by extension for commercial purposes. Interestingly, *Rainbow* is also the first time a native title claim over the Eastern Seaboard of Australia (mainland Queensland, NSW and Victoria) has gone to a contested Court hearing with the result that the native title holders won the case.

CLCAC will be working with our region's PBCs, and their legal advisors, to explore opportunities to seek variations of existing determinations to "upgrade" determined rights to access and take resources for any purpose, based on the precedent in *Rainbow*.

It is a fitting tribute to the strength, determination and resilience of the Kurtjar People that their Court victory has broken new legal ground, inspiring those claimants who follow and enabling a higher degree of legal recognition for other groups than might otherwise have been possible.



NAIDOC 2022

Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!

WELLESLEY ISLAND RANGERS COMMUNITY EVENT

As part of Mornington Island's weeklong NAIDOC week celebrations, the Wellesley Islands Rangers brought the community together to celebrate local accomplishments and generate pride.

Attended by over 100 community members, both adults and children, the afternoon event promoted the 2022 NAIDOC theme through educating the community about local environmental issues, demonstrating how these are impacting on culturally significant species, and encouraging everyone to work together to protect and recover their local environment for a sustainable future.

Rangers hosted the event at the Tamarind Tree, a popular gathering and picnic place near the centre of town. In addition to providing interactive activities and educational materials, the Rangers put on a community BBQ providing them with an opportunity to interact and communicate directly with community members.

The Rangers led a community beach clean-up, with giveaways and raffle tickets for all participants and special prizes for those who collected the most.

Ten families went home with food vouchers from the local shop and 800 kilograms of rubbish was collected. This was a heartening 50% reduction from what was collected across the same area last year, with beaches looking noticeably cleaner.

Community awareness, understanding and actions surrounding marine debris and plastic pollution has improved, likely at least in part due to Ranger activities and educational events such as this one.

Additionally, uptake of the Ranger's recycling program is steadily improving, with more and more bins being deployed around the community, and a regular increase in the amount of recycling being collected and shipped off the island.

BURKETOWN SCHOOL AND ABERGOWRIE COLLEGE

In mid-July Rangers from the Gangalidda and Garawa unit were joined by Ngumari Waanyi Rangers at the Burketown School for this year's NAIDOC Celebrations.

The Rangers hosted a variety of activities for the enthusiastic students including delivering presentations, bringing in animals, spear making and throwing workshops and bird identification. The team also caught and cooked traditional foods such as turtle, dugong, crocodile, bush turkey and wallaby.

In August some Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers were also invited by St Teresa's Abergowrie College to be part of their NAIDOC event in August. The Rangers carried out activities for the students and community members in attendance and cooked bushtucker they brought from the Gulf.

It was great for some of our Rangers who attended the boarding school to go back to see their teachers and other staff, and also the changes to the school.

More importantly it was an opportunity to explain the great work they do and for current students to see past students as Rangers, demonstrating what an awesome career choice it is.





Wetlands Not Wastelands- And That's A Wrap!

A Tripartite Pilot Program to Protect our Wetlands

CLCAC is pleased to announce the finalisation of the Wetlands not Wastelands project- a tripartite initiative with partners Earthwatch Australia and Plastic Collective, funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation Australia.

Working with the Ganalidda and Garawa and Normanton Rangers, this marine pollution and wetland management program piloted a sustainable, community-based solution to managing and recycling discarded plastics, marine debris and ghost gear in remote regions.

Collecting these materials from beaches, estuaries and river ecosystems has long been part of the work our Rangers do in in their regular activities caring for country and protecting vital marine life habitats and turtle nesting grounds.

These clean-up efforts and other general waste collection brings in over five tonnes of materials a year to landfill sites, however in the wet season, materials in these sites could easily flow back into the river systems. This has been a serious concern for CLCAC to resolve.

The training component of the project was significant.

Earthwatch's wetlands scientist, Jock Mackenzie, provided in-field training to the Rangers in Shoreline Video Assessment Method (SVAM), rapid saltmarsh value and threat assessment, saltmarsh and mangrove identification and pollution monitoring.

Plastic Collective delivered training on the identification and sorting of marine debris and household plastics, and also methods of processing to produce saleable materials.

Over the program's duration, 457.4 kg of material was retrieved and stored in anticipation for processing and recycling. At the end of July, the collected items were weighed, sorted and recyclable plastics shredded or baled for removal from the Gulf.

In Mougibi (Burketown), Plastic Collective assisted CLCAC Rangers in establishing the Burketown Recycling Hub, providing and installing the shredder and baler machines. Using these, 12 large bulk bags were processed into a few bales and shred bags of condensed materials. These can then be sold at a premium price to manufacturers, as certified ocean plastics providing the potential to raise revenue for communities.

Five rounds of surveys have been undertaken as part of the project, which included marine debris transects and health monitoring of the mangroves. These will inform the development of wetland management plans, the delivery of which is the final outcome of the project.

Check out the video we produced to give an overview of the 3-year collaborative project:

<https://www.facebook.com/CLCAC/videos/437024568413758>





Traditional Knowledge Transfer Camp

Festival in the Sand

The annual turtle monitoring program at Gunnamulla is always a significant milestone on the Ganalidda and Garawa Rangers calendar, this year straddling the months of September and October.

A lot of preparation goes into this yearly event. In addition to the scheduling of operational activity around the three-week campout and all the logistics planning, the Rangers head out to Gunnamulla in the weeks before to manage weeds that threaten the turtles nesting habitat. This ensures the beach fronts are clear for the turtles to crawl up and nest and also that hatchlings have a clear run to navigate in their fast dash to the sea.

Over 16 consecutive days to coincide with the peak of the nesting season, the Rangers do the important work of monitoring marine turtles. Working mostly in the evenings, they patrol the beach to identify turtles crawling up to lay their eggs. The Rangers measure and tag each turtle and record the nesting event.

The surveys play an important role in understanding the importance of the coastline to these threatened species and how to protect their abundance into the future.

In addition to giving families and community the opportunity to see and learn about the great work the Rangers do as part of their turtle monitoring activity, the camp provides an immersive experience on

Country and a wonderful opportunity to pass on cultural knowledge to the next generation, with the Rangers sharing cultural stories and bushtucker, and teaching how to make traditional hunting spears.





Monitoring the Water of the Wellesley Islands

The Training Wheels Are Off!

At the end of August, the Wellesley Islands Ranger unit undertook dry season water quality monitoring at 22 sites.

Having received training last year from Griffith University researchers, this was the first time they carried out this testing independently. Together with L&E Officer, Jessica Koleck, the Rangers collected samples from 22 sites to test water composition, using a probe to measure variables like pH (acidity/basicity), salinity (salt concentration) and turbidity (water clarity).

These samples were sent to a lab in Cairns for further testing, with the results then reviewed in consultation with experts.

The monitoring also included invertebrate sampling at select sites—collecting tiny insects from the mud at the bottom of water sources. These are used as a reference for what is normally occupying each site. A change in these organisms is a sign something is wrong.

The Mornington Island water quality monitoring manual has now been finalised and this activity has been incorporated into the Rangers' workplan to ensure long-term monitoring occurs during both the dry and wet seasons, allowing for early threat mitigation.

This will ensure water sources stay healthy and safe for the community and for all other life on the islands.



Talking It Up

CLCAC Rangers Engaging with School of the Air Students

In August, Ngumari Waanyi Rangers Shaquelle Connolly and Selward Jacob joined two Rangers from the Ganalidda-Garawa team at the Gregory Racecourse to meet the school of the-air students of Gregory.

The majority of the school of the air students are the children of pastoralists living on remote stations. Whilst all classes were historically conducted by radio, this has now replaced by telephone and internet technology. However, the students are brought together occasionally to interact in person and learn in a classroom setting.

The Rangers delivered presentations explaining the different animals on Country, sharing the language names and cultural stories as well as talking about being Rangers.

This educational activity familiarises the younger generation of pastoralists with the work our Rangers do on Country and helps bridge communities through cultural awareness, understanding Indigenous perspectives and the importance of incorporating conservation considerations into all activities on Country.

Both the kids and the Rangers enjoyed it and were very engaged. For the Ngumari Waanyi Rangers, this was their first time of presenting to students.

Shaquelle Connolly really enjoyed speaking especially to the school of air kids. "They're out in remote areas so it's good that now when they see us out and around they'll have a better idea of who we are and what we do."

He said the kids were really interested in the language part of the Ganalidda-Garawa team, something his team want to incorporate more into their presentations into the future. "I like doing these talks—it's helpful in getting confidence and I get to pass information about the area and my people."





Public Speaking - Part of the Job

Our Rangers Stepping Up To Be Game Not Shame!

A little spoken about aspect of being a Ranger is the public speaking that comes with the job. As a new team, building the confidence of the Ngumari Waanyi Rangers has been paramount and what better way than to just do it!

The team have only been in existence for six months and in that time they have participated in all manner of speaking engagements including presenting their work to festival goers in Karumba and for Waanyi community, engaging with kids at NAIDOC events and school visits and participating in planning meetings.

In August, Rangers spent three days in Doomadgee as a core part of the Waanyi Healthy Country planning workshop. This was the first in a series to develop a Healthy Country Plan for Waanyi country.

Discussions with local Waanyi people revolved around developing the vision and scope of the Plan, identifying key targets and threats, and required activities to implement the Plan.

At the start of September, the Ngumari Waanyi Rangers provided an update at the Waanyi community meeting in Burketown September.

They informed community members of the various activities that they have undertaken during July and August 2022, giving the community the opportunity to ask any questions.

All of these activities and presentations develop the Rangers' ability in the public speaking and community engagement that is a crucial aspect of their role.

Informing and educating is a key component of the work they need to do in communicating with both Community and all the other stakeholders of the Country they work so hard to manage and protect.





PBC Capacity and Economic Development

Inspiring Future PBC and Economic Project Ideas

In September, PBC Capacity & Economic Development Project Officer Rachael Arnold attended the CDU Natural Resources and Indigenous Livelihoods Course- a five-day intensive unit at Charles Darwin University (CDU) in Darwin NT, which explored the synergies between natural resource-based enterprise development and Indigenous livelihoods.

The course consisted of both classroom-based learnings as well as three days in Kakadu National Park for field-based observations of cultural tours and businesses.

The themes covered in the five days included: Indigenous people and their resources; economic development theory and sustainable livelihood frameworks; social, cultural, environmental and economic factors in enterprise development and commercial use of natural resources; governance, business models and policy issues; and natural resource-based enterprise case studies—including plant and animal products, land and sea management, carbon economy and marine enterprises.

There were plenty of take-home messages and ideas to assist with future project ideas for the Gulf region and inspire CLCAC staff to explore natural resource-based enterprises for their PBCs.



Staff Updates

Welcome to the CLCAC Team!



Name: Maxine Sowden
 Position Title: Gangalidda and Garawa Ranger
 CLCAC start date: 4 July 2022
 What do you enjoy most about your role? Being back on Country and working with the family and people I know
 Hobby: Fishing, camping, arts and crafts and gaming
 Favourite food: Cabbage Stew
 Favourite music: Country, reggae, and classic rock
 Favourite sport: Soccer



Name: Deborah Cesari
 Position Title: Land and Environments Projects Officer
 CLCAC start date: 23 August 2022
 What do you enjoy most about your role? Being part of a dynamic team
 Hobby: I live on a small holding and I enjoy growing my own food
 Favourite food: Pasta any type anywhere and give me vegetables over meat any day
 Favourite music: I don't listen to a lot of music but I am forced to listen to my children's crazy taste in music
 Favourite sport: Playing Hockey and watching AFL



Name: Natasha Runcevich
 Position Title: People and Payroll Officer
 CLCAC start date: 19 September 2022
 What do you enjoy most about your role? It is nice to feel a part of an organisation helping to give back and look after our beautiful country.
 Hobby: Diving/Snorkelling, photography especially underwater photography and some gardening.
 Favourite food: Any Asian soup
 Favourite music: I like most music
 Favourite sport: Swimming and yoga



Name: Benjamin McDermid
 Position Title: PBC Capacity and Economic Development Officer
 CLCAC start date: 27 September 2022
 What do you enjoy most about your role? Being a part of an organisation that assists in the economic empowerment of TOs in ways that align with their own cultural values and belief system.
 Hobby: Playing the Nintendo with the kids, hiking with family and reading
 Favourite food: Thai green curry/a big ole steak & pepper sauce
 Favourite Music: 70's & 80's is best and a few favourite metal bands
 Favourite sport: Combat sports and MotoGP. Getting to the beach to kick a ball or throw a frisbee, weightlifting.



Hard Won Qualifications

Another Tool for Protecting Country

Strategic management of feral animals is one of the highest priorities of CLCAC's Indigenous Rangers' program. Aerial culling has played a major part of this and has resulted in the removal of tens of thousands of feral pigs in the Normanton region in recent years.

Feral pigs arrived in Australia with the First Fleet and today inhabit around 40% of Australia. In good conditions, each sow can produce two litters of 4-10 piglets per year alarmingly meaning their population can double annually. In 2021, it was estimated that Queensland had up to 2.3 million feral pigs.

In such prolific numbers they wreak environmental havoc, disrupting habitats and detrimentally impacting native flora and fauna. They also represent a tangible financial threat to pastoralists, damaging crops and pastures, and carrying diseases and parasites that affect stock.

With their only natural enemy being wild dogs taking the piglets, effective control requires an integrated, collaborative and

strategic approach from all stakeholders combining various land management practices- and also extensive culling. With such large areas to cover, shooting from helicopter is the most effective.

It is for this reason that CLCAC has committed to supporting selected staff to participate in weapons training.

We are pleased to announce that Hayden Tyrrell, Normanton Ranger Coordinator has now successfully completed all components of this very specialised training and is now qualified in the following certifications:

- AHCPMG311 Use firearms for pest control activities from aircraft and
- AHCPMG304 Use firearms to humanely destroy animals.

This was an involved process to achieve and completing it means Hayden can now independently perform aerial and on ground feral animal control, humane destruction of feral pigs and cats in traps, and gather bush tucker for Cultural and Community events.

Congratulations Hayden!





Taking to the Skies

Ranger Teams On Board for Drone Training

The Normanton, Gangalidda and Garawa and Wellesley Islands Rangers took to the skies in August while completing their first session of drone training. Seven Rangers and Land and Environment Project Support Officer, Natalie Waller undertook theory and practical hands-on drone training alongside trainers Graeme Rochat and Robert Cook from RPAS equip.

The Rangers spent a week learning the legal regulations of drone flight, how to read aeronautical charts and how weather and other factors can influence the safe piloting of drones.

They also completed theory training for their Aeronautical Radio Operator Certificate, which will give them the qualifications and skills to operate UHF radios to communicate with other users of airspace.

Following theory sessions, when weather conditions were suitable for flying, the team practiced their drone flying skills. Practical sessions were started with a full physical safety inspection of the drone, an initial flight test to ensure the drone was working correctly and then the Rangers practiced controlled flight.

The Rangers had a great time honing their drone flying skills and are keen to continue to practice controlled flying in preparation for the second round of training in 2023.

Drones are currently being used by our already RePL qualified drone pilots, Desmond Armstrong, Hayden Tyrrell and Thomas Wilson for photography. It is hoped that into the future drone mapping can be integrated into monitoring the outcomes of land and sea management activities such as weed and feral animal management.

This will provide a bird's eye view which can assist with evaluating and adaptively managing our land and sea management programs.

Offering an affordable, easy way to get high-quality aerial photography and videos, the drone industry has grown exponentially and includes a large global market. Acquiring knowledge and skills in this equipment gives these participants not only scope for better environmental monitoring but also the potential for work in international industries.





Quarterly Training Snapshot





What's on?

3 October	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
1 November	Burketown Public Holiday
3 November	CLCAC AGM
19 November	International Men's Day
24 November	Dangkakurrijarri Memorial Day
24 December	Christmas Eve (Part Public Holiday)
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Boxing Day
27 December	Christmas Day Public Holiday
31 December	New Year's Eve

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 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.



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:



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