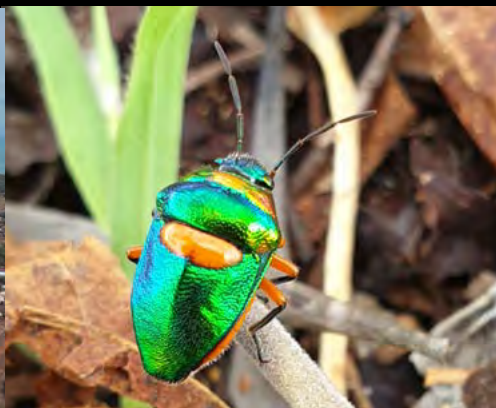


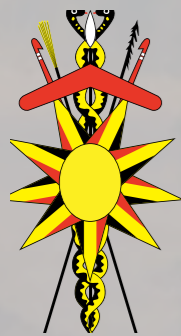


CLCAC

CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Edition 38 | April - June 2021





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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Directory

- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Rachel Amini-Yanner
- Deputy CEO/Corporate Services Manager – Trish Steineck
- Principal Legal Officer (PLO) – Kevin Murphy
- Chairperson – Thomas Wilson (Lardil)
- Director – Marlene Logan (Gkuthaarn)
- Director – Gerald Loogatha (Kaiadilt)
- Director – Donald Bob (Garawa)
- Director – Joseph Rainbow (Kurtijar)
- Director – Phillip George (Kukatj)
- Director – Murrandoo Yanner (Gangalidda)
- Director – Henry Aplin (Waanyi)
- Director – Lawrence Burke (Yangkaal)
- Contact Person – Apryl Ford



CEO's Update

We're halfway through 2021 and there has been very little reduction in the pace for all of us in the CLCAC team!

Included in this newsletter edition is an update on the PBC and Economic areas of CLCAC activity (pp. 6 & 7) as well as some PBC sheets explaining the role of contact officers in the Native Title space. (pp.8 & 9)

We provide updates on recent activity including a CLCAC delegation attending the annual AIATSIS conference (p.10) and the exciting repatriation of a Lardil headdress from the UK. (p.11)

Learn about how all the CLCAC and Wellesley Island Rangers recently worked with the Storyland team as part of an international feature film production on migratory shorebirds on p.12.

End of Financial year is always a busy time with all the reporting and other requirements that brings. Staff and Rangers have, as usual, been very active with all the business around caring for and managing Country, and you can read about their activities and movement in the updates. (pp.14-18)

The highlights for me during this period included the permanent onset of Hayden Tyrrell and Paul Logan, who stepped up into Ranger Coordinator and Head Ranger roles on the Normanton team (p.19) a great example of CLCAC objectives to support our team members' developmental journey to more senior roles.

A particular highlight has also been seeing the Rangers all working together in a collaborative regional approach for many activities including: the Wetlands not Wastelands project (pp.20-21) as well as the important Fire Training and Management undertaken this quarter (pp.22-23) which sees older Rangers sharing important knowledge and experience with the younger Rangers on the team.

Last but not least, is our HR update, where we share the profiles posted to social media for our most recent new staff and a rundown of the training this quarter.

Until our next edition, stay safe!

What's on?

Coming soon...

July 4-11	NAIDOC week
July 12	Aboriginal flag first flown in 1971
July 15	World Youth Skills Day
July 16	Cairns Show Day
August 9	International Day of Indigenous Peoples
August 12	Mt Isa Rodeo
August 27	Doomadgee Public Holiday
September 27	World Tourism Day

Want to stay up to date with all the news from CLCAC and our Ranger teams? Find us on socials! We are now featuring a lot more video content to showcase CLCAC activities and initiatives.

Instagram:

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

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>



Top: The view from the sky when Plan C team members were treated to a hot air ballooning tour over the Gulf
 Bottom row: L- planning workshops with GGNTAC; middle: Hayley Seears and Sarah Burgess from Plan C with Ranger Milmarja Yanner, R- Plan C consulting GRAC Directors to inform the Strategic and Economic Development Plans.



Plan C consultants Sam Charles-Ginn and Jim Gleeson on Birri Beach as part of a site visit
 Image courtesy of Jim Gleeson of Plan C Consultancy

PBC Capacity and Economic Development

GANGALIDDA AND GARAWA NATIVE TITLE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (GGNTAC)

CLCAC continued to roll out several important corporate capacity building and economic development activities with GGNTAC this period:

- CLCAC and GGNTAC welcomed consultancy firm Plan C to Burketown 22-25 June to conduct site visits and a planning workshop with GGNTAC's Board of Directors to inform a 10 year Strategic Plan and 5 year Economic Development Plan.
- GGNTAC Directors generously contributed their ideas to progress 4 key strategic priority areas: Governance and Administration; Country and Environment; Economic Development, Infrastructure & Assets, and; Community and Culture.
- In addition, Plan C met with GGNTAC wholly-owned commercial entities to discuss ways to build upon the success of existing operations, including Yagurli Tours hot-air ballooning joint venture with Balloon Aloft, and the Jigija Indigenous Fire Training Program.
- The first ever commercial hot air ballooning tour in the Gulf of Carpentaria will take flight in July and GGNTAC provided the Plan C crew the opportunity to experience their own breathtaking flight as well as a Yaliya's Stargazing Tour
- Plan C also heard from CLCAC, GGNTAC and Gangalidda

& Garawa Rangers about their aspirations for the Jigija Indigenous Fire Training Program.

- Gangalidda and Garawa Ranger, Milmarja Yanner, provided an on-Country tour explaining the importance of traditional burning knowledge to maintaining healthy Country.
- The establishment of GGNTAC office and operations. CLCAC has supported GGNTAC to purchase laptops and IT equipment for two GGNTAC staffing positions, as well as a vehicle that is due to be delivered toward the end of 2021.

GULF REGION ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (GRAC)

CLCAC continued working with GRAC on a number of exciting capacity building and economic development projects:

- The brand new role of an Island-based Administration Officer has now been filled - stay tuned for more info on that next newsletter!
- CLCAC continued working with GRAC on a number of important Capacity Building and Economic Development projects, including:
- Welcoming consultancy firm Plan C to Gununa on 24 and 25 June to conduct planning workshops with GRAC's Board of Directors to further progress on the 10 year Strategic Plan and 5 year Economic Development Plan
- Plan C conducted a site visit to the old resort as the first step to producing a Business Plan for Birri. The consultants will return in the next few months to host a planning meeting for the future of Birri.
- The purchase of an Island-based GRAC vehicle to support the new Admin position
- We have commenced work on developing an exciting new website for GRAC
- GRAC Directors are booked to attend a series of mentoring and Governance training sessions in the next financial year to further enhance their Directorship skills and learn how important good governance is for a PBC.



Plan C consultant, Jim Gleeson and IPA Project Facilitator, Tommy referring to the map
 Image courtesy of: Jim Gleeson of Plan C Consultancy

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

April

Meeting with GKAC and Mingindda – GCA 28th April
 Waanyi Authorisation Meeting 29th April
 WNTAC General Meeting and Community Meeting 30th

June

GGNTAC – Community Meeting – 21 -23 June
 GKAC – Land Transfer Ceremony – 29 June
 GKAC – Community Meeting & Special General Meeting 30 June



Top: The team travelled south for balloon training with Balloon Aloft
 Column below: Top- Frank Amini doing Harbour Trial as part of training; middle: Yagurli team members have had a lot to learn about all things ballooning; Bottom: Frank Amini at training for his Maritime Certificate 2 at the Cairns TAFE



CONTINUED SUPPORT OF YAGURLI TOURS

Through facilitation of GGNTAC's Capacity Building Project, CLCAC continues to promote and provide support to their tourism business, Yagurli Tours.

Things are hotting up with peak tourism season upon us! The inaugural commercial hot air ballooning tours will soon be on offer to the public starting in July and August, and Yagurli's tour guides have been busily preparing for this.

The team have spent the last few months undertaking training to get ready for the season ahead. This included a trip to the southern base of Australia's leading balloon company and partner, Balloon's Aloft, to learn all about ballooning, and further training in Cairns for all things boating.

Teaming up with the highly experienced Balloon Aloft pilots, Yagurli Tours guides are now looking forward to sharing cultural commentary over spectacular views of Country and being part of one-of-a-kind experiences for visitors.



Getting ready to launch!



Traditional Owners from the Gkuthaarn and Kukatj people celebrating the official land transfer- the end of a long process

Native Title Update

NON-CLAIMANT APPLICATION – THREAT TO THE RECOGNITION OF NATIVE TITLE

Stanbroke Pty Ltd, the holder of a pastoral lease over Augustus Downs West Station, east of Gregory, lodged a Non-Claimant Application over the station earlier this year. A Non-Claimant Application is an application made under the *Native Title Act 1993* (the NTA) by a person who asserts that there is no native title over the area of the application. Members of the Waanyi People are seeking to join the Application, brought in the Federal Court. Likewise, CLCAC will also seek to be joined to the Non-claimant Application.

If there were no parties that responded to the Non-claimant Application, the NTA provides that the Applicant can proceed to act as if there are no native title holders, and that native title does not exist for that area.

Stanbroke is not required by the NTA to prove that there is no native title – it merely has to assert that there is no native title. It is then up to the Traditional Owners for that area to build a case to satisfy the Federal Court that it is more likely than not that Native Title does exist over the area. Such an exercise is quite demanding in the relatively short space of time provided for in such applications – especially when the Court requires that the Indigenous party not only demonstrate that it has traditional

connection to the area, but also that that connection has been ongoing and uninterrupted since British sovereignty.

CLCAC and the Traditional Owners' legal team will work together on this matter for a successful outcome.

HISTORIC TRANSFER OF NORMANTON LAND TO TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Queensland Government transferred Aboriginal freehold title over 50 blocks of land in and around Normanton to the Gkuthaarn & Kukatj People on 29 June. There was a transfer ceremony held in Normanton on the day attended by Jack Bowden, the Mayor of Carpentaria Shire Council, and Councillor Brad Hawkins, the Deputy Mayor.

The transfer of titles of the blocks is a result of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) reached between the Gkuthaarn & Kukatj People and the State Government. The ILUA resulted from the negotiation process for the determination of native title that occurred last year on 29 September when the Federal Court made orders declaring the Gkuthaarn & Kukatj People native title holders over their traditional lands. The Normanton community also benefitted under the ILUA, allowing development of areas free of native title.

In addition, the ILUA provides for the transfer of 65 more blocks of Aboriginal freehold land, 25 blocks of ordinary freehold and the appointment of the Gkuthaarn and Kukatj Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC as trustee of large areas of reserve lands in and around Normanton.

The Gkuthaarn & Kukatj People are now the recognised native title holders for the Normanton region, as well as one of the largest freehold owners of land in the town precinct.

CLCAC sends big congratulations to all!



Marlene Logan addressing the community at the ceremony.



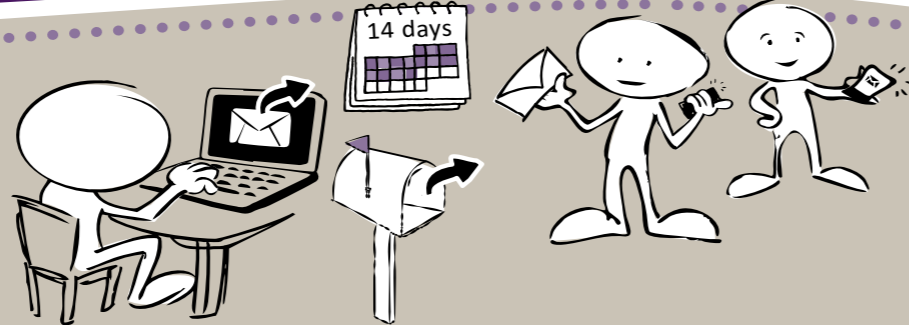
Normanton Rangers (L-R) Linton George, Makiya Logan, Lawrence George, Paul Logan and Hayden Tyrrell were part of the celebrations.



The Normanton community were pleased to welcome the land transfer.

Contact persons and secretaries

Under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act) corporations either have a 'contact person' or a 'secretary', depending on the registered size of the corporation.



What do contact persons do?

A contact person acts as a mail box for their corporation—they are the central contact point. Their job is to pass on all communications (letters, emails, telephone calls and messages) to at least one of the directors of the corporation within **14 days** of receiving them.

Small and medium corporations have a contact person and large corporations have a secretary. For more information see the fact sheet *Corporation size and reporting* at oric.gov.au.

Why are there different roles?

Small and medium corporations are usually less complex than large ones and therefore it's reasonable that the directors deal with the corporation's legal obligations themselves.

Large corporations, on the other hand, usually have greater legal responsibilities and more administrative tasks to perform so it's reasonable that the directors have assistance in meeting them.

Who can be a contact person or secretary?

To be either a contact person or a secretary a person must be at least 18 years old. They must also usually live in Australia.

Did you know?

Large corporations can engage a professional 'company secretary' to perform the role of secretary.

Who can't be a secretary?

Generally speaking, a person who has been disqualified from managing a corporation can't be a secretary. A disqualified person may only fill this role if their appointment is made with the specific permission of the Registrar or the court. For more details see the fact sheet *Disqualification from managing corporations under the CATSI Act*.

What do secretaries do?

A secretary is also the central contact point for their corporation but in addition they must make sure their corporation:

- lodges any rule book changes with the Registrar
- lodges any change of name with the Registrar
- has a registered office and notifies the Registrar of any changes to it
- gives the Registrar a register of members or former members on request
- lodges details of directors and secretaries with the Registrar
- lodges reports (general, financial and directors') with the Registrar.

Contact person or secretary?

The size of your corporation determines whether it needs a **contact person** or a **secretary**.

Small corporation
Appointee: contact person

Medium corporation
Appointee: contact person

Large corporation
Appointee: secretary

Legal responsibilities

Contact persons

The contact person is usually not an 'officer' of the corporation. The role has few legal obligations. They must pass on communications to directors and keep their corporation informed of any changes to their own personal contact details.

Contact persons that fail to pass on communications to at least one director within 14 days of receiving them may be fined 10 penalty units. (At the time of writing, \$210 equals one penalty unit.)

Secretaries

Like directors, secretaries are officers of the corporation and have legal duties to:

- act with care and diligence
- act in good faith
- not misuse their position or information.

Secretaries also have a range of legal responsibilities such as lodging reports and documents with the Registrar.

Penalties can apply to secretaries who breach their duties under the CATSI Act, ranging from a fine of five penalty units to 200 penalty units or imprisonment for five years or both.

For more information see the fact sheet *Duties of directors and other officers* at oric.gov.au.

Appointing a contact person or secretary

Directors are in charge of appointing the contact person or secretary. Directors also decide the terms and conditions of the position (including remuneration, if this is applicable).

But before anyone can be appointed as either a contact person or secretary they must agree to take on the role. They must provide a signed consent to the corporation saying that they agree to accept the position. Corporations must keep a copy of this consent as part of their records. A template consent form is at oric.gov.au/cp

Informing the Registrar

For a **new corporation**, the name of the contact person or secretary must be inserted in the '**application for registration**' form which is submitted to the Registrar.

If no contact person is named in the application form the person who submits it (the applicant) becomes the contact person (this applies to small and medium corporations only).

In cases where **existing corporations** are looking to appoint a new contact person or secretary, the directors make the appointment at a directors' meeting. The corporation must tell the Registrar about the new appointment within 28 days of the decision. You can do that through online.oric.gov.au.

How does a contact person or secretary resign or retire?

A contact person or secretary must inform their corporation in writing if they resign or retire. The corporation must then inform the Registrar within 28 days so that the Registrar can update the Register of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations.

What if the contact person can't be contacted?



If the Registrar has not been able to reach a contact person for 28 days or longer the Registrar can determine that a director is to be the contact person.

The fact that small and medium corporations are not required to have a registered office means it is very important that their contact person is available and contactable at all times.

Checklist: when and what to do

When:	Make sure:
directors appoint a new contact person or secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the appointee gives consent in writing • the corporation keeps a copy of their consent • the corporation tells the Registrar within 28 days
a contact person or secretary changes their name or home address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the person tells their corporation within 14 days • the corporation tells the Registrar within 28 days
a person stops being a contact person or secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the person gives the corporation notice in writing • the corporation tells the Registrar within 28 days



CONTACT ORIC

freecall 1800 622 431

(not free from mobiles)

email info@oric.gov.au

website oric.gov.au

NOTE: This fact sheet is not a substitute for legal advice. It is intended as a quick overview of the topic. For more detail see the CATSI Act or consult a lawyer.



Murrandoo Yanner presenting



AIATSIS Summit 2021

A delegation of CLCAC representatives attended the AIATSIS summit in June, consisting of CLCAC Community & Stakeholder Officer Murrandoo Yanner, CEO Rachel Amini-Yanner, Deputy CEO Trish Steineck, Land & Environment Manager Jory Stariwat, Principal Legal Officer Kevin Murphy, PBC Capacity & Economic Development Project Officer Emma Hedditch and Administration & Project Support Officer Apryl Ford.

Co-convened with the South Australian Native Title Services (SANTS) and Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) on Kaurna Yerta land at the Adelaide Convention Centre in South Australia, the theme of this year's summit was *"Footprints for the future—Tracking our journey together"*.

The event promised to provide "a unique forum for academics, government, native title, legal experts and community sectors to collaborate in addressing critical and emerging challenges for the native title and research sectors. As well as opportunities to support and strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, knowledge and governance."

Keynote speakers included the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous and Professor of Law at UNSW and Acting Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court, Professor Megan Davis and Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar AO.

The program covered all manner of sector concerns from health,

education and economics; to heritage and history; to community, culture and caring for country.

GGNTAC Chairperson and CLCAC Director, Murrandoo Yanner Snr presented a PBC Discussion Session on the first day to an audience of around 70 representatives from the PBC sector across Australia.

Murrandoo's presentation highlighted the united approach of Gulf communities throughout the native title determination era, and how this approach is now helping to establish and grow the capacity of PBCs in the Southern Gulf. Sharing skills, resources and knowledge, especially amongst three highly successful Ranger programs in the region has been key to supporting the operation and growth of PBCs.

Murrandoo also spoke about the importance of sound economic development planning underpinning sustainable self-governance of PBCs into the future.

"Part of this is about making sure we don't just get a paycheck from companies operating in our area; we need to be joint owners, sitting on the board of joint ventures and actually having a say about what development happens on our Country," explained Murrandoo. *"Economic development is also about PBCs owning and diversifying different business interests in their regions such as tourism, hospitality, agriculture, land and fire management as well as services."*

Coming Home - Repatriating a Lardil Treasure

A traditional Lardil headdress is to be returned from the UK back home to Mornington Island, as part of an international repatriation program run by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

The culturally significant headdress - wound with human hair, painted with ochre and topped with emu feathers - originally belonged to the late Philip Jack, a member of the Mornington Island Dance troupe.

After performing at the opening of the Sydney Opera House in 1973 Mr Jack gifted the headdress to his British neighbour in Sydney, Maurice Routhan, who was returning to the UK.

Many decades later Mr Routhan felt it should be restored to its home. *"It has been an honour to care for it, but it belongs there"*.

After many months of preparation, transit, quarantine, and final checks, the piece was received by AIATSIS in mid-February.

"This cultural ceremony dancing headdress came from the Lardil tribe of the Wellesley Islands in the Gulf of Carpentaria, who welcome its return," said senior Lardil man Tommy Wilson.

"The Lardil Elders and the Wellesley Islands community sincerely appreciate the generosity of both Mr Routhan, who donated this item, and AIATSIS, who organised its return from England."

Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC), who represent the Lardil people in this matter, asked AIATSIS to care for the headdress until facilities are prepared for its permanent presence in the community on Mornington Island.

Two GRAC Directors were due to attend an official handover ceremony on June 30 in Canberra but were unable to travel due to COVID restrictions. This event has been postponed until a date to be determined.



L-R: Rangers Samantha Bismark, Michael Watson, Nikita Aitkens with Rebecca Elvoy of Storyland
Below: Randall Wood lining up a shot



Main image: CLCAC Rangers working with the production crew
Top row: L- Ranger Coordinator Hayden and Randall Wood behind the camera; R- (L-R) Clifford Yarrak working with production equipment;
Bottom row: L- Randall enjoying the fun of production with the Rangers, R- CLCAC Rangers filmed monitoring shorebirds

Filming a Feature - Migratory Shorebirds in Frame

Recently the CLCAC and Wellesley Islands Rangers assisted film producers Randall Wood and Rebecca McElroy from Storyland for the international IMAX project "Flyways".

The Gulf of Carpentaria provides globally important feeding sites for migratory shorebirds along their migration pathway and Rangers have been monitoring these for over a decade. Three sites have now successfully received designation within the East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership.

The production crew visited the Gulf for nine days, filming all three Ranger units to capture the cultural connection Gulf Traditional Owners have with migratory shorebirds, and the amazing work the Rangers do to survey and protect them.

It was a fantastic opportunity for the Rangers to get a behind-the-scenes view of the aspects that go into filming a feature production.

The exciting production will highlight sites from all around the world and is scheduled to be released later in the year.





An example of medium to heavy density prickly acacia infestation.



Normanton Ranger Linton George operating equipment as part of weed management work

Controlling the Scourge

Over the past 12 years the Normanton Ranger unit has been steadily working with land owners in some areas of the lower Gulf to control infestations of Prickly acacia (*Vachellia nilotica*), a Weed of National Significance (WoNS).

In Queensland, these infestations are concentrated in the Mitchell Downs bio region with well-established infestations found on the downs country of the lower Gulf of Carpentaria.

Containing an infestation before denser establishment is vital, being more time and cost effective with a greater chance of a favourable outcome. Attempting to control medium to heavy infestations is a hugely expensive process and is considered unviable by many due to the large areas and high number of plants involved.

An incursion recently identified by the Normanton Rangers on the Indigenous (Kurtjar) owned and operated Delta Downs Station is still within manageable limits, however, if untreated could advance beyond control in a matter of years, at significant cost to their property productivity, economic development, land condition and biodiversity.

Left unmanaged, it could continue to spread eastward across Delta Downs and into adjacent properties.

Emergency control efforts have therefore been prioritised to contain and eradicate this infestation. This important weed management initiative is a collaboration between Morr Morr Pastoral and CLCAC to ensure effectiveness and sustainability, and demonstrates a further example of the valuable long term partnership between both groups providing outcomes to Traditional Owners of the region.



A single medium sized prickly acacia tree produces 175,000 seeds per year



Normanton Ranger carrying out on-ground chemical control

Weeds, weeds... and more weeds!

The CLCAC and the Wellesley Islands Ranger teams undertake strategic weed management to protect land, water and biodiversity. Weeds destroy native habitats and threaten native plants and animals, choking natural systems including rivers, forests and coastal dunes. They can reduce agricultural productivity by smothering pastures and in some cases poison livestock.

The most problematic species in the Gulf are rubber vine, calotrope, parkinsonia and prickly acacia. The Rangers systematically control these to reduce further spread across the landscape and to eradicate localised infestations identified in new areas.

Recently Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers identified an incursion of the coral cactus which had been transported into Burketown from surrounding areas. They are working to locally eradicate this species before it spreads into other areas.

All Ranger units deliver fee-for-service weed management for the local Shire Councils, targeting biosecurity threats and priority weeds around community areas. Since April, the Rangers collectively treated 33,362 plants, including a large number of rubber vine plants (18,705 plants), calotrope and neem tree.

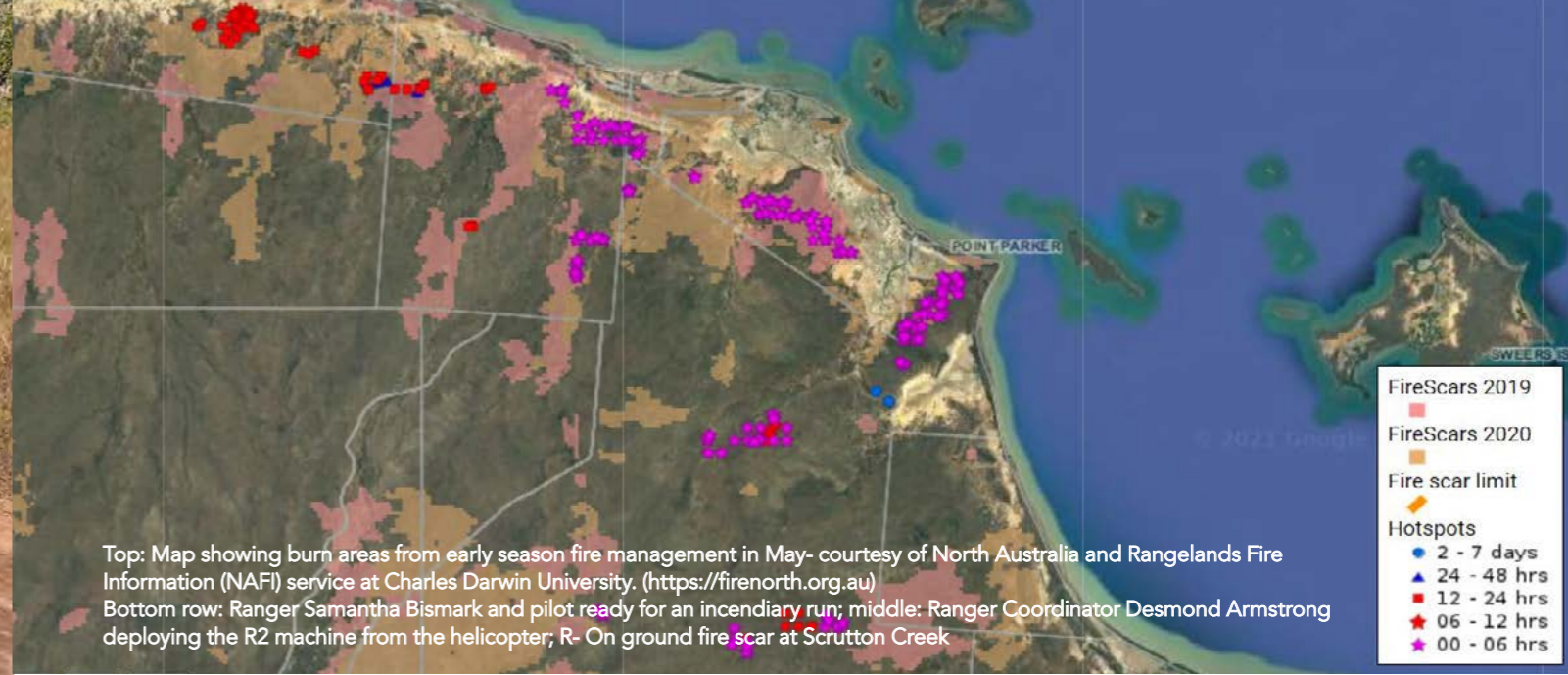
Weed management across such large areas is an ongoing issue and the Rangers have their work cut out for them keeping up with the growth, but effective control is a very crucial part of the work they do to care for Country.



Gangalidda and Garawa Ranger working to eradicate the coral cactus incursion in the Burketown area



Top: The Wellesley Islands Ranger team with researchers from Griffith University at a water quality monitoring site
 Bottom row: L- Rangers carrying out weed management ; middle: the new Wellesley Islands Rangers' boat, *Mathali*; R- Rangers Justin Chong and Head Ranger Roy Amini out in the field



Top: Map showing burn areas from early season fire management in May- courtesy of North Australia and Rangelands Fire Information (NAFI) service at Charles Darwin University. (<https://firenorth.org.au>)
 Bottom row: Ranger Samantha Bismark and pilot ready for an incendiary run; middle: Ranger Coordinator Desmond Armstrong deploying the R2 machine from the helicopter; R- On ground fire scar at Scrutton Creek



Wellesley Islands Rangers Update

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The Wellesley Islands Rangers have kicked off a new program to better understand the health of important water systems on Mornington Island. In May, they hosted experts from Griffith University's Australian Rivers Institute who provided training in water quality monitoring techniques, collecting samples and using technical equipment to test for contaminants, and assessing impacts of runoff, feral animals and pollutants. The team visited 19 sites across Mornington Island, including freshwater soaks, drinking water areas, seagrass meadows and rivers putting their new skills to use collecting their first round of baseline data. Some measurements are recorded in the field using a highly sophisticated electrical probe, while other samples are collected in vials, frozen, then sent to laboratories for analysis.

Using these two methods, many variables are measured including salinity, water clarity, pH, temperature, nutrient levels and potential contaminants. This is only the beginning of the program; the Ranger team will return to the same sites every year at the same time to take measurements and samples enabling them to detect any changes in the waterbodies. As the team's capacity continues to expand, additional sites may be added so the health of water can be monitored across the Wellesley Islands.

This work is part of a larger regional water quality monitoring plan being implemented across the CLCAC region utilising comparable techniques and methods so the data will be comparable, and the results will provide a meaningful and robust measure of the health of water systems in the lower Gulf. The overarching goal is to help keep our people and our environment safe long-term.

FEE-FOR-SERVICE WEED MANAGEMENT

The Wellesley Islands Rangers have been delivering weed management around Gununa under a new fee-for-service contract agreement with the Mornington Shire Council. While the team has been conducting fee-for-service biosecurity activities for the federal government's Department of Agriculture for years, this is the first opportunity to work under contract with local stakeholders and is aimed at addressing community land management concerns. With the backing of CLCAC's highly experienced Natural Resource Management Officer Kevin Anderson, the team has completed half of the contract targeting 14 different species of invasive weeds in strategic areas around Gununa including at the airport and near the wharf.

The Ranger unit is keen to continue discussions with the Mornington Shire Council regarding future fee-for-service contract opportunities, expanding weed treatment areas as well as fire management and fuel load reduction works around the community.

NEW BOAT FOR THE TEAM

June was a very exciting month for the Ranger team with the arrival of the long-awaited Ranger vessel to Mornington Island. Named after the focus of WILSSED's logo (the sea eagle), *Mathali* is essential for expanding the team's land and sea country management programs. The Rangers can now travel through all of the Wellesley Islands, and are able to deliver outcomes across the traditional country of all language groups recognised in the IPA. Rangers are currently undertaking Coxwain's training aboard *Mathali* and all should have their official boating licences within the next few months.

Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers Update

EARLY SEASON FIRE MANAGEMENT

The Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers completed early season fire management in May using a combination of aerial incendiary (R2 machine) and on ground burning (using the pyro shot, matches and drip torch). 41,700 hectares of country was burnt from the sandstone escarpment country to the south heading along ridges and riverine fringing areas to the coastline in the North and around the community of Burketown.

Early season burning is essential to improving the health of country and reducing fuel loads to help prevent damaging late season wildfires which could destroy habitat, cultural sites and infrastructure. The Rangers used fire scars from previous years along with natural fire breaks which include rivers and creeks which help to create mosaic patterns on the ground which prevents fire from escaping onto neighbouring properties. Some landscapes especially along the coast are no burn areas due to species of flora which are sensitive to fire.

QLD FISHERIES PATROL

In April, Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers Milmarja Yanner and Zac Sowden were selected to participate in joint sea patrols with Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and Burketown Police. These patrols have been scheduled as part of annual Ranger work plans as CLCAC looks to develop a compliance capability to support current compliance agencies in the region. The Rangers worked alongside the Officers to check all fishing boats and understand and implement the standard procedures to ensure people follow Queensland's fishing rules and regulations.

The Rangers enjoyed the patrols and found that they learnt a lot about the rules and regulations people must abide by when fishing in Queensland. The Rangers also learnt how QBFP conduct their patrols and their guidelines when interacting with other vessels including approaching people in the appropriate manner.



Ranger Zac Sowden with Queensland Boating & Fisheries patrol and local Burketown police.



Normanton Rangers undertaking weed management



Hayden using high-tech camera in the field



Hayden heading back to base after a long day



Paul overseeing the Ranger team in recent burns



Paul instructing Ranger Hanchard Crampton

Normanton Rangers Update

KARUMBA WEED MANAGEMENT

In early May the Normanton Rangers undertook fee for service weed management around Karumba for the Carpentaria Shire Council. A total of 7,395 invasive weeds were sprayed, with the Rangers targeting rubber vine, chinese apple and neem tree, which have become problem plants in the region.

Rubber vine, in particular, is a problem because it can spread quickly, colonise and then smother riparian vegetation, forming dense thickets. An invasive species, it is restricted under the Biosecurity Act 2014, making weed management a very important aspect of the work the Rangers undertake and something which is of great value to the local community and pastoralists.

BOAT TRAINING

In April, six of the Normanton Rangers participated in training to achieve their Recreational Boat licences, as part of CLCAC's overarching approach to maritime training and water operations.

As part of this training, they learned several new skills such as: how to operate an ocean-going vessel, safety at sea, safe operating procedures, identifying safe conditions, reporting faults, boat maintenance and emergency procedures including practicing with flares.

All the Rangers really enjoyed the training and were excited to gain the boat licences as this is something they may not have had a chance to do otherwise. These skills will also help them in the field conducting mangrove and river surveys.



Rangers Linton George, Juwan Fraser, Paul Logan out on the river



Rangers Raymond Dalton and Makiya Logan learning how to maintain a boat engine



Linton George, Kelean Logan, Antoine Callope-Tucker, Raymond Dalton training in emergency flare practice.

Stepping Up...

In November 2020, Hayden Tyrrell, a Kukatj man who initially joined CLCAC as a Ranger in 2017, stepped into the shoes of acting Ranger Coordinator. He was chosen because of his 'can-do' attitude, thirst for knowledge, willingness to try new things and take part in any training, as well as his great communication and leadership skills.

Hayden has now completed the six-month probationary period and is officially the Normanton Ranger Coordinator; with the Ranger team flourishing under his leadership.

He is in the process of finalising his first round of End of Year Reporting, no mean feat for someone with dyslexia, although rather than seeing it as a disadvantage or something to hold him back he believes it gives him a unique viewpoint to take on the challenges of the role.

Hayden values the opportunity to learn new administrative, IT and logistical skills, as well as work with people from many different backgrounds, but for him, the most important parts of the job are encouraging the Ranger team to grow and improve together; and being able to work outside, caring for the land and sea country to which he has such strong ties.

Paul Logan, a Gkuthaarn man, joined CLCAC as a member of the Normanton ranger team in August 2016. Before joining CLCAC Paul worked for 17 years in the mining industry. Not enjoying the FIFO life which took him away from home and country for weeks at a time, he decided to take a Ranger job back home to spend more time with family and out on country. He only regrets not having done it sooner when his children were younger.

When the fires were burning out of control on the east coast of NSW, Paul and three other CLCAC staff were chosen to be part of the taskforce deployed to relieve firefighters who had been working without respite for 3 weeks. Recognising their abilities,

the incident controller put the CLCAC team on "night mop-up crew". With Paul in charge of one of the trucks they were able to extinguish all burning logs and embers from within 200m of the control lines, securing and extinguishing the fire.

Paul was appointed acting Head Ranger in November 2020; the logical choice with his excellent leadership skills over the years as a natural mentor for the younger and newer Rangers. Like Hayden, Paul has now completed probation and is officially Head Ranger for the Normanton Ranger unit. The team has settled down and is collectively going from strength to strength, in no small part due to his steady influence.

The aspect of the position he most enjoys is being in that leadership role, where he tries to instil in the younger crew two of his core principles: Honesty and Responsibility. He values working alongside and mentoring new Rangers and looks forward to "being part of helping the younger generations coming up through the ranks".

As part of CLCAC's company-wide Succession Training Plan, more experienced Rangers are tasked with mentoring and training new Rangers. High performing Rangers are encouraged with extra responsibilities and training to prepare them for more senior roles as and when they become available. Hayden and Paul are great examples of what can be achieved with experience, dedication and hard work.

Well done Hayden and Paul!



L-R: Normanton Rangers Kelean Logan, Lawrence George and Linton George collecting marine debris in the mangroves



Top: Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers L-R Milmarja Yanner, Zac Sowden, Lachlan Anderson, Michael Watson and Samantha Bismark undertaking SVAM monitoring on the Albert River survey
 Images below: Top left: Environmental monitoring surveys are a crucial part of the project; Top right: Fiona Sutton Wilson from Earthwatch Institute assisting the Rangers in plastic identification; Bottom left: Discarded waste materials present a significant threat to flora and fauna; Bottom right: Louise Hardman (CEO/Founder, Plastic Collective) conducting training on plastic 'Materials Knowledge'

Wetlands not Wastelands

In April and May CLCAC Rangers from the Gangalidda & Garawa and the Normanton units collaboratively undertook coastal and wetland surveys of the Albert and Leichhardt Rivers, as part of the *Wetlands not Wastelands* project.

This project is a multi-partner initiative funded by Coca-Cola Australia Foundation's inaugural Environmental Flagship Partner Grant in 2019. The innovative three-year pilot will develop a marine pollution and tidal wetlands management plan across the SE Gulf of Carpentaria as well as establish community-based plastic recycling stations in Burketown and Normanton to recover, recycle, and upcycle plastic waste into valuable products. The project will help reduce marine pollution by identifying existing and potential pollution threats and initiate systematic waste plastics recovery and recycling in the SE Gulf of Carpentaria.

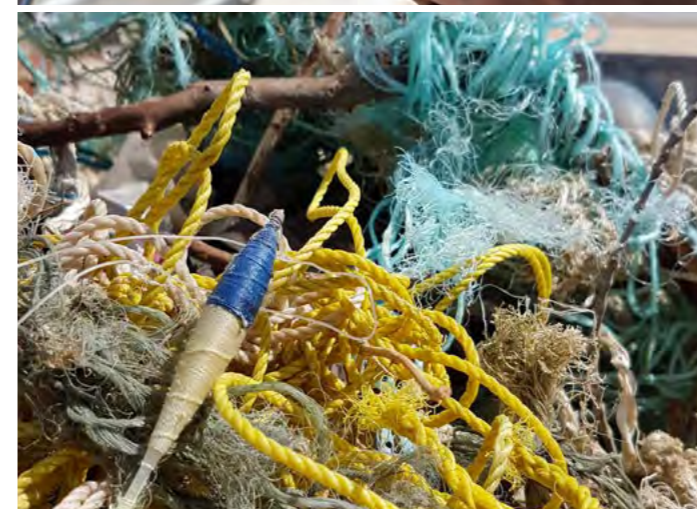
While conducting environmental monitoring surveys, the two Ranger units collectively were able to survey over 200 km of estuary shoreline and 38 hectares of saltmarsh habitat. In addition to the environmental monitoring the Rangers prioritised collecting any marine debris and discarded materials from beach, river, estuarine, mangrove, and saltmarsh habitats. Over two months CLCAC Rangers removed an impressive total of 333.5kg of marine debris from the three rivers (Albert, Norman and Leichhardt Rivers)!

As part of this ongoing project, the partner organisations Earthwatch Institute and Plastic Collective, visited Normanton and Burketown to provide training and support for the Rangers in environmental monitoring and identification. Plastic Collective also provided training

on plastic identification and sorting, and cleaning of these discarded waste plastics in preparation for the delivery and implementation of recycling stations planned for Normanton and Burketown.



L-R: Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers Zac Sowden and Lachlan Anderson removing a 100 kilogram ghost net from the Albert River





All the Rangers from the Normanton and the Gangalidda & Garawa units participated in the fire management training

Images below: Top left: Gangalidda & Garawa Ranger Zac Sowden monitoring the burn Top Right: Ranger Makiya Logan using the pyro shot Bottom left and right: controlled burning to reduce woody thickening of vegetation

Fire Management - An All Team Effort

In May the Normanton Rangers hosted the annual CLCAC Fire Workshop, with all rangers from the Normanton and Gangalidda and Garawa Ranger teams participating.

The workshop is a training and development tool for new Rangers who receive basic firefighting training (Fire Management Systems level 1) and gives senior Rangers additional fire management skills, preparing them all for the upcoming fire mitigation season.

Kevin Anderson, Natural Resource Management Officer, delivered the training on behalf of QFES (Queensland Fire and Emergency Services) with the senior Rangers assisting the delivery.

As part of their practical assessments, Rangers planned and carried out two separate control burns to help reduce woody thickening of vegetation and mitigate late season wildfires.

There is much to learn about fire management, what it can do, which direction it burns, learning how weather impacts and many other important elements of being a fire practitioner.

"There are a lot of factors that can impact. It isn't something you learn in one day it's something you have to learn over time because every fire is different from the last one" said Hayden Tyrrell, Normanton Ranger Coordinator. "We are lucky to have some really experienced senior fire practitioners to learn from."

The fires were a complete success which rounded off a fantastic week of teamwork and team building.



L-R: Rangers Kelean Logan and Zac Sowden monitoring the burn area



Staff Profiles



Name: Lisa Christensen
Position Title: Media and Corporate Compliance Officer
CLCAC start date: 4/1/21
What do you enjoy most about your role?
 Being part of a team that manages pristine Country and supports traditional and evolving Culture- and especially the honour of telling the stories of this!
Hobby: Writing, reading, sailing, camping and Xbox gaming with kids
Favourite food: I'm an avid foodie and enjoy food from all over.
Favourite music: With an event management background I have a pretty expansive musical taste- everything from reggae to house to funk.
Favourite sport: Running, swimming, yoga and free weights.



Name: Linton George
Position Title: Ranger - Normanton
CLCAC start date: 15/2/21
What do you enjoy most about your role? New opportunities
Hobby: Hunting
Favourite food: Meat
Favourite music: Rock
Favourite sport: Cricket



Name: Nikita Aitkens
Position Title: Ranger - Gangalidda & Garawa
CLCAC start date: 17/2/21
What do you enjoy most about your role?
 Being back on country and working on country
Hobby: Reading, fishing and camping
Favourite food: Bushtucker
Favourite music: Old school music
Favourite sport: Rugby league



Name: Raymond Dalton
Position Title: Ranger - Normanton
CLCAC start date: 23/3/21
What do you enjoy most about your role?
 Looking after Country and learning more about what Rangers do
Hobby: Fishing, hunting, footy, rodeo
Favourite food: Curried sausages
Favourite music: Country
Favourite sport: NRL



Name: Emma Hedditch
Position Title: PBC Capacity & Economic Development Officer
CLCAC start date: November 2020; permanent position 24/5/21
What do you enjoy most about your role?
 Working in an organisation with an incredible history and amazing people that have made the wins happen. I am grateful to be part of making the aspirations of TOs in the Gulf a reality!
Hobby: Outdoor adventures with my dogs. Tending to my growing plant family and sewing. I also volunteer with SES.
Favourite food: All the food, but especially anything cooked on an open fire.
Favourite music: I'm a closet Taylor Swift fan, especially her older country music. Don't tell anyone.
Favourite sport: Rugby league



Name: Makiya Logan
Position Title: Ranger - Normanton
CLCAC start date: 1/3/21
What do you enjoy most about your role?
 Being out on country and learning new things
Hobby: Fishing and footy
Favourite food: Goanna, catfish and barra – cooked on coals
Favourite music: Reggae and country
Favourite sport: NRL



Name: Samantha Bismark
Position Title: Ranger - Gangalidda & Garawa
CLCAC start date: 17/2/21
What do you enjoy most about your role?
 Taking care of country
Hobby: Fishing, camping and time with family
Favourite food: Fish and rice
Favourite music: Country music
Favourite sport: Football



Name: Rowena Johnson
Position Title: Land & Environment Projects Officer – Normanton
CLCAC start date: 17/5/21
What do you enjoy most about your role?
 Meeting all my lovely new colleagues and learning about the great CLCAC projects.
Hobby: Anything beach related, especially snorkelling
Favourite food: Anything vegan
Favourite music: SO hard to pick a favourite- acoustic, reggae, ska, soul/folk, Latin, blues, world music.... I have quite eclectic taste in music LOL
Favourite sport: I'm not really a sporty person



CLCAC Rangers at 4x4 operations training.

Training and HR Updates



Ranger Donald Bob on the boat for the month-long Coxswain training in Cairns

TRAINING MILESTONES

In addition to other training mentioned previously in this newsletter:

Core Training for safety and compliance to operate vehicles and equipment was delivered in Burketown.

5 x Rangers from the GG Ranger Unit

6 x rangers from the Normanton Ranger Unit participated in:

AHCMOM213 Operate & maintain chainsaws

AHCPCM203 Fell small trees

AHCMOM216 Operate a side by side utility

FWPFGM3215 Perform complex 4x4 operations

Coxswain Training - Certificate 2 Maritime Operations (near Coastal)

Participants included: Donald Bob, Milmarja Yanner and Kelean Logan.

WELCOME TO THE CLCAC TEAM!

CLCAC welcomes the following new staff members:

- Emma Hedditch - PBC Capacity & Economic Development Project Officer
- Rowena Johnson- Land and Environment Projects Officer based at Cairns office
- Hanchard Crampton - Ranger based at Normanton

EXEMPLARY TEMP

Thanks to Bailee White, our Cairns office temp from May-June, for covering reception and providing admin support during a very busy time. He brought his impressive Excel skills to bear running a well attended training/Q&A for staff. It was a shame to see him go but we wish him all the best for everything ahead.



Bailee White - CBC Temp

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 F (07) 4041 3533
E info@clcac.com.au
W www.clcac.com.au

Burketown Office

A 24 Musgrave Street, Burketown QLD 4830
P (07) 4745 5132 F (07) 4745 5204

Normanton Office

A 11 Wurrup Street, Normanton QLD 4890
P (07) 4745 1556 F (07) 4745 1569

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