

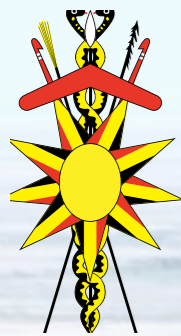


CLCAC CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



Edition 44 | October - December 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
NATIVE TITLE	
GG Freehold Handover	5
GKAC News	6
PBC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
It's All About Collaboration and Communication	7
LAND AND ENVIRONMENT	
Protecting Our Region.....	8
Female Rangers	10
Fire Management	12
Crocodiles	13
Marine Turtles	14
Boodjamulla National Park	16
Ranger Activity Update	18
HR AND TRAINING	
Staff Updates	19
Quarterly Training Snapshot	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 – Murradoo Yanner Jnr (Gangalidda)
- Director – Henry Aplin (Waanyi)
- Director – Lawrence Burke (Yangkaal)
- Contact Person – Apryl Ford



CEO's Update

And that's a wrap on 2022!

I congratulate the Gangalidda and Garawa people for the successful handover of significant tracts of freehold land. Further congratulations are extended to the Gkuthaarn and Kukartj people on another achievement in a handover of land to their Gkuthaarn and Kukartj Aboriginal Corporation PBC. It's usually a slightly bittersweet celebration because it's so often finalised only after those who initiated the fight for it have passed on.

Our PBC and Economic space has been occupied with the AGM season, which is always a busy time of year.

We bring you updates on the Ranger teams who have all been as busy as usual with their normal activities, a lot of training, not to mention planning, cleaning and prep for the end of the year.

We feature the following on biosecurity projects, storm burning, crocodile management, turtle rescue, Boodjamulla National Park and ranger activities update.

It's exciting to see the inclusion of female rangers in the Normanton ranger team. As our Ranger program grows, we

hope to see more applications from women when extra positions become available in the future. We now have 4 female rangers overall, two based in Normanton and two based in Burketown with the Gangalidda & Garawa ranger team.

The new people we've welcomed onto the Normanton team this quarter- are new Rangers Roberta Casey, Liana Bee, Joel Casey and Myron Toby.

It's been another big year for all of us at CLCAC. We're looking forward to a rest and lovely time shared with family and friends over the festive season.

Please stay safe and we will see you in the new year.

Celebrating GGNTAC Aboriginal Freehold Land Handover

At a ceremony in Burketown on 3 November 2022, Gangalidda and Garawa Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GGNTAC) received deeds of title over ten parcels of Aboriginal Freehold land from the State of Queensland. The parcels total an area approximately 20,850 hectares situated on the western side of the Albert River, stretching from the coast to Woods Lake near Burketown.

The ceremony was well attended by Gangalidda and Garawa People, the Queensland Department of Resources, Burke Shire Council and Member for Traeger, Robbie Katter. Department of Resources Executive Director, Emma Fenby, presented the deeds of title, which were received by GGNTAC Director, Murrandoo Yanner.

In his speech, Murrandoo highlighted the importance of this transfer in the context of a long history of land rights and hard-fought wins in the Gulf region, including other transfers under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (ALA); the acquisition of pastoral leases; and determinations under the Native Title Act 1993.

He explained how the parcels hold special significance to Gangalidda People as story places, meeting places and cultural places, saying he would like to "acknowledge and pay respect to our Old People, Grandparents and Parents who have planted the seed for the next generations to continue the fight for justice and land rights."

The ten parcels are the first bundle of lots transferred to GGNTAC under the Burketown Land Exchange ILUA between the State of Queensland, Burke Shire Council, GGNTAC and the Native Title parties, which was settled in association with the Gangalidda & Garawa People #2 2015 determination of native title. The ILUA provides for further transfers of Aboriginal freehold and ordinary freehold title in the near future.



GKAC News

Land Transfer for Gkuthaarn and Kukatj

November is a busy month in the region with a busy rollout of AGMs for each PBC and many other organisations.

GKAC (Gkuthaarn and Kukatj Aboriginal Corporation) also celebrated an official handover of land at its AGM. At 2.2Ha it is not a large piece of land but is as significant as any.

Congratulations to the Gkuthaarn and Kukatj people!



PBC Capacity and Economic Development

It's All About Collaboration and Communication

Much of the activity in the CLCAC PBC space is concerned with bringing people together to work and train collaboratively for the benefit of our region's economic development, and this quarter has featured several highlight events.

RNTB/SP PBC SUPPORT WORKSHOP

Our new PBC Capacity and Economic Development Project Officer, Benjamin McDermid joined colleague Rachael Arnold in attending a RNTB/SP PBC Support Workshop in early December.

This pivotal two-day event run by NNTC and hosted by Central Land Council brought together the teams of several organisations to identify and prioritise the challenges and barriers that arise in providing support to PBCs.

The participants developed two action plans to address and attend to the highest priority items, particularly those that were most achievable and impactful. They are also establishing a connected community of practice and a centralised resource repository.

It is hoped that this will allow the leveraging of shared resources, information and consultation, secondments; inform and unite

pushes for funding reform, as well as enabling collaborative presentations at AIATSIS and other summits/forums/etc, amongst many other positive outcomes.

Maintaining this sector communication is vital and participants committed to regular networking with plans for an annual workshop in hosting rotation across RNTB/SPs.

GGNTAC DIRECTOR TRAINING

Being a Director brings with it substantial responsibilities, and, with recent legislated changes implemented nationally, increasing levels of accountability.

An outcome of the 'PBC Strategic Capacity Building' grant funding, the recent Director training delivered by Darwin-based management consultants, Patrick Cozens and Peter Solly was found to be very valuable and received positive feedback from the GGNTAC Directors in attendance.

Delivered over two days in mid-December, the training covered corporate structure/governance, Strategic Focus vs operational focus, and also included important considerations for effective communication, decision making and conflicts of interest.



Protecting Our Region

The Ongoing Importance of Biosecurity

Biosecurity is imperative for the Lower Gulf of Carpentaria for many reasons. This region is home to a diverse range of plant and animal species, many of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world. It is of course, also an important area of cultural significance for our communities, who have lived in the region for thousands of years and rely on the natural resources it provides.

Bushtucker often supplements or even replaces other food sources. Biosecurity measures can help protect the 'supermarket' of our region and minimise impacts on traditional hunting and gathering practices.

Protecting the region's unique biodiversity is essential. The diversity of plant and animal species it hosts are often highly specialized and are adapted to the unique conditions of the region, making them particularly vulnerable to the introduction of new and invasive species.

Measures including quarantine protocols and surveillance programs are vital to prevent the introduction of flora and fauna species that could outcompete native species and disrupt the

delicate balance of the ecosystem.

Our region's Rangers play an essential part in biosecurity for Australia. They are often the first line of defence against the introduction of invasive species, responsible for monitoring, identifying and responding to these threats and performing a critical role in the implementation of biosecurity measures.

It is for this reason that CLCAC places a high priority on ongoing biosecurity training for our teams. In addition to the regular training we facilitate, in December, two of our Rangers, Milmarja Yanner and Zach Sowden commenced a Certificate IV in Tropical Biosecurity at TAFE Cairns.

This qualification provides participants with the skills and knowledge to identify, prevent and manage the spread of invasive species in their local area on both land and in the ocean. They will be better equipped to help to protect the natural environment, biodiversity and cultural values, preserving the natural resources and ecosystems for future generations.





Female Rangers

Creating Opportunities in the Ranger Program

For new Normanton Ranger, Liana Bee, being a Ranger was all she ever wanted to do. "Seeing and hearing all the things my uncles did as Rangers, I was a bit starstruck! I just wanted to do that!". So strong was this determination that in November after she graduated from Calvary Christian College in Townsville, Liana headed directly home. "When Hayden (Normanton Ranger Coordinator) told me that they had openings for female Rangers I applied straight away and got the job!".

It was a similar waiting game for Roberta Casey who started with the team in September. "When Hayden let me know they were bringing in female Rangers I was straight there!". Roberta brought an impressive range of experience when she jumped at the newly opened opportunity. As head stockwoman at Delta Downs Station since 2019, she was in charge of 13 workers. "All blokes and a lot of older fellas" she laughs.

When asked if there were any challenges they faced as female Rangers, Roberta says, "I don't think there are really any challenges. We all just work together on whatever needs to be done. We're all related and have worked together before, and now Liana has been welcomed too. It's just all teamwork".

Both women love working outdoors on Country and are enthusiastic when they describe how the cultural knowledge passed down from generations makes it easier to manage the land. They mention that being women

brings about different protocols. Liana explains that there are some areas the men have roped off because it's sacred men's ground. "We can't go there of course, but there are others areas that are off limits for men." Having female Rangers on the team broadens the scope of Country that can be properly managed as part of the Land and Environment program.

"I don't see myself as a female Ranger. Just as a Ranger," says Liana. However, she and Roberta fully understand and are happy for the role they play in paving the way for future generations.

"It's really hard to find young girls to work." Roberta remarks, "They are doubting themselves too much. I've always wanted girls to join because I would teach them. They just need to step up. I reckon if they see more girls doing it they will."

Congratulations and welcome aboard to our newest Rangers!





image credit: Queensland Government

Fire Management

Seasonal Burning with the Normanton Team

In what is surely a gift for flora, fauna and folk alike, in December the Normanton Rangers carried out fire management activity on Delta Downs Station at Lotus and Dicks Wetlands.

Called “storm burning” because it happens after the first storms of the season, this burning significantly reduces fuel loads for wildfire and thins out vegetation stands- particularly of Rubber Vine, a Weed of National Significance (WoNS).

The Queensland Rural Fire Service Indigenous Brigade Support Officer was in attendance to sign up both the Rangers and station staff to the Smithburne Rural Fire Brigade and enjoyed the opportunity to see our Rangers applying their fire management to Country.

Carefully monitoring the conditions, Rangers use a fire gel torch suspended from a helicopter to create a moderate intensity fire. When there is good soil moisture, this provides the best initial results to prevent the thickening of vegetation groups and maintain a balance of different aged vegetation, which will maximise results for Country.



Crocodiles

Collaborative Management Across the Lower Gulf

The regionally-focussed plan for crocodile management in the Lower Gulf is the first to be endorsed by almost all the language groups of the region, with the Waanyi plan soon to be finalised.

Crocodiles are an important species and play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem, but careful management has become of escalating importance.

Crocodiles have long been hunted by our communities using traditional methods. However, when rifles of an adequate calibre to reliably kill them became readily available after WW2, saltwater crocodiles were hunted by commercial interests close to extinction. Before being declared a protected species in 1974, in the Northern Territory there were only 4-5000 remaining. After 50 years, the population is now around 120,000.

Estuarine crocodiles are also seen in much larger populations all over the Lower Gulf including on Mornington Island. Wellesley Islands Ranger Coordinator, Tommy Wilson said, “They were never a concern previously but now the numbers are increasing. I remember swimming in particular rivers as a kid but I wouldn’t go there now.”

Tommy and the Ranger team are troubled that in the last five years some very large crocs have been sighted. Territorial competition has pushed younger males out to seek new habitats and they are becoming bolder, even approaching fishermen to get a feed.

“It’s a worry because our mob aren’t really croc savvy.” While protecting crocodiles in the wild is important, the Queensland Government is committed to protecting public safety and is working in collaboration with many stakeholders and particularly Traditional Owners.

Senior Wildlife Officer, Steve Coulson of QPWS (Queensland Parks and Wildlife) was enthusiastic about the work he and his team have done with our Rangers in the Lower Gulf, and especially about how important local knowledge is.

“We’ve learnt as much from the Rangers as they do from us. Especially in Burketown, they have a good relationship and live fairly close to crocs. We just helped them transfer their skills to a more scientific data collection process.”

His team always looks forward to working with the Rangers and has assisted them with reviewing their ongoing monitoring plan. “We think it’s a good plan and we’re excited for it to be implemented.”

Back on Mornington, Tommy is encouraging everyone to be croc-wise and is promoting the use of the Queensland Wildlife app to report sightings. “We need to know where these crocs are and what are the numbers. Together with all the data collected from the Ranger and QPWS teams, this information helps us to manage crocs in the Lower Gulf and keep everyone safe.”



Marine Turtles

Prioritising Turtle Protection on the Wellesley Islands

Sea turtles are one of our most important threatened species in the region, being both culturally and environmentally significant, and our Rangers prioritise work to help protect the local populations. Building on the results from our previous turtle surveys, we are excited to be expanding our marine turtle research and monitoring this year.

The Rangers have established ten long-term monitoring sites on ten different islands throughout the Wellesley region, working to better understand how the impacts of threats like climate change and predation are impacting our local population of nesting marine turtles.

At each site, a range of data is collected including information on nest temperature, beach condition, sand and vegetation characteristics, the number of nesting turtles, marine debris, ghost nets and potential threats.

The Rangers have buried temperature logger devices (attached to the bottom of PVC pipes) in the sand at the same depth that sea turtles bury their eggs (about 60 centimetres).

These loggers will remain in place permanently and are set to record the sand temperature every 30 minutes for at least the next 6 years, providing the Rangers with valuable information about the sex and survival of sea turtle hatchlings. Sites will be visited yearly, so long-term trends can be monitored and better understood.

At cooler temperatures (below 28C), turtle eggs become males; at warmer temperatures (above 31C), they become all female; temperatures in between produce a mix of male and female. If nests become too hot, they may not survive. This valuable data will help determine if the Rangers need to undertake additional management to ensure hatchling survival as climate change increases.

Beaches can be a dangerous place for our sea turtles. Predators lurk on the ground, in the sky or in the water, raiding nests to eat the eggs, or waiting for the tiny baby sea turtles to hatch and crawl out of nests, being easy helpless targets. Hatchlings, crawling from their nests, often become trapped in seemingly harmless things such as tyre tracks in the sand, pieces of marine debris and the roots of invasive weeds growing in the dunes.

But even the large nesting females can easily become stuck on natural obstacles (such as tree branches and rocks) as well as human-caused barriers (especially marine debris, ropes and ghost nets). This is one of the reasons the Rangers prioritise beach clean-ups and ghost net removals as part of their regular monthly activities, especially along our most important nesting beaches.

Recently, the Rangers travelled out to Bountiful Island, where they were conducting turtle monitoring surveys. They spotted something moving in a pile of rocks not far from them- a large female Sea turtle unable to move from the rocks.

This big girl was lucky the Rangers found her, as she was exhausted and dehydrated, too weak to cross the 500 metres of sand in the blazing afternoon sun. Coordinator Tommy and Ranger Damien helped her to get to the water's edge. When she touched the cool water, she suddenly was full of life again, and with flippers flailing, vanished quickly out into the ocean. Job well done Rangers!





Boodjamulla National Park

Vital Monitoring for Country

In late October, Ngumari Waanyi Rangers Duncan King and Shaquelle Connolly and Land and Environment Project Officer Boyd Simpson visited Boodjamulla National Park, joining QPWS (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service) NRM (Natural Resource Management) Ranger Lea Ezzy and Boodjamulla National Park staff in the annual health checks of the park.

These checks of Country are vitally important in managing the park. Not only do they identify threats (weeds, feral pigs, feral horses, cattle, dieback) but also inform the assessment of sites inhabited by threatened species.

Numerous sites were visited by 4WD and also some that are only accessible by helicopter. An aerial view also allows the best monitoring of fire scars and ascertains if there have been any issues with past fires.

Areas along the Lawn Hill Gorge have been affected by an unknown pathogen causing mature trees to die, particularly Leichardt trees and Cluster figs. This has been closely monitored since it started in 2017, with a noticeable increase observed, and entomologists and various other scientists have been trying to uncover the cause. Long Horn

beetles have been discovered in affected trees, and the investigation is attempting to discover whether it is these borers themselves or some other condition that then allows them to proliferate. Regular health checks enable close monitoring of this development.

QPWS staff provided training for our Rangers in this process as well as other aspects of the health check, showing them the procedure for collecting and documenting all the data. This important information informs the reports used by park managers to coordinate their own resource allocation and, depending on issues identified, is also used to drive funding allocation further up the line.

Our Rangers enjoyed seeing Country through this lens and Duncan was lucky enough to see the threatened Carpentaria grasswren at a health check site in the spinifex grasslands in the north of the Park. Grasswrens can be attracted by playing recordings of grasswren songs.

It is now planned that the Ngumari Waanyi Rangers will continue to take part in these annual health checks moving forward.





Staff Updates

Welcome to the CLCAC Team!



Name: Roberta Casey
 Position Title: Normanton Ranger
 CLCAC start date: 26/09/2022
 What do you enjoy most about your role?
 Having the opportunity to work out on my country and taking care of the land.
 Hobby: Hunting/fishing, camping and being out bush.
 Favourite food: Bush tucker
 Favourite music: Country/Reggae
 Favourite sport: Softball, NRL- Broncos Supporter



Name: Liana Bee
 Position Title: Normanton Ranger
 CLCAC start date: 01/12/22
 What do you enjoy most about your role?
 Having the opportunity to work out on my country and being outdoors
 Hobby: I love photographing and listening to music
 Favourite food: Pop's savoury mince
 Favourite music: Country
 Favourite sport: Track and field

Ranger Activity Update

What Our Ranger Units Have Been Up To This Quarter

GANGALIDDA AND GARAWA UNIT

Annual Turtle/Knowledge Transfer camp
 A lot of training, coxswain, SES, firearms training, biosecurity
 Wetlands not Wastelands consultation
 Water quality monitoring with Griffith University
 Storm burning
 Crocodile training
 Cast net surveys
 Annual wrap up activity: shed clean up, maintenance and asset register

Maintenance
 Storm burning
 Wetlands nor Wastelands consultation

WELLESLEY ISLANDS UNIT

Turtle monitoring
 Shorebird Survey
 Biosecurity Roundtable

NGUMARI WAANYI UNIT

Community meetings, Burketown, Doomadgee
 Boodjamulla health checks
 On country checks at Century mine
 Cleaning & maintenance gear
 ACDC chemical training at Gregory

NORMANTON UNIT

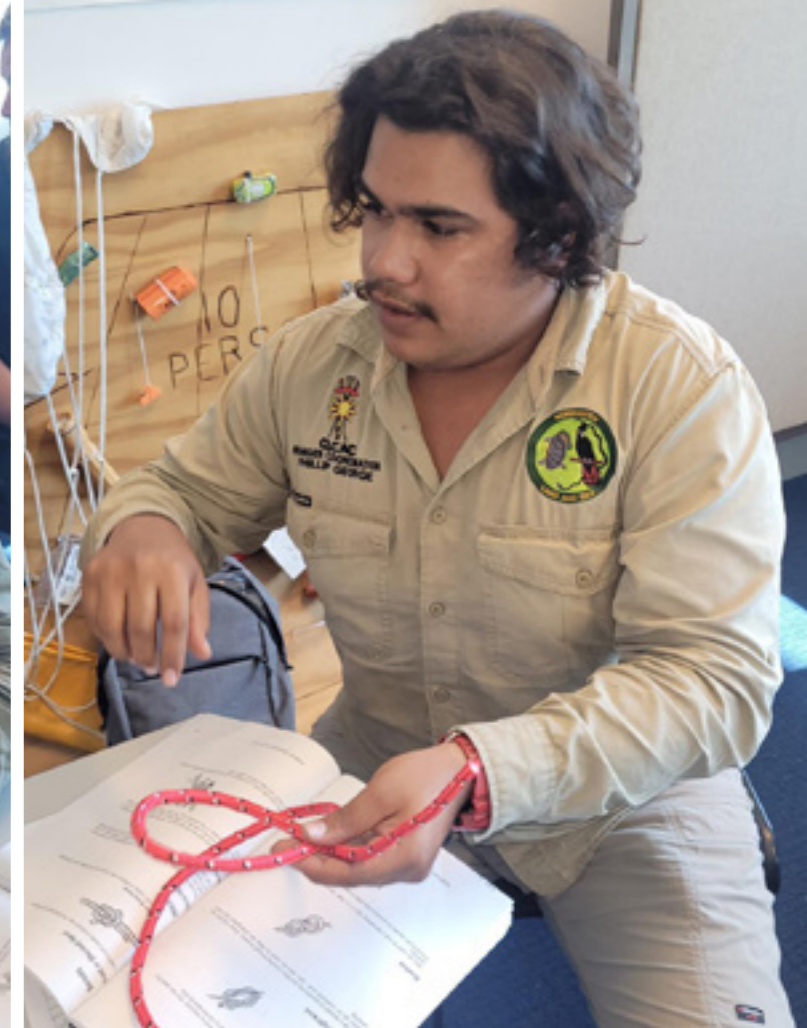
Coxswains training
 1080 baiting
 Cert III training
 Aerial Gaslan control Prickly Acacia Delta Downs
 NAQS beach transects
 Firearms training
 NAQS pos mortem
 Fire break clearing
 Parkinsonia control
 Biosecurity Roundtable (Darwin)
 Water quality monitoring



Name: Joel Casey
 Position Title: Ranger
 CLCAC start date: 01/12/22
 What do you enjoy most about your role?
 Working outdoors
 Hobby: Fishing
 Favourite food: Home cooked meals and bush tucker cooked on the coals
 Favourite music: Country
 Favourite sport: NRL, cricket



Name: Myron Toby
 Position Title: Ranger
 CLCAC start date: 01/12/22
 What do you enjoy most about your role?
 Being on Country
 Hobby: Fishing/hunting
 Favourite food: Bushtucker
 Favourite music: Reggae
 Favourite sport: Rugby league



Quarterly Training Snapshot





What's on?

1 January	New Year's Day
2 January	New Year's Day Public Holiday
26 January	Survival Day
14 February	Valentine's Day
3 March	World Wildlife Day
8 March	International Women's Day
17 March	National Close the Gap Day

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.



CLCAC CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL
 ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

United we stand.

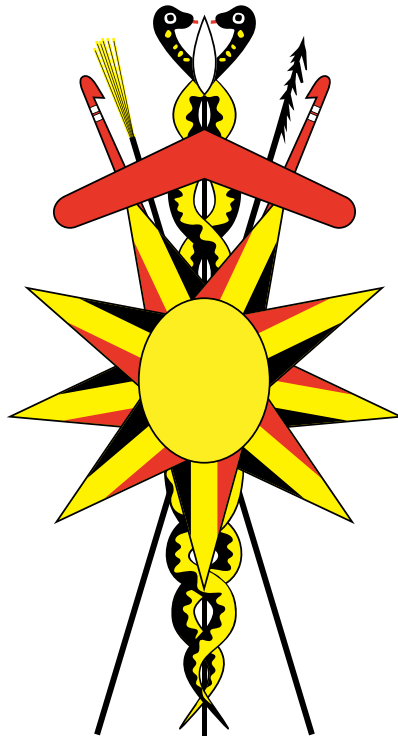
CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

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

I prefer to receive notices via (please tick selection)

- Post
- Email

Signed:



CLCAC

Cairns Office

A Suite 2, Level 1, 104 Mulgrave Road, Cairns QLD 4870

P (07) 4041 3833

E info@clcac.com.au

W 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)