

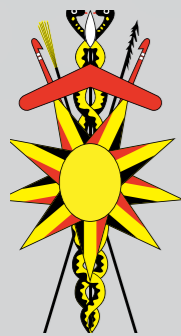


**CLCAC** CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



## **Edition 37 | January - March 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.

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

It's difficult to believe we are already through the first quarter of 2021. It feels like it was just yesterday that we reported on what had been happening in 2020.

In our ongoing series providing information around PBCs, included in this edition are some fact sheets explaining the duties of directors and their officers. There have been some recent amendments to the Native Title Act and we bring you some important updates in this edition on page 8.

We recently observed International Women's Day and with it reflected on some of our remarkable women who have been part of the CLCAC journey on page 14. We honour and acknowledge all women past and present who have contributed in some way to our organisation. It was also very timely for welcoming our first female rangers on board and we are very excited to see them in action, read more on page 15.

Previously, the first months of the year tend to be a little quieter due to wet season however it feels like we didn't have a break at all and the pandemic has not slowed us down either. Staff and Rangers have been very busy and you can read about their activities and movement in the updates.

The highlights for me during this period were the employment of our first female rangers and we hope to see this inclusion as a start of many opportunities for more female rangers to be employed. Of course, this can only occur with additional funding and our great staff are consistently looking at different

grants to enable us to employ more women in the Ranger Program.

Another highlight is the employment of our Land and Environment Manager (page 22). This position will provide much needed support and assistance to the Land and Environment unit at an executive level and is a welcomed addition to our Senior Management Team.

Until our next edition, stay safe!

## What's on?

### Coming soon...

April 27	Anniversary Incorporation of CLCAC
May 8	World Migratory Bird Day
May 9	Mother's Day
May 26	National Sorry Day
June 2-4	AIATSIS NT Conference
June 3	Mabo Day
June 5	World Environment Day
June 8	World Ocean's 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/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>



Wellesley Islands Ranger Coordinator Tommy Wilson reporting to the GRAC Board of Directors



Top: Storytelling and stargazing tours are proving popular with tourists.  
 Column below: Top- new selection of locally flavoured merchandise; middle: Yagurli has developed smaller tours; Bottom: new hats in range.

## PBC Capacity and Economic Development

### PBC CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS

#### GULF REGION ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (GRAC)

CLCAC has successfully secured funding on behalf of GRAC through the National Indigenous Australians Agency's (NIAA) Jobs, Land and Economy Funding Stream for PBC Capacity Building. The two-year project will deliver a 10 Year Strategic Plan and a 5 Year Economic Development Plan as well as an island-based administration office for GRAC, a full-time Administration Officer position, development of a GRAC Website, a training and mentoring program for GRAC Directors, business planning and more.

Brisbane-based consultancy firm, Plan C, has been engaged by CLCAC to work with GRAC to develop their 10 Year Strategic Plan and 5 Year Economic Development Plan. The first planning workshop was held on 31 March 2021, with GRAC Directors meeting online with Plan C to discuss ideas and aspirations for the development of these two important plans that will steer the way forward for GRAC and the community of the Wellesley Islands region.

#### GANGALIDDA AND GARAWA NATIVE TITLE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (GGNTAC)

Following the successful funding application by CLCAC on behalf of GGNTAC through NIAA's Jobs, Land and Economy

Funding Stream for PBC Capacity Building in late 2020, in consultation with GGNTAC Directors, CLCAC has commenced the roll out of several corporate capacity building and economic development activities for GGNTAC, which will continue over the next three years. CLCAC has engaged consultancy firm, Plan C, to assist GGNTAC with the development of their 10 Year Strategic Plan and 5 Year Economic Development Plan.

#### NEW POSITIONS

As part of the Capacity Building Project, through its service body, Gangalidda and Garawa Services Pty Ltd, GGNTAC is currently recruiting for a new and exciting, hands-on General Manager position to lead GGNTAC and its subsidiary businesses toward sustainable self-governance. This person will be responsible for ensuring ongoing strategic and economic development through commercial opportunities across a range of industries and sectors including resources, tourism, land management and service delivery.

To find out more about the role and how to apply, please visit CLCAC website or contact Janine Copland (People and Payroll Officer) on 07 4041 3833 or hr@clcac.com.au. Applications close 30 April.

To stay informed of this position, please follow CLCAC and GGNTAC on Facebook.

### 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. We are excited to report that, in an historical first, in conjunction with Australia's leading balloon company, Balloon's Aloft, Yagurli will be expanding on their tour offerings with a premium product offering a unique experience, viewing panoramic vistas of some of Australia's largest salt pans and savannah country, followed by a full breakfast. Hot air ballooning tours will be on offer to the public during the peak period of July and August 2021.

We wish Yagurli Tours all the best for the upcoming 2021 tourism season!





# Duties of directors and other officers

The Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (CATSI Act) sets out the duties required of directors and other officers. These duties are consistent with the duties under common law and in the Corporations Act 2001.



**Did you know you can see a corporation's rule book on the ORIC website?**

Use 'Search for a corporation' (this searches the public register), put in the corporation's name or ICN and look under 'documents'.

The common law (that's the law developed by judges) imposes special duties on directors and other officers of a corporation, such as a **duty of loyalty** and a **duty of care**. The CATSI Act also imposes duties on directors and other officers. Some of these duties overlap.

Directors and other officers owe these duties to the whole corporation—this means to all its members—and also to stakeholders (such as funding bodies and creditors).

## Directors and other officers

The directors make up the governing body of the corporation. They are usually appointed by the members—the corporation's rule book will say how (always check the rule book).

Once appointed the directors have full authority over the corporation and are ultimately responsible for its management. This is why the **directors' duties** exist. They are legal duties that keep the directors loyal and accountable to the corporation—in other words, answerable to the corporation's members—and also to stakeholders.

The CATSI Act also extends the scope of some directors' duties to the corporation's other officers and employees.

Other officers of a corporation are CEOs/general managers, secretaries (in large corporations), chief financial officers (CFOs), special administrators and liquidators—in short, the other people who are involved in making decisions that affect the business of the corporation.

The CEO/general manager is usually the most senior employee and is appointed by the board of directors to look after—or 'manage'—the practical day-to-day business of the corporation, including its property and financial administration.

The duties apply individually—that is to say, each director, officer or employee to whom they apply is personally responsible (and therefore accountable) for meeting them.



**NOTE:** Not every corporation has a CEO—some prefer the title of 'general manager' or 'executive manager'. In every case however, whoever fills this role follows instructions given to them by the board of directors.

# THE 5 LEGAL DUTIES

## DUTY OF good faith

(CATSI Act: section 265-5)

Directors and other officers must exercise their powers and carry out their duties in good faith in the best interests of the corporation.



This means they must be honest and loyal in their dealings with each other and with the corporation.

For example, directors and other officers who act in good faith never make a decision for their own personal advantage. Their one and only concern is to act in the best interests of the corporation as a whole.

*A breach of this duty may lead to a civil penalty or criminal liability, if the breach is reckless or intentionally dishonest.*

## DUTY OF care and diligence

(CATSI Act: section 265-1)

Directors and other officers must exercise their powers and carry out their duties with reasonable care and diligence.

This means they take their responsibilities seriously.

Directors who act carefully and diligently are interested in what's happening at their corporation and are well prepared to make decisions. For example, they are across their corporation's affairs and:

- follow their corporation's rule book
- never miss a directors' meeting and always arrive on time
- read all the pre-meeting background papers
- know their corporation's financial position
- are not afraid to ask a lot of questions—especially if some of the matters presented to them are complicated or unclear.

For other officers of the corporation, acting with care and diligence, could mean, for example, preparing accurate and timely reports for the directors so that they are well informed and in a confident position to make decisions in the best interests of the corporation.

*Breach of this duty may result in a civil penalty but not criminal liability.*

## DUTY TO NOT improperly use position or information

(CATSI Act: sections 265-10 and 265-15)

Directors, other officers and employees must not misuse their position, or use information obtained as a result of their position, to gain a benefit for themselves, someone else or to cause harm to the corporation.

For example, they must never pass on personal details about members to other people nor give out information that might allow someone competing for a corporation contract an unfair advantage.

*A breach of this duty may lead to a civil penalty or criminal liability, if the breach is reckless or intentionally dishonest.*

## DUTY TO disclose material personal interests

(CATSI Act: section 268-1)

Directors must tell each other their personal interests in matters relating to the affairs of the corporation.

This is so directors can avoid making decisions about the corporation which could personally benefit them or their family. 'Material personal interest' is better known as a 'conflict of interest'.

If not handled correctly, conflicts of interest may prevent directors from acting only in the best interests of the corporation.

**It is very important to remember that at all times the corporation's interests come first.**

To manage a conflict of interest, a director must declare 'the conflict' to the other directors. This disclosure can take the form of a 'standing notice' or a notice to a specific directors' meeting (where the issue causing the conflict of interest may be up for discussion).

Disclosing a conflict of interest does not automatically mean a director can't be part of a directors' meeting. It may just mean that for a certain part of the meeting (while the matter is discussed) that director steps out. This allows the other directors to talk freely and to make their decision in a neutral environment. Alternatively, the director may be invited to stay if they have 'the fully informed consent of the other directors to be present and vote'—see section 268-20(4) in the CATSI Act.

*A breach of this duty may result in a criminal penalty.*

**There is nothing wrong with having a conflict of interest so long as you, as a director, disclose all of the information about the conflict of interest to the other directors and abide by their decision how it is managed.**

## DUTY TO NOT trade while insolvent

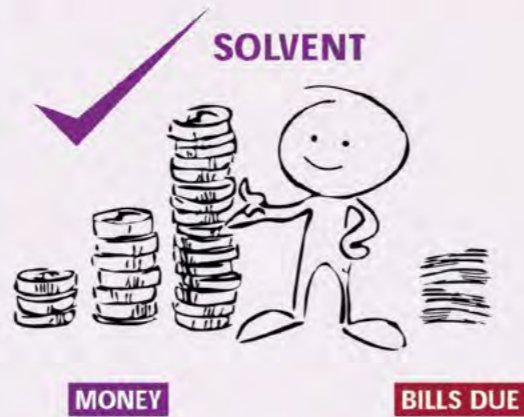
(CATSI Act: section 531-1)

Directors must not allow their corporation to trade when it does not have enough money to pay its bills when they are due.

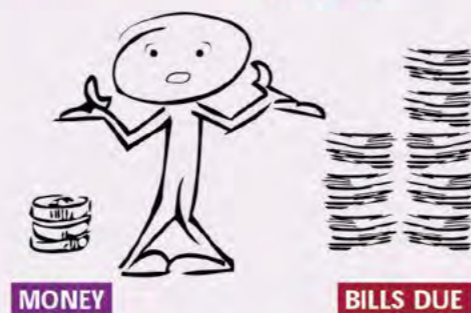
To be 'insolvent' is to be unable to pay your debts when they fall due. If any one of the directors authorises a transaction, or makes a decision, which causes their corporation to become insolvent, they will have breached their duty to not trade while insolvent.

**Directors should always know their corporation's financial position. Only then can they be sure that their corporation is not trading while insolvent.**

*A breach of this duty may result in a civil penalty and, if dishonest, a criminal penalty.*



**X insolvent**  
STOP TRADING IMMEDIATELY and call **ORIC**



## Consequences of breach

When a duty is breached the consequences will depend on the nature of the duty and the seriousness of the breach. For example:

- **Action by the corporation**—the corporation can take its own action to remove or dismiss the person involved in the breach. The corporation can also take its own civil action to restrain the person involved in the breach and recover compensation for any loss.
- **Civil penalty proceedings by the Registrar**—if a person breaches a civil penalty provision—for example, if a director fails to exercise reasonable care and diligence in carrying out their duties—the Registrar may apply to a court for a 'declaration of contravention'. The court's declaration provides conclusive evidence of the breach. If the contravention is serious a court may then order that person to pay a penalty of up to \$200,000 for each contravention to the Commonwealth. A court may also order payment of compensation to the corporation for the damage it has suffered as a result of the contravention and/or disqualify that person from managing a corporation.
- **Disqualification**—in addition to disqualification by a court for a breach of a civil penalty provision, in some circumstances a person is automatically disqualified from managing a corporation, including if they:
  - have been convicted of certain serious criminal offences (including fraud)
  - are bankrupt.

The Registrar maintains a register of disqualified officers at [oric.gov.au](http://oric.gov.au).
- **Criminal prosecution**—a breach of certain duties may attract criminal prosecution and heavy penalties. If a person is found guilty by a court of breaching a duty to the criminal standard and where a criminal penalty applies, the person may be fined and/or sentenced to imprisonment.

## Modifications for native title obligations

Corporations that are formed to hold or manage native title are prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs). After their claim is registered they become known as registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs).

The CATSI Act makes sure that directors, officers and employees of these corporations are not put in a position where their duties under native title legislation conflict with their duties under the CATSI Act. For example, if you (as a director of an RNTBC) act in good faith and believe that what you are doing is necessary to comply with native title legislation you will not be in breach of duties that apply under the CATSI Act or their equivalent in common law.



**CONTACT ORIC**  
freecall 1800 622 431  
(not free from mobiles)  
email [info@oric.gov.au](mailto:info@oric.gov.au)  
website [oric.gov.au](http://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.



## Amendments to the Native Title Act

On 16 February 2021, the *Native Title Legislation Amendment Act 2021* (the Amendment Act) received the Royal Assent. The amendment Act amends the *Native Title Act 1993* and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* to improve native title claims resolution (through changes to the role of the Applicant), agreement-making through ILUAs, Indigenous decision-making and dispute resolution processes. It also confirms the validity of section 31 agreements following the decision in *McGlade v Native Title Registrar & Ors* [2017] FCAFC 10 (*McGlade*).

### ROLE OF THE APPLICANT

The applicant is the person or group of people authorised by a native title claim group to handle a native title claim on their behalf. The applicant can also have a role in representing the native title claim group in making agreements around areas where native title has been claimed.

The Amendment Act amends the Native Title Act to provide greater flexibility to claim groups around developing their own internal decision-making structures. The changes also aim to ensure the applicant is accountable to the broader claim group.

To achieve this, it amends the Native Title Act to:

- allow the applicant to **act by majority and make this**

the **default position** (the claim group can displace this default position by imposing alternative conditions on the applicant)

- allow the claim group to **impose conditions on the authority of the applicant**, and to require those conditions to be recorded on the Register of Native Title Claims (for example, a condition to require the applicant to get approval from the claim group before agreeing to a consent determination or discontinuing a claim)
- clarify the **duties of the applicant** to the claim group, and
- simplify the process for a claim group to **replace individual members of the applicant** in circumstances where a member either passes away, or is no longer able to perform their duties, including through pre agreed succession planning arrangements.

### INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENTS

The Native Title Act sets out processes for native title groups to negotiate agreements with other parties in relation to the use of land and waters. A key agreement-making mechanism under the Native Title Act is an agreement known as an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). ILUAs can allow for 'future acts', such as mining or grazing, to be done on land or waters in exchange for compensation to native title groups.

In relation to ILUAs, the Amendment Act amends the Native Title Act to:

- allow 'body corporate' ILUAs to cover specific areas where native title has been extinguished but where native title has otherwise generally been determined to exist;
- allow minor amendments to be made to an ILUA without requiring a new registration process, and
- clarify that the removal of an ILUA from the Register of ILUAs does not affect the validity of acts agreed to have been done under that ILUA.

### DISREGARDING HISTORICAL EXTINGUISHMENT IN AREAS OF NATIONAL, STATE OR TERRITORY PARKS

In some circumstances, the Native Title Act allows the historical extinguishment of native title to be disregarded so that native title can be recognised. The Amendment Act extends the areas in which historical extinguishment can be disregarded to include areas of **national, state or territory parks where there is agreement with the relevant government party**. This is a significant measure that will expand the areas where native title can be recognised.

### ALLOWING A RNTBC TO BRING A COMPENSATION APPLICATION

The Amendment Act amends the Native Title Act to allow a RNTBC (the corporation established by native title holders following a determination of native title) to bring a compensation

application over areas where native title has been extinguished within the boundary of their determination area.

### NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE TRIBUNAL

The Amendment Act amends the Native Title Act to allow the National Native Title Tribunal to provide assistance to RNTBCs and other native title holders, if requested. This change aims to support the early resolution and management of disputes which may arise after a native title determination.

### REGISTERED NATIVE TITLE BODIES CORPORATE

The effective management of native title rights and interests relies on the sustainable operation of RNTBCs. The Amendment Act amends the CATSI Act to improve the accountability, transparency and governance of RNTBCs, with a particular focus on membership and improved dispute resolution pathways.

### VALIDATION OF 'SECTION 31 AGREEMENTS'

'Section 31 agreements' are a particular kind of native title agreement which can relate to the grant of mining and exploration tenements over land which may be subject to native title. The Amendment Act confirms the validity of section 31 agreements potentially affected by the implications of the *McGlade* Federal Court decision. The changes in the Amendment Act will validate section 31 agreements that were entered into prior to 17 February 2021, if at least one member of each relevant native title party is a party to the agreement.



L - Samantha Bismark; R - Nikita Aitkens Kum-Sing

## CLCAC acknowledges... International Women's Day 2021

Our women have been instrumental throughout the history of CLCAC. We celebrate a proud legacy of extraordinary women who have played significant roles in the momentum and achievement of native title determination for the Southern Gulf area. CLCAC honours the dedication and fortitude of these women, in leadership, in support to their families and in their seat at the table.

To our past and present female directors and staff in our organisation; we acknowledge the part you have played in this journey spanning 37 years, providing the much needed support and assistance for the rights and interests of our traditional owners of the nine language groups we represent.

On International Women's Day, CLCAC gives appreciation and thanks to all of the capable and dedicated women who have helped carve our history, and continue to do so.



International  
Women's Day

## Introducing CLCAC's First-Ever Female Rangers

This quarter we are delighted to welcome our first female Rangers to the CLCAC team. Samantha Bismark and Nikita Aitkens Kum-Sing joined the Burketown Ranger Unit in mid-February.

Proud Ganalidda woman, Samantha, grew up in Burketown and before becoming a Ranger worked for the Burke Shire Council. Nikita grew up in Burketown, Gregory and Cloncurry and was previously employed at the gold mine in Cloncurry. Her tribes are Ganalidda, Mitakoodi and Kalkadoon.

They were both drawn to be Rangers because as Nikita says, "It's a good opportunity to work on the land you love", and it enables them to be part of caring for and understanding Country better.

Asked if they think there is anything different they might bring to the role of Ranger as women, both are conscious of setting an example for a future that will include more female Rangers in the area.

They recognise they are stepping up to not only a bigger hands-on responsibility for Country, but also as role models to the younger generation and especially for younger women and girls in the region. They want girls to see being a Ranger as a possible and positive option - "if she can do it, I can do it".

We look forward to seeing what Samantha and Nikita will bring to bear as they grow into these roles.





Head Ranger Roy Amini and Mon Repos volunteer taking measurements.



Top: Wellesley Islands Rangers (L- Tommy Wilson, R- Clifford Yarrick) counting shorebirds  
Bottom row: L- identifying and measuring turtles; middle: Jess and Tommy at Mon Repos; R- Grey-tailed Tattler, a Near-Threatened species



## Wellesley Islands Rangers Update

### TEAM EXPANSION

The Wellesley Islands Rangers are excited to announce major funding through the Australian Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy program. This funding will provide additional meaningful employment on Mornington Island, allowing the expansion of the Ranger team from four to seven full-time positions. Additionally, the funding provides the opportunity to purchase a large customised vessel capable of moving the whole Ranger unit along with vehicles and equipment throughout all of the Wellesley Islands, providing access and allowing the team to deliver meaningful on-ground land management outcomes across all language groups within the Thuwathu/Bujimulla Indigenous Protected Area. Receiving this funding highlights external confidence in the team's abilities and acknowledges delivery of successful land management programs.

### WELLESLEY ISLANDS MARINE TURTLE PROJECT

Over the past few years, the Wellesley Islands Rangers have been building the marine turtle research program and undertaking surveys from August to December. Rangers recorded essential baseline data along three key beaches on Mornington Island, identifying which species were nesting, numbers of turtles and determining the peak nesting time (found to be October). Using this data, the team recently successfully applied for a Threatened Species grant from the Department of Environment and Science to expand the important work on the Wellesley Islands.

Under this new funding, the team is working closely with expert scientists to design the next stages of the program. Long-term

monitoring allows changes in the turtle population to be picked up early. During peak nesting Rangers record the number of turtles, number of successful nests, sand temperature and the impact of marine debris. This will help determine if the population is stable, and what may be posing a threat to them. Populations in other regions are declining from climate change, pollution, loss of adult turtles and low hatchling rates, so we are very interested to closely monitor our turtle population.

The team is also working to protect our turtles and the habitat they rely on. A concern of the Rangers and some Traditional Owners is the risks that commercial and chartered fishing vessels pose to nesting sites and feeding areas. The team is planning to run workshops with Traditional Owners, scientists, and government agencies to explore options in protecting our sea country, including Bountiful Island, one of the most important sites for Green Turtle nesting in the world.

Ranger Coordinator Thomas (Tommy) Wilson, Head Ranger Roy Amini, and CLCAC's Land and Environment Officer Jessica Koleck attended training at Mon Repos near Bundaberg, one of the world's leading sites for marine turtle research. They learned how to monitor individual adult turtles, including tagging, taking measurements and species/track identification. Training also included relocating nests, counting hatched nests, and measuring hatchlings to tell how successful the nesting season was. This was a very unpleasant job, as the team had to dig up nests and open any unhatched eggs. Not for anyone with a weak stomach!

When a tagged turtle is found, the number should be recorded; this

can tell a lot about the turtle including where it came from, how old it is, and places it has travelled to. Turtles found in the Gulf may have hatched thousands of kilometres away.

The trip also gave the team the opportunity to meet experts face-to-face to discuss our project. Dr Col Limpus gave a presentation every night on turtle biology and what they've learned from the decades of research at Mon Repos. The scientists were keen to hear our concerns, what we want to learn, and how we want to manage turtles in our area. As Indigenous Rangers, it was great to be able to put Cultural and Western Science knowledge together, allowing us to learn a lot about the marine turtles in the Gulf.

### MORNINGTON ISLAND MIGRATORY SHOREBIRD PROJECT

The Wellesley Islands Rangers conducted two summer surveys for migratory shorebirds (26-29 January and 9-11 February). Wet season can be a difficult time to collect data as areas are inaccessible, conditions are often not suitable, cyclonic events change shorebird distribution and daily weather patterns are unpredictable. However, it's a high priority to collect data during this time when there is no migration and the birds are at their summer feeding grounds. High rainfall and poor weather conditions hampered the team's on-ground work, but the Rangers were able to survey four sites in January and six sites in February.

The January 2021 survey coincided with some of the year's largest tides and yielded the highest counts from the project so far, with 4,015 recorded. Over 2,000 other waterbirds were recorded. The

team surveyed a new site at the northern end of Mornington, with over 2,000 shorebirds and approximately 2,000 other waterbirds (likely Little Terns) recorded in one day.

The Rangers were joined by ornithologist Golo Maurer from BirdLife Australia during the February survey, who helped bolster the teams' identification and survey skills, building a relationship between the two organisations. A total of 1,909 migratory shorebirds, and 1,132 other waterbirds were counted during this survey.

Between the two surveys, 17 migratory shorebird species were recorded, including all seven species listed as *Threatened* under the EPBC Act known to occur on the island (*Critically Endangered*: Curlew Sandpiper, Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot; *Endangered*: Greater Sand Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Red Knot; *Vulnerable*: Bar-tailed Godwit). Interestingly, a lone Sanderling was recorded, a species not observed during this monitoring program previously.

The Critically Endangered Great Knot was the most abundant shorebird found, with over 1,000 confirmed. Significant numbers of Ruddy Turnstone and Far Eastern Curlew were also recorded. This builds evidence that Mornington Island may meet the criteria as a Flyway site. The team is already looking forward to their next survey in April, when the shorebirds will be migrating north to their over-wintering breeding grounds.



Rangers Michael Watson, Maali Yanner and Milmaja Yanner undertaking a mangrove (S-VAM) survey on the Albert River



Top: Ranger Jimmy Kum-Sing throwing a cast net at the Burketown Wharf  
 Middle row: L- Ranger Maali Yanner mixing concrete for stabilising the strainer posts;  
 R- Ranger, Michael Watson spraying for weeds.  
 Bottom row: L- Ranger Samantha Bismark trimming as part of the yard cleanup;  
 R- Ranger Maali Yanner using a chainsaw to fell a tree during yard maintenance activities.

## Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers Update

### MANGROVE AND SALT MARSH SURVEYS

To kick start the year, the Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers completed baseline mangrove and saltmarsh surveys on the Albert River as part of the *Wetlands not Wastelands* project supported by the Coca-Cola Australia Foundation. These surveys involved collecting data, photos and videos of the mangroves and shorelines along 65 kilometers of the Albert River and rapidly assessing the values and threats of ten salt marsh sites. The Rangers also collected discarded materials on the Albert River along designated transects from a range of habitats and locations including salt marsh, mangroves and beach areas enabling them to get a cross-section of baseline data for the project. Capturing this visual and written data will help us to identify any future significant changes with the mangroves and salt marsh communities in the Gulf. This data will be incredibly important following implementation of the *Wetlands not Wastelands* project, which in a collaboration with Earthwatch Australia and Plastic Collective, will see our Rangers collect plastic from the environment and process this into marketable products.

### WEED MANAGEMENT

A number of Rangers conducted weed work near the Burketown Hospital and Burketown State School, targeting coral cactus and bellyache bush. A total of 27 coral cactus and 14 bellyache bush plants were removed. The numbers for these invasive species are low in these areas so by targeting those now the Rangers lower the chances of them becoming a major problem like Rubber Vine and Calotrope which are now widely spread in coastal and river systems across the region.

### CAST NET SURVEYS

During late January and early February the Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers conducted cast net surveys at 4 sites (Burketown Wharf, China Wall, Beacon Pile Gully and Gregory Crossing). These cast net surveys help our Rangers to identify which species of fish we have in the region and to see if there are any invasive species entering our river systems. Fortunately, none were found during these surveys.

### FENCE MAINTENANCE

The Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers undertook fence maintenance along the fence running from China Wall to Beaton Gully. These fences were installed to protect the saltmarsh areas from invasive vertebrates and to reduce vehicle damage. Some of the strainer posts near the creeks had started to sag due to soft ground and therefore compromised the fence line. The Rangers fixed these posts by installing stays and levelling and concreting the posts. This ensures the fences continue to provide the environmental benefits for the long-term conservation of our saltmarsh ecosystems.

### YARD CLEAN UP

The Rangers did a general yard cleanup on one of the CLCAC yards in Burketown. The Rangers mowed and whipper snipped the grass and felled a number of problem trees.





Rangers Hayden Tyrrell (L) and Paul Logan (R) have stepped up into the Acting Ranger Coordinator and Acting Head Ranger roles.



Acting Ranger Coordinator, Hayden Tyrrell driving the bobcat during ski steer training

## Normanton Rangers Update

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ACTING NORMANTON RANGER COORDINATOR HAYDEN TYRRELL AND ACTING HEAD RANGER PAUL LOGAN

After saying farewell to Phillip George and Lance Rapson in December 2020 after 12 years of service, Rangers Hayden Tyrrell and Paul Logan stepped up through the ranks into the Acting Ranger Coordinator and Acting Head Ranger roles. Both have now completed 3 months leading the team and have had a good start to the year with activities mainly focused on training during the wet season months. We've welcomed four new recruits on to the team since the start of the year and each new Ranger brings their unique background and skills to make a strong unit under the mentorship of the seasoned Rangers. As the country dries out, the Normanton Rangers have a busy schedule ahead with a wide range of work planned, from early season burning to wetlands protection and water quality monitoring.

### TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the training outlined in the HR and Training update, the Normanton Rangers also undertook skid steer/bobcat training where they learnt the safe and effective operation of this type of machinery. Building these skills will help the ranger team to become more self-sufficient and ensures the rangers have the skills and qualifications necessary to drive the Argo-a small amphibious six-wheel utility vehicle. The Argo will be useful for accessing remote locations, especially in the wet season, helping the Rangers deliver work on country for extended periods each year.

### WEED MANAGEMENT

The Normanton Rangers spent a week spraying weeds and grasses at Delta Downs, Maggieville and Karumba Holdings. This weed management was undertaken along cattle yards to improve access and ensure safety of workers in preparation for mustering. The Rangers also visited Old Camp to pull Bellyache Bush as this is a Weed of National Significance, clearing a total of 104 plants. Keeping on top of these small infestations when they are observed is important in keeping our country free of these weeds. The Normanton Rangers visit the same area for seven years following an outbreak to ensure the infestation is eradicated, as seed bed will survive for seven years.

### POLLUTION COLLECTION

As part of the *Wetlands not Wastelands* project the Normanton Rangers worked along the Norman and Flinders Rivers and Walkers Creek to clean up discarded material at several fishing camps, the majority of which was tins, plastics bags, straws, bait bags and fishing equipment. These fishing camps provide a regular source of contamination to the rivers, and removing this material from these places helps to improve the overall health of the river systems. In the future, recyclable plastics from these areas will be processed in recycling stations. In April and May the Rangers will be undertaking the second round of mangrove and saltmarsh surveys along the Norman and Leichhardt Rivers.

### EQUIPMENT MAINTANENCE

The Normanton Rangers acknowledge the importance of maintaining equipment for smooth operation of on-ground activities. The Rangers spend time during the wet season cleaning, servicing, auditing and repairing all work and safety equipment, ready for use in the dry season. The main equipment the Rangers serviced this wet season was fire equipment, boat engines, weed spray units, tools and trailers.



Normanton Rangers cleaning the bobcat during training



Rangers measuring chemicals for weed management.



Jory Stariwat brings a wealth of experience and passion to his new role as Land & Environment Manager.



Many important operational and training issues are covered at the Land and Environment meetings.

## CLCAC welcomes new Land and Environment Manager

CLCAC is pleased to heartily welcome Jory Stariwat to his new role as Land and Environment Manager.

Coming from a background focused on traditional and contemporary forms of natural resource management including hunting and fishing rights in Alaska, Jory commenced work with CLCAC in May 2018, as the Land and Environment Project Officer for the Normanton Rangers.

Excelling in all aspects of his role, Jory was the main driver for the development of the CLCAC Land and Environment Database. This was a project CLCAC had been investigating for a couple of years prior and included the development of a multi-tiered training program to roll out throughout the regional offices.

Jory now takes a seat on the Senior Management team where he brings his knowledge and experience to a more strategic role for CLCAC.



Jory leading the recent GIS training.

## Land and Environment Meeting

The Land and Environment team convened in Burketown March 16-18 for the first of their 2021 biannual Land and Environment meetings. These meetings are essential for regional planning and create the space to discuss current project delivery, workplace health and safety and future project opportunities.

The first under the new Land and Environment Manager, Jory Stariwat, the three day event provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the role of the new position with the team.

The team also locked a large amount of training into the Ranger team calendars and discussed several projects currently being rolled out regionally.

The meeting was followed by an on-country trip, with the Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers showcasing the beautiful Albert River where they are currently delivering pollution collections and mangrove and salt marsh monitoring as part of the *Wetlands not Wastelands* project.



The meetings provide a vital opportunity for sharing information and planning.



Regional Ranger Coordinator, Mark Hogno



Ranger Zac Sowden delivering a presentation on his exchange experience with the Pormpuraaw Ranger team.



In March, GIS training was conducted over three days in Cairns.

## Sharing Knowledge

### RANGER EXCHANGE – PORMPURA AW RANGERS

In early March, Gangalidda and Garawa Ranger, Zachariah Sowden, traveled to Pormpuraaw for 3 days of crocodile training with the Pormpuraaw Rangers.

Zac learnt about nesting habits, the dates crocodiles lay eggs and the safety procedures required when collecting eggs. The Pormpuraaw Rangers also took Zac on field trips on the local river system to see actual wild croc nests, and to the local crocodile farm where he saw incubation chambers for hatching eggs and captive crocodiles.

At the farm Zac also learnt about the quality and grades of skins on the commercial market and how hatchlings are released into the wild to help lift the crocodile numbers in the region. The Pormpuraaw Rangers also took Zac fishing after work.

CLCAC would like to thank the Pormpuraaw Rangers for hosting Zac and showing him the important work they do with saltwater crocodiles.

Zac delivered a presentation at the Land and Environment meeting to further share his experience and essential new learning with the whole team.



Pompuraaw Rangers showing Zac wild crocodile nests.

## Training and Staff Update

### TRAINING MILESTONES:

A vital and ongoing process for all of CLCAC staff, recent training and professional development included:

#### COMPUTER TRAINING February-March

All Rangers received computer training through INLOC to continue gaining IT experience for their office-based work, using a suite of software programs for everyday operations from communications to reporting.

Following the boom in online teleconferencing during and after the COVID-19 lockdown, the Rangers have fully embraced MS Teams to video conference with the other Ranger teams in the Gulf, corporate and project staff in the Cairns office, and collaborative partners spread across Australia. The teams are continuing to adopt new technologies and build up the skills to stay afoot with the modern workplace.

#### GIS TRAINING March

All Rangers travelled to Cairns for training in highly specialised geospatial computing and map-making with a GIS (Geographic Information Systems).

The three-day course was delivered internally and focused on using the CLCAC Land & Environment Database to produce maps and visualise the work of the Rangers across the region.

#### FILEMAKER DATABASE TRAINING March

FileMaker is the database with a graphical user interface and security features CLCAC will be using for its primary data management. Online training delivery was undertaken by Martin Bryars, Connie Mills, Janine Copland, Tui Ale, Apryl Ford and Bronwyn Morgan.

ACDC CHEMICAL TRAINING 22-26 March  
All Rangers received training in Normanton.

BIOSECURITY FUNDAMENTALS 23-25 March  
Training for better data collection and increased knowledge on biosecurity activities was attended by Hayden Tyrell and Desmond Armstrong.



Rangers at GIS training (L-R) Roy Amini, Justin Chong & Clifford Yarrack.



Rangers attending ACDC chemical training in Normanton.

## Training and HR Updates



Rangers at chemical training (L-R) Linton George and Juwan Fraser.



Rangers (L-R) Lachlan Anderson and Jimmy Kum-Sing working on a spray rig.



Normanton and Burketown Rangers at chemical training.

### WELCOME TO THE CLCAC TEAM!

CLCAC welcomes the following new staff members:

- Lisa Christensen - Media and Corporate Compliance Officer, based in the Cairns office
- Linton George - Ranger based at Normanton
- Samantha Bismark - Ranger based at Burketown
- Lachlan Anderson - Ranger based at Burketown
- Nikita Aitkens Kum-Sing - Ranger based at Burketown
- Makiya Logan - Ranger based at Normanton
- Raymond Dalton - Ranger based at Normanton

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

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

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

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



**CLCAC** CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

*United we stand.*

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

#### Personal Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (residential) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (postal) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive notices via (please tick selection)

Post

Email

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_



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