



CLCAC
CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Edition 32, January - June 2019



Celebrating 35 years, 1984 - 2019





CLCAC CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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 department/agencies for their continued support:



Australian Government
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources**



**Queensland
Government**
Department of Environment
and Science



CARPENTARIA SHIRE
Outback by the Sea®



CEO Forward

Dear Members, Claimants, Stakeholders and Readers,

The first half of 2019 has been another busy and very successful year for our Corporation. We try and capture as many of the highlights throughout this period and note that electronic copies are available on our web page (www.clcac.com.au). With the continued support of our Board of Directors, Senior Management team and all other CLCAC employees we have been able to continue our successful journey towards achieving our strategic objectives and more.

Inside this edition of our Newsletter you will find Native Title updates as well as many interesting stories about the remarkable work our Rangers do by managing and protecting country. I would like to make a special mention of the Certificates awarded to our Land and Environment Staff at the Department of Environment and Science (DES) Ranger Workshop held at Cairns in March of this year. The awards recognized years of service to the following staff members - Regional Ranger Coordinator Mr Mark Hogno, Ranger Coordinator Phillip George and Head Ranger Lance Rapson. There were also awards presented to Ranger Coordinator Brenton Yanner and Ranger Donald Bob for 5 years of service. We congratulate and thank them for their amazing efforts and achievements.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of our newsletter, alternatively join up on our FB Page to get current updates <https://www.facebook.com/CLCAC/>

Rachel Amini-Yanner - CEO



Contents

Marine Turtle Conservation.....	4
Coast Surveillance	5
Marine Pest Surveillance	6
Savannah Guide School	7
Queensland Indigenous Ranger Forum	8
Land and Environment Meeting	9
Flinders Shorebird Survey	10
Annual Fencing Maintenance Work	11
Biodiversity Survey - Lotus Lagoon	12
35 Year Anniversary	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 & 20
ORIC Duties of Directors and other officers	
<i>(centre pull out pages)</i>	
Biodiversity Survey - Hells Gate	21
Gavin Fryer	22
PNG Treaty Village Rangers	23
Training and Development	24 - 25
Weed Management on Mornington Island	26
The PBCorporate Support Forum	27
Pendine and Konka	28
Tourism Update	29
Native Title and PBC Updates	30
Staff Updates	31

Front cover, top image: Phillip George counting shorebirds near the Flinders River estuary to better understand the abundance and diversity of species in the area. Check out the full story on page 10.



Marine Turtle Conservation

Rangers from the Normanton and Burketown teams travelled to Bundaberg as research volunteers for the Mon Repos Turtle Conservation Camp, where they participated in one of the longest running marine turtle research programs around the world.

The Rangers received training in turtle biology and biometric data collection, species and track identification, hatchling emergence success surveys, and the relocation of doomed turtle nests to safer ground.

A key focus was also on best practices for identification and monitoring of management problems specific to the Southern Gulf (such as predation of turtle eggs by feral pigs) and evidence-based methods to assess when management actions are required to care for country and ensure turtle populations are sustained and protected.

The Rangers are returning to the Gulf with fresh enthusiasm to

continue building on their current turtle protection measures and are grateful to Dr. Col Limpus and the Mon Repos Turtle Conservation Camp for sharing their extensive knowledge and passion for turtle conservation.

Above image: Loggerhead hatchling.



Coast Surveillance

Nearly one ton of marine debris is removed from a stretch of Delta Downs coastline.

The Normanton Rangers enjoyed sunshine and calm weather while removing nearly 1 ton of marine debris from a stretch of Delta Downs coastline.

Rubbish included ghost nets and foreign commercial vessel waste, ropes and buoys, and scattered plastic waste, particularly single-use bottles.

The team regularly monitors the beaches for marine debris and pests through targeted surveillance and will continue the work to keep the coastline pristine and healthy.

Normanton Ranger Coordinator, Phillip George, was invited on to the QLD Country Hour radio show to discuss the team's

work in coastal surveillance and share the importance of recent activities on the Delta Downs coastline.

Above image: Paul Logan lets the Toyota do the heavy lifting while removing a buried ghost net.



Marine Pest Surveillance

The Rangers develop a partnership with Queensland Government's Biosecurity Agency.

The newly developed partnership will enhance marine pest monitoring and strengthen the early detection system in the Southern Gulf of Carpentaria, particularly around the Port of Karumba where international vessel traffic creates a greater risk for the introduction of invasive aquatic species.

The Rangers currently conduct low-tide coastal surveys in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government under the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) and will build on current monitoring activities through a "Marine Pest Settlement Array Project" with the Queensland Government's Biosecurity agency.

QLD staff completed training with the Rangers and will return in 3 months for the first retrieval of the Settlement Array to examine the samples for exotic pests and to identify native species.

Above image L-R: Jory Stariwat, Alex Fraser, Ronald Bob, Maali Yanner, Desmond Armstrong, Hayden Tyrrell and Michael Graham.



Savannah Guide School

Members of the Gangalidda & Garawa Ranger Team & Yagurli Tourism Staff travelled to Capricorn Caves to attend the biannual Savannah Guides Field School.

The professional development workshop aimed at providing a variety of insights into quality tourism operation for Tour Guides, Tourism Industry Members, Community Representatives and Traditional Owners. With a number of Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers already transferring their Ranger skills to the Yagurli Tours brand in Burketown, this workshop was a wonderful opportunity for young Rangers who have shown an interest in regional tourism to develop the skills necessary to one day run their own tour.

Our Rangers were treated to a variety of unique tourism products as well as educational workshops such as Building Guest Interaction, Storytelling and the role of Social Media. Once each Ranger has attended three Savannah Guides Field Schools that individual will be eligible to become an accredited Savannah Guide!

We look forward to seeing these newly acquired skills in action very soon!

Above image L-R: Maali Yanner, Milmarja Yanner, Michael Watson, Lurrick Sowden, Jordan Armstrong, Ashleigh Yanner and Donald Bob.



QLD Indigenous Rangers Forum

Our Rangers receive a certificate of recognition of service.

The Ganalidda & Garawa, Gkuthaarn, Kukatj & Kurtijar and Wellesley Island Rangers together with CLCAC Land & Environment Operational Staff attended the annual Ranger Workshop held at Paradise Palms, Cairns.

Indigenous Ranger Groups funded by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science and the Federal Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet gathered to share their success in land management & conservation and network with a number of government stakeholders, delegates and other Ranger groups.

During the opening night, four CLCAC staff were awarded Certificates in recognition of Service for 10 years and 5 years.

Congratulations to Normanton Ranger Coordinator, Phillip George, Normanton Head Ranger, Lance Rapson and Regional Ranger Coordinator Mark Hogno on achieving 10 years of service and Ranger Coordinator Brenton Yanner, and Ranger Donald Bob for 5 years of service.

We thank Dawal Wuru Aboriginal Corporation and Queensland's Department of Environment & Science for hosting the event.

Above image L-R: Thomas Wilson, Mark Hogno, Brenton Yanner, Donald Bob, Phillip George, Lance Rapson and Murrandoo Yanner.



Land and Environment Meeting

The Land & Environment team met again to discuss a variety of projects and activities associated with the CLCAC Indigenous Ranger Program.

Each Ranger group (Gangalidda & Garawa, Normanton and WILSSED) was represented by their Ranger Coordinator and Project Support Officer, along with Mark Hogno (Regional Ranger Coordinator), Bronwyn Morgan (HR & OHS Compliance Officer) and Kevin Anderson (Fire Project Officer). The week consisted of analysing conservation and land management activities from a regional perspective, assessing the priorities of each Ranger group and building efficient project management strategies for the near future.

Discussion topics included Internal Ranger Work Plans, prospective regional initiatives including youth engagement and weed management, Ranger training and development planning and future funding options for the region. These meetings

continue to provide a great platform to share on the successes as well as plan for future management actions for all 3 Ranger groups.

Above image L-R: Phillip George, Kevin Anderson, Rachel Amini-Yanner, Bronwyn Morgan, Tommy Wilson, Brenton Yanner, Trish Steineck, Jeremy Drimer, Emily Chalmers, Alex Fraser, Jory Stariwat and Mark Hogno.



Flinders Shorebird Surveys

The Normanton Rangers have partnered with Griffith University on a 2-year project, funded by the National Environmental Science Program (NESP)

The project aims to identify and assess potential impacts to shorebirds from any future changes to the Mitchell, Gilbert, and Flinders River catchments, and examines links between food for migratory shorebirds and the ecological productivity of rivers in the SE Gulf of Carpentaria.

The Rangers are focusing their survey efforts on the Flinders River and have documented all seven nationally-threatened shorebirds during January and April 2019 surveys. In total, the Rangers have recorded 19 species of migratory shorebirds and can demonstrate that the site is an internationally-important shorebird area. The birds feed in the Gulf from September to May then travel north to their breeding grounds as far away as Siberia and Alaska during the Northern Hemisphere summer."

Above image: Leading ornithologist Roger Jaensch and Phillip George recording count results at roosts where the shorebirds consolidate during high tides.

Below image: Black-tailed godwits.





Annual Fencing Maintenance Works

Wetlands Protection

After identifying and fencing priority wetlands on Delta Downs Station early in the Ranger Program, the Normanton Team has continued to carry out annual fencing maintenance works to protect the ecological values of the wetlands from the impacts of feral pigs and cattle.

The fences can be damaged during flooding and mustering and require regular upkeep to ensure the sensitive habitat remains undisturbed.

Recent research in the Archer River catchment of Cape York demonstrated that exclusion fences do indeed successfully protect wetlands from pig damage, but the researchers observed that compromised fences can be worse than having no fence at

all if the pigs become trapped in the wetland and remain longer.

The Normanton Rangers' annual maintenance works ensure that the pigs stay out and the wetlands are protected year after year.

Above image: Lance Rapson, Head Ranger.



Biodiversity Survey - Lotus Lagoon

Goals set for Lotus (Horseshoe) Lagoon

The Rangers and Kurtjar Elders set a goal in 2012 to return Lotus (Horseshoe) Lagoon to its healthy condition before pigs and weeds overran the delicate wetland, and the results are showing, with over 100 different species of animals recorded in the area benefitting from the protected habitat.

The Rangers documented the species during a biodiversity survey this May in order to assess the changes related to management actions at Lotus Lagoon, seven years after the team constructed a fence around the wetland to exclude cattle and feral pigs. Rubbervine and grader grass still pose a significant threat to the ecosystem and are being actively managed by the team through fire and chemical control.

Above image: Pitfall traps, funnel traps, drift fences, and camera traps were set at the permanent monitoring plots within the wetland.

Below image: Lotus (Horseshoe) Lagoon.





Standing Strong and Leading the Way!

Celebrating 35 years of being Incorporated and 25 years recognition as a NTRB

CLCAC was first established in 1982 as a community based organisation to represent, protect and secure the rights and interests of Aboriginal people in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Following the holding of a large meeting in Doomadgee, CLCAC was incorporated under the Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act on 27 April 1984.

CLCAC would like to acknowledge the first Board of Directors: Charlie Dick, Major Walden, Norris King, Tommy George, Willie Doomadgee and Phillip Yanner. CLCAC would also like to acknowledge all subsequent Board of Directors and their contributions.

Today, CLCAC is the largest and most eminent corporate entity representing the interests of constituent traditional owner groups in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria.

For further information on CLCAC and all of our achievements check out www.clcac.com.au

Above image L-R: Trish Steineck, Deputy CEO, Hon Nigel Scullion, former Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Rachel Amini-Yanner, CEO.



Wellesley Islands Determination in 2008



The Lardil dancers performing for the WI sea claim court



Gangalidda & Garawa Determination 2010



Lunch at Moonlight Creek 1999



April, Junie and Wadjularbinna 1999



Billy Westmoreland, OldDoomadgee, July 1998



Collecting turtle eggs during the WI sea claim hearing



Murrandoo Yanner Jnr at a CLCAC Board Meeting 1999



Agenda

- Formal welcome
- Launch the CLCAC Economic Development Report
- Key speakers from a range of sectors
- Open Discussion



Economic Development Forum 2013



Gangalidda & Garawa Determination 2015



CLCAC host the National Indigenous Ranger Fourum 2018



Gangalidda & Garawa Authorisation meeting at Robinson River



Camp Oven

Gkuthaarn and Kukatj meeting

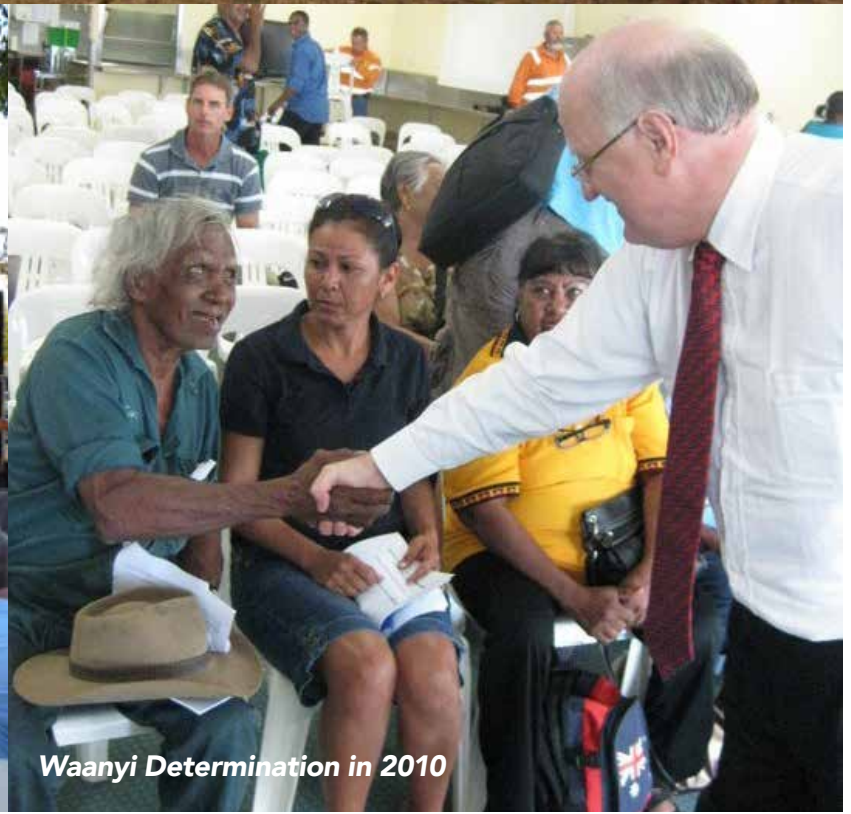




CLCAC Water Forum at Sweers Island 2011



CLCAC 30 year celebration in Burketown 2014



Waanyi Determination in 2010



CLCAC Staff 2018



Thuwathu/Bujimulla IPA Declaration 2013



Nijinda Durlga IPA Declaration 2014



Kurtijar Meeting



Biodiversity Survey - Hells Gate

Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers recently conducted their annual Biodiversity Survey as part of their ongoing monitoring of Traditional Country.

Utilising various monitoring and trapping methods and counting the number and types of animal species present, the surveys aim to assess the impact of the fire management and pest animal and plant management activities conducted in the region. If country is healthy there should be many types of animals however if country is not healthy, animals will move away to other areas. Additionally, when country is healthy it is common to identify new species during surveys as they have moved to a healthier home. This survey identified 122 animal species including birds, reptiles, mammals and marsupials which indicates very healthy, well managed country when drawing comparisons to previous surveys.

Above Image: Zachariah Sowden.

Below Image: Checking a funnel trap.





Gavin Fryer

Farewell and thank you!

Gavin Fryer, Area Director for the Charters Towers and Cloncurry areas of the Queensland Rural Fire Service (QRFS) has conducted Fire Management Group Meetings for the last time in the Gulf Region. Gavin has reached the mandatory age for retirement in the QRFS and will hang his boots up for the last time at the end of April this year.

CLCAC wish to express a huge thanks Gavin for his firm commitment and support over the last 9 years. Gavin's committed approach has assisted in the development of CLCAC's Regional Fire Program, which is recognised as one of the most effective fire programs in the country.

Gavin has supported, not just CLCAC in the region, but also, the community brigades, providing them with quality equipment, training and direction.

Thanks once again Gavin. We wish you and Deanna every success for the future.

Above image: The Wellesley Island Rangers provide Gavin Fryer with a thank you gift. L-R: Clifford Yarrak, Justin Chong, Kevin Anderson, Gavin Fryer, Shaquille Roy Amini and Thomas Wilson.



PNG Treaty Village Rangers

Special Visit!

We are so lucky! We recently had a visit from Senea of the Mabudian Nomandoo Podo Rangers from PNG.

Our treasured working relationship started last year at the Indigenous Ranger Forum hosted by CLCAC in Burketown. The Mabudian Nomandoo Podo Rangers together with INLOC provided a presentation and gave us an insight and understanding of the PNG Treaty Village Rangers commitment to their people and country, which was definitely a highlight at the Forum.

We thank the PNG Treaty Village Rangers for our treasured gift and ongoing relationship.

Above image: Deputy CEO, Trish Steineck receives a gift on behalf of CLCAC from Senea of the Mabudian Nomandoo Podo Rangers.



Training and Development

CLCAC Rangers have had a productive wet season with a strong focus on training and development.

Completion of Certificate III in Conservation & Land Management

It is with great pleasure that CLCAC congratulates Brenton Yanner (Gangalidda & Garawa Ranger Coordinator), Desmond Armstrong (Gangalidda & Garawa Senior Head Ranger), Donald Bob (Gangalidda & Garawa Ranger) Lurick Sowden (Gangalidda & Garawa Ranger), Phillip George (Normanton Ranger Coordinator), Lawrence George (Kukatj Ranger), Richie Bee (Kurtijar Ranger) and Fred Pascoe (Kurtijar Ranger) on recently completing their Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management. Brenton, Desmond, Donald and Lurick will look to utilise the knowledge they have gained to further their contribution to care for country through the CLCAC Ranger Program and to build their professional skills for the future.

Core Training at Delta Downs

Newly employed and inexperienced CLCAC Rangers are required to complete core training to develop essential skills and

qualifications relating to their occupation. Between 1 April and 10 April, appropriate Rangers from the Gangalidda & Garawa and Normanton bases completed the following competencies: Provide First Aid in Remote Situations, Operate Side by Side Utility Vehicles, Operate Four Wheel Drive Vehicle, Apply Chemicals Under Supervision and Operate and Maintain Chainsaws. By all Rangers completing these competencies there is an increased efficiency of meeting on-ground project objectives and less of a reliance on individual Rangers who have the required qualifications to complete core Ranger tasks. There are also a number of benefits of facilitating training for multiple Ranger groups including the opportunity to network and forge a regional approach to Ranger activities in the Southern Gulf of Carpentaria.

Leadership and Management Training

To build the professional skills of Indigenous Rangers in the CLCAC's Ranger Program, Leadership and Management



training is offered to those who show the aptitude and capacity to move into leadership positions. Desmond Armstrong (Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers), Hayden Tyrrell (Normanton Rangers) and Thomas Wilson (WILSSED Rangers) completed the first of two Leadership and Management training blocks in late February at INLOC's Cairns office. This Cert IV training builds a variety of skills relevant to leading a Ranger team including organisational, human resource management and decision-making skills. Desmond, Hayden and Thomas will take these skills into the office and the field and help lead their Ranger group to even greater environmental, economic and cultural outcomes in the region. The second block of training is scheduled for early June.

Short Range Marine Radio Course

In March 2019 Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers and Normanton Rangers completed a Short Range Marine Radio Course as part of their Individual Training and Development Plans. The Short Range Marine Radio Certificate allows Rangers to adhere to AMSA requirements on operating a marine vessel as well as maintaining a high standard of safe practice during sea country management. The ability to communicate clear information in a timely manner not only assists Rangers with sea country activities on marine vessels but with all forms of on-ground communication.

Seagrass-Watch Training

Rangers from Burketown, Normanton, and Mornington Island travelled to James Cook University in Cairns to undertake seagrass monitoring and assessment training in June this year. Des Armstrong and Maali Yanner (Gangalidda-Garawa Rangers), Lawrence George and Paul Logan (Normanton Rangers), and Thomas Wilson and Justin Chong (WILSSED Rangers) successfully completed Level 1 Training and are bringing their skills back to undertake seagrass assessments at sites in the Gulf. The seagrass beds are important feeding grounds for dugong and marine turtles, but are particularly vulnerable to changes in water quality. Monitoring by the Ranger Teams will play a crucial role in understanding and protecting these sensitive habitats.

Left photo L-R: Thomas Wilson, Hayden Tyrrell and Des Armstrong attending the Leadership and Management Training.

Right photo credit to Seagrass Watch. L-R: Maail Yanner, Justin Chong, Des Armstrong, Lawrence George and Thomas Wilson with Len McKenzie of Seagrass Watch and other training participants.



Weed Management on Mornington Island

“Weed Management is a key component of the Wellesley Islands Rangers activities

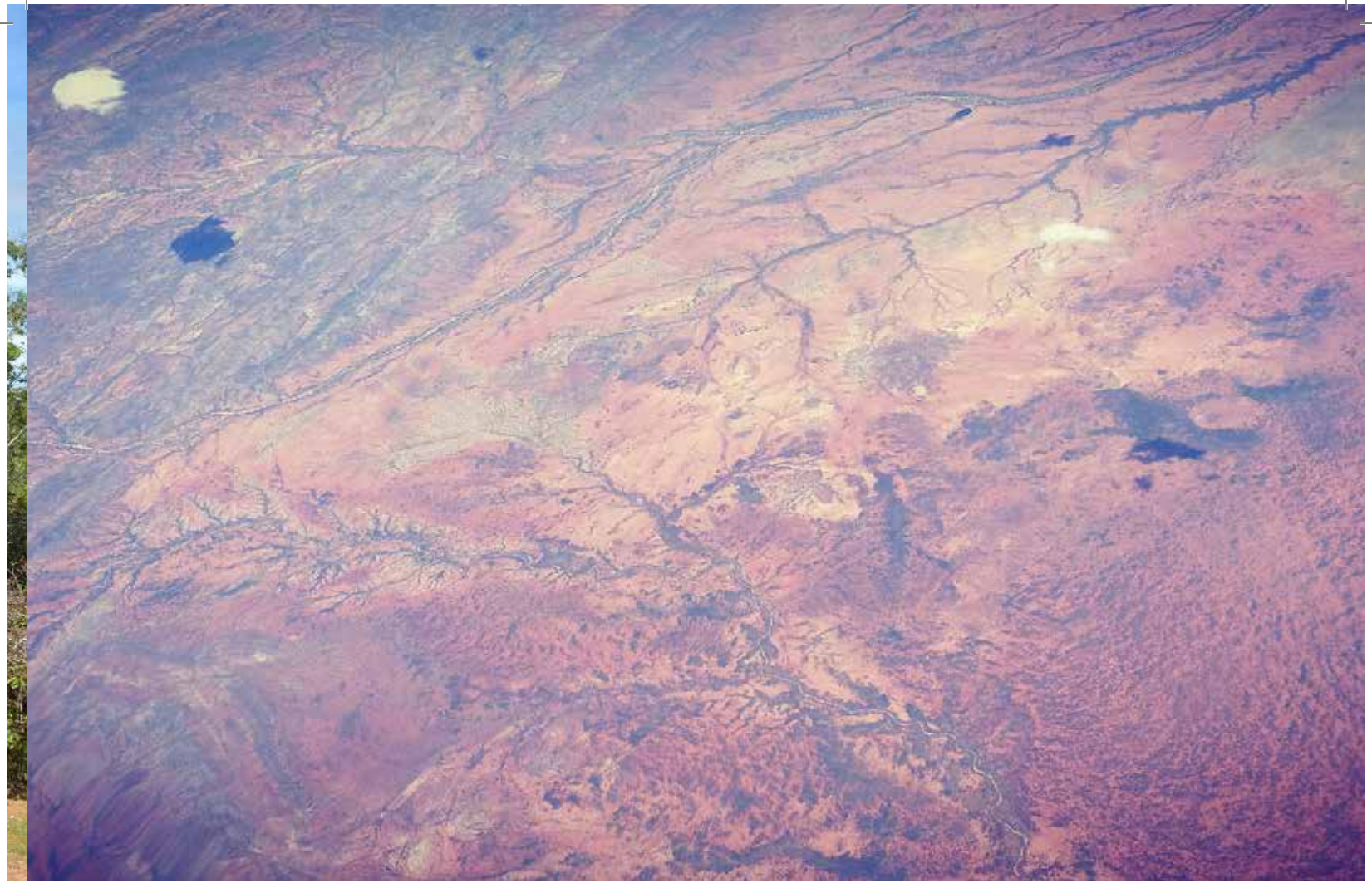
The Rangers have been conducting weed work on Bellyache Bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*) at Lamatha.

Dense Bellyache infestations will outcompete and displace native vegetation. As the name suggests Bellyache Bush is also toxic to animals and humans.

The Rangers are implementing their weed management strategy to destroy and manage the weed and its spread using chemical methods. The Rangers have made a significant impact to the Bellyache bush, spraying over a large area and will continue to do so throughout the growing periods.

As is the case with most weeds it is important to follow up and remain vigilant to decrease the spread and impacts of weeds.”

Above image: Justin Chong conducting weed work on Bellyache Bush.



The Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) Support Forum

The PBC Support Forum is held twice a year to discuss the issues PBC entities face in their day-to-day operations.

Our PBC Support Services Project Officer, Rachael Arnold attended the first forum for 2019 in Alice Springs, convened by the National Native Title Council (NNTC) and Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC). The forum was well attended by veteran Native Title lawyers and administrators and saw high levels of engagement surrounding the topics of the CATSI Act, ORIC, and Fee for Service Working Groups.

The CATSI Act was noted as needing a thorough review as it is now 10 years old. Participants of the forum spoke of how the Act was now outdated and needed reforms to ensure adherence to other legislative pieces.

The PBC Fee for Service Working Group updated guests with their development of guidelines for what activities a PBC could

charge for and the appropriate fee level for those activities. The importance of Native Title holders deriving full benefits available from their Native Title rights was emphasised. Given that ongoing funding is a concern for PBCs, there is a definite need to develop the practice of charging fees PBCs are entitled to. The Fee for Service Working Group's guidelines should prove valuable in this instance.

In addition to the keynote topics above, it was interesting to hear updates from each of the PBCs on their own activities/initiatives/issues and struggles. All PBCs said the main challenge was obtaining sufficient funding for their projects.



Pendine and Konka

Celebration of Gangalidda Determination

On Monday 11 March 2019 the Federal Court handed down consent determinations of native title over Konka and Pendine pastoral stations in favour of the Gangalidda People. The Konka Claim covers an area of 2,273 km² and the Pendine Claim covers an area of 1,270 km². As the pastoral stations are owned on behalf of the Gangalidda People, section 47 of the Native Title Act 1993 applied to grant Traditional Owners exclusive native title rights and interests. The claims moved quickly as both pastoral stations are surrounded by land already held by the Gangalidda People.

The determinations mean that the Gangalidda People can move towards the proposed second stage of the Nijinda Durlga Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). The Nijinda Durlga IPA enables

Gangalidda People to care for country in a culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable manner while promoting education, training and employment. This includes exploring opportunity to develop responsible commercial, eco-tourism and other enterprises based on the use and management of Gangalidda land and waters. The Gangalidda People hope that the IPA will continue to build the capacity of local rangers and promote the work rangers do on country to protect and conserve biodiversity. Stage two of the IPA would take the total area of the Nijinda Durlga IPA from 186,323ha to 541,095ha.



Tourism Update

Yagurli Tours

The 2019 tourism season began well for Gangalidda & Garawa's tourism project including Burketown Visitor Information Centre and Yagurli Tours. We welcomed Ashleigh Yanner-Sarmardin to the tourism team and new tour names have been developed to include Gangalidda language and emphasise the cultural elements of the tours. These tours now include the Marrija 4WD Cultural Tour, a Gumbumanda Sunset Cruise, the Malara Fishing Charter, and Yaliya's Stories (Stargazing). Yagurli Tours has also included a new Wirrwarra Birdwatching tour, which takes visitors out to the exclusive Nijinda Durlga (Tarrant) Flyway site to photograph the diverse shorebird populations in a pristine environment. The primary market for these tours is the 'Experience Seeker' and our Gangalidda guides offer a unique cultural experience on all of these tours.

Yagurli Tours was recently featured on ABC's Backroads program and also recently hosted the student council leadership team from Doomadgee State School. The students & some staff from Save The Children joined us on a stargazing tour & fishing charter. It was great to share this experience with everyone! This tour was an important reminder that the reasons for this project are far more than just building businesses and providing employment. We're supporting the community, caring for the environment, sharing culture and leading by example. Check out [iview](#) to see the Backroads episode and follow our Facebook and Instagram accounts to keep up with the latest news.

Above image L-R: Brenton Yanner and Paul West, Presenter for ABC's Backroads.



Native Title and PBC Updates

CLCAC continues to work with native title claim groups in the Gulf to progress Native Title claims by providing legal advice, project support and administrative assistance.

Gkuthaarn and Kukatj People recently held their Native Title Claim Group meeting on 27 February followed by a PBC workshop on 28 February 2019.

Waanyi Community Meeting took place on 26 March 2019.

On the 23 March we celebrate the 15 year anniversary of the Wellesley Sea Claim. This was the first and only native title case run to trial by CLCAC and involved an application by the Lardil, Yangkaal, Gangalidda and Kaiadilt Peoples. The claim was the first fully contested native title claim in Queensland since Mabo and only the second native title claim in Australia relating solely to the sea. Also, on the 23 June we celebrate the 9 year

anniversary of recognising the Gangalidda and Garawa Peoples' native title rights over 5,810 sq km of land and waters, including exclusive native title rights over an Aboriginal Land Trust area and Aboriginal owned pastoral leases.

Pictured: The Gkuthaarn and Kuaktj PBC workshop attendees, CLCAC Staff and Legal Representatives.



Staff Updates

CLCAC would like to welcome our newest recruits!

Rangers

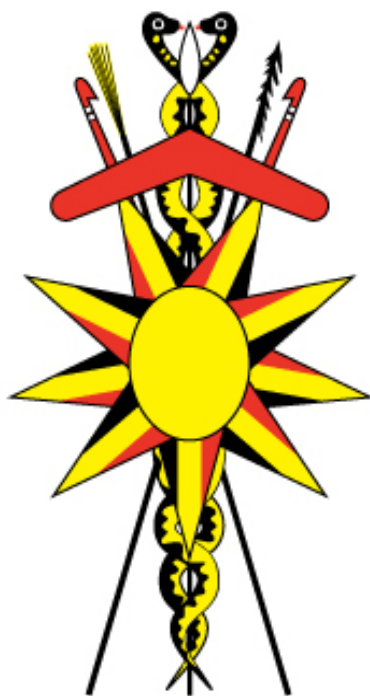
Zac Sowden - Gangalidda & Garawa Ranger, Burketown.

Milmarja Yanner - Gangalidda & Garawa Ranger, Burketown.

Antione Callope-Tucker - Kurtijar Ranger, Normanton.

Farewell to Alex Fraser

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Alex Fraser who was our Land & Environment Projects Support Officer based in Burketown who recently left us to pursue other opportunities. Alex will be truly missed and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.



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