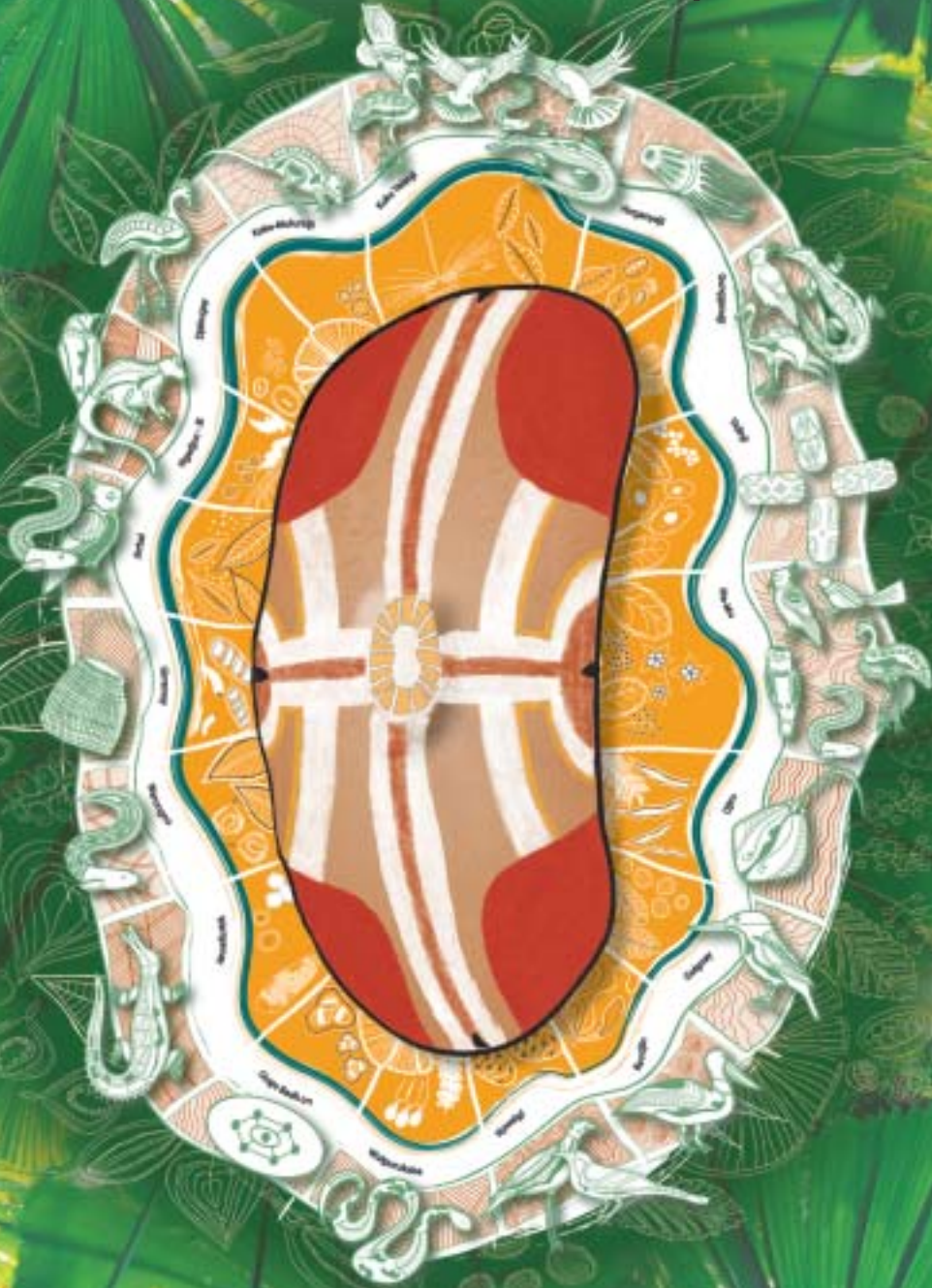


Rainforest Aboriginal News

No.10 September 2005



The Regional Agreement Special

Number 10

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Welcome to our **Wet Tropics Regional Agreement special!**

Rainforest Aboriginal News is a way to share information so we can keep in touch and learn from each other.

This issue of Rainforest Aboriginal News focuses on the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement. There is a lot of reading in this issue, but it is all good news about recognition, getting involved in managing country and keeping culture alive.

Our aim is to give you more information about the Regional Agreement and encourage you to talk with your mob about it. You can then share your ideas with your delegate on the Aboriginal Rainforest Council.

We welcome your feedback, ideas, articles, photos and artwork and can only make a better newsletter next time with your advice and input. We produce one newsletter per year. Please contact a Community Liaison Officer. Or call us on 4052 0536 to discuss your story ideas or you can send your contributions to:

Aboriginal Resource Management Program

Wet Tropics Management Authority
PO Box 2050
CAIRNS QLD 4870

Or by email to:
nigel.hedgcock@epa.qld.gov.au
Or by fax: "Attention Nigel" to
07 4031 1364

A BIG thank you to all the story writers for this issue and to all those who helped in other ways!

M'Lis Flynn, Editor

Please note: We are very careful to ensure all newsletter content is checked and approved with contributors prior to print as per the Wet Tropics Management Authority's protocols. Opinions expressed in the Rainforest Aboriginal News are not necessarily those of the Wet Tropics Management Authority, and while every effort has been made to check the accuracy of contributions the Authority cannot accept responsibility for any error or omissions.

Front cover: The intricate symbol of the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement as designed by Leigh Harris, includes the totems of all 18 Rainforest Aboriginal tribal groups displayed in a clockwise direction broadly reflecting the location of each groups traditional lands.
Artwork: © Leigh Harris, 2004

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A note from the WTMA Board



The Wet Tropics Management Authority is delighted that the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement is now in place. After many years of hard work by all the parties to the Agreement, it is now time to implement the strategies and harness the goodwill this

Agreement represents. We will improve our relationships and engagement with Rainforest Aboriginal people to better manage the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The Authority and its Board recognise the spiritual and cultural connections that Rainforest Aboriginal people have to the World Heritage Area. We respect the extensive and intricate knowledge that Traditional Owners have of their country and are seriously committed to ensuring the Regional Agreement delivers mutually beneficial outcomes for Rainforest Aboriginal people, land managers and the environment.

The Authority has already begun implementing its commitments under the Agreement through the establishment of the Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee (RAAC). To date, the RAAC have held four successful meetings and have provided 13 resolutions to the Authority's Board. As a priority, the Board is seeking to have appointed two Rainforest Aboriginal representatives - a commitment we have made under the Regional Agreement, to ensure Traditional Owners are involved in decisions made under Wet Tropics World Heritage Area legislation and policy.

The Authority and QPWS, with assistance from the Aboriginal Rainforest Council, have recently workshopped the Regional Agreement with their staff. These workshops outlined the strategies and policies of the Agreement, and focused on how staff can develop effective working relationships in the joint management of the World Heritage Area. With the exciting opportunities the Agreement creates for us all, the Authority looks forward to the realisation of its many potential benefits.

Lt Gen. John Grey AC (Rtd)
Chairperson

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Introducing the RAAC Chair

I am excited to be writing the introduction for this issue of the RAN which focuses on the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement. It's been a while since the last issue of Rainforest Aboriginal News (RAN) because we have been busy completing Interim Negotiating Forum negotiations and signing off on the Agreement. There are lots of new and exciting things starting to happen for Rainforest Aboriginal people as a result of the hard work the mob have put in.

It has been a long, hard road to get the Regional Agreement in place. To create the Agreement the government agreed to many, although not all of the things we had to say. But now we have a number of formal and regular opportunities to keep in their ear about managing country. It is up to us and the government mobs to keep working together with respect and in good faith, so that the Agreement works for everyone.

We now have representatives for the 18 tribal groups on both the Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee (RAAC) and the Aboriginal Rainforest Council (ARC). Some of you may already be working with the ARC and are probably wondering who the RAAC are and what is different about them. Your delegates on the ARC are the same people who sit on the RAAC! The RAAC is an official advisory committee to the Wet Tropics Management Authority Board (WTMA) and looks at WTMA issues and projects in the Wet Tropics. The ARC is an independent organisation which looks at all land and cultural heritage matters across the Wet Tropics. (but not Native Title determination). Check out who your delegates are on pages 6 and 7 and learn

more about the roles of the two committees.

It's important for you to know who your representatives are, so that you can approach them with your issues. These are YOUR representatives and they will need your input so they can truly represent the interests of your mob. The ARC is also seeking funding to assist your reps to get around and talk to you.



Russell Butler Jr

This issue of the RAN also looks at some of the other things going on around the region like the launch of the Aboriginal Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan and the Djabugay Native Title determination. There is also a round-up on what the ARC are working on and a meeting calendar so you know when the ARC and RAAC meetings and other events are happening. So please read on and keep in touch.

Before I finish I'd like to give a huge thankyou to the Aboriginal Negotiating Team (ANT) and all the mobs who supported them; to the Government Negotiating Team (GNT) and supporting staff who spearheaded government change, and finally to Jim Petrich whose objective, patient and wise efforts guided the ship through this journey.

**Russell Butler,
Chair Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee**

Farewell Jim Petrich

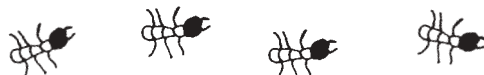
Congratulations you mob! The Wet Tropics Regional Agreement has finally been signed off and is now being implemented. The Agreement is testament to all the hard work Rainforest Aboriginal people and the government parties have put in over many years of talking and negotiating.

As the facilitator for the Interim Negotiating Forum, which was completed in June 2004, I felt honoured to play a part in the development of the Regional Agreement. It is a trailblazing Agreement that delivers a level of equity and participation which has not been experienced by Aboriginal people since 1788.

While my work as the facilitator is now finished I will be continuing to take an active interest in the progress of implementing the Agreement. Lets keep things moving so that you can achieve even greater outcomes in the future that benefit everyone!



Jim Petrich



Regional Agree

A DAY OF CELEBRATION

The big news for Rainforest Aboriginal people in 2005 is that the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement was finally signed off by all parties on 29 April at Warrina Lakes, Innisfail. On a wet but warm Friday, almost 400 Rainforest Aboriginal people, Australian and State Ministers and government people, and representatives of World Heritage indigenous, industry, conservation and community groups came together for a day of celebration.



Minister for Environment, Desley Boyle

Ma:Mu Elder, Mrs Niree Appoo, presented guests with a friendly Traditional Owner welcome to country. Masters of Ceremony Phil Rist and Jim Petrich then welcomed a number of people to the stage to speak about how the Agreement came about and their aspirations for the future. After the official speaking part of the ceremony both young and old Rainforest Aboriginal dancers came together and performed their totems in respect and celebration of this significant event. This historic Agreement is the first one of its kind where so many tribal groups have joined forces to achieve an outcome for all Aboriginal people across the Wet Tropics region. Support for the Agreement was shown by the attendance of many Rainforest Aboriginal people from across the World Heritage Area including elders, young people and peak organisation representatives.

After a huge kup murri for lunch, the Wet Tropics Aboriginal Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan was also launched by Ministers, the FNQ NRM Traditional Owners Advisory Committee (TOAC), FNQ NRM Ltd, and the Rainforest CRC. (Read more about the Aboriginal Plan on page 12)

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

It has been a long time since negotiations for the Interim Negotiating Forum (INF) were finished in June 2004 and many people may not remember everything that is in the Agreement. The Agreement:

- ☞ Addresses the key recommendations from the 1998 report "Which Way Our Cultural Survival" with an overall goal of jointly managing the Wet Tropics with Traditional Owners.
- ☞ Is between the 18 Rainforest Aboriginal tribal groups†, the Wet Tropics Management Authority, (WTMA) the Australian Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH), the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency/Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (EPA/QPWS) and the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM).
- ☞ Describes a number of ways that the government agencies will work to involve Rainforest Aboriginal people in the management of the Wet Tropics.

The central principle of the Agreement is the recognition of Rainforest Aboriginal people's rights and interests and to afford them the opportunity to define and negotiate their own priorities, needs and aspirations for management of the Wet Tropics. A cooperative and equitable approach between World Heritage management agencies and Rainforest Aboriginal people is of vital importance in achieving these principles.

†Note: Four clans are yet to formally endorse



Gulgnay Traditional Owner Doris Kinjin



ement Kick Off!

The main features of the Agreement include:

- ☞ **Establishment of the Aboriginal Rainforest Council (ARC)** as the peak organisation to broadly represent Rainforest Aboriginal people on land and cultural heritage matters across the World Heritage Area.
- ☞ **Establishment of the Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee (RAAC)** by recognition of the ARC as a statutory advisory committee to the WTMA Board.
- ☞ **Increased participation in decision making** through the agreement to include a second Rainforest Aboriginal person on the WTMA Board.
- ☞ **Recognition of the cultural values** of the Wet Tropics through support to list the World Heritage Area for its cultural values on the National Heritage List and potentially the World Heritage List (to complement its current World Heritage listing for natural values).
- ☞ **Participation in policy, planning, permitting and management** through a set of principle/guidelines and very detailed protocols which outline appropriate ways to involve Rainforest Aboriginal people in World Heritage management.

GETTING THE BALL ROLLING

Even though the Agreement was only officially signed in April some things are already happening. In September 2004 the ARC was officially incorporated and 12 Rainforest Aboriginal people were elected as representatives. The ARC has already had five meetings of two days each and has become involved in many issues across the Wet Tropics. (see ARC update on page 12 to find out more)

The RAAC is also up and running and have met regularly just before each WTMA Board meeting since February 2005. Their role is to formally advise the WTMA Board. They also recently held a special meeting to listen to detailed presentations on a number of major Wet Tropics projects including the Kuranda Range Road proposal, Ergon powerline proposals and the State Forest Transfer process.

The RAAC have also provided comments on WTMA Board papers and tabled a number of strong resolutions at WTMA Board meetings on issues such as the appointment of Aboriginal Board directors



and funding for the ARC. If you want to know more or have further input to the ARC or RAAC, please contact your delegate. (find your delegate on page 6 and 7)

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and WTMA, with the assistance of the ARC, have run staff workshops specially focused on how the Regional Agreement works. These sessions have assisted staff to better understand their obligations under the Agreement and have ensured consistent and coordinated implementation of the Agreement protocols.



Minister Stephen Robertson, Melvyn Hunter, Minister Desley Boyle, Rhonda Brim and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Greg Hunt



Who are your RAAC

Are you unsure which of your mob to talk to about issues in the World Heritage Area?

You may be wondering what the difference is between the ARC and the RAAC? When your delegates sit down to a RAAC meeting they only discuss issues and projects being undertaken by the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

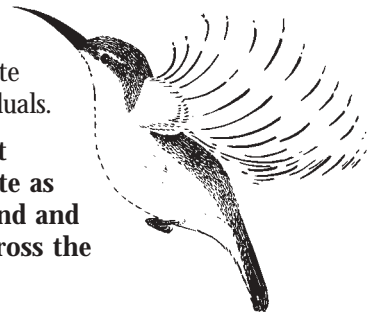
The RAAC Chairperson then attends the Wet Tropics Board meetings and tables a RAAC report and presents RAAC resolutions for consideration by the Board. He also raises any other issues important to Rainforest Aboriginal people.

The RAAC is an advisory committee, recognised by law, to the WTMA Board.

However, when the same delegates sit down to an ARC meeting they talk about and work on a whole range of World Heritage Area projects and issues, which may

involve any of the World Heritage management agencies, Shire Councils, private organisations and other individuals.

The ARC is an independent organisation and they operate as the peak organisation for land and cultural heritage matters across the World Heritage Area.



Your ARC/RAAC delegates and proxies are:

Group	Delegate	Proxy
Girringun	Russell Butler Jr Danny Hooligan Vacant	Lexton Assan Claude Beeron Allan Buller Jr Allan Cassady
Yidinji	Seith Fourmile	Frank Royee
Ngadjon-Jii	Eliza Morta	Ernie Raymont
Ma:Mu	Victor Maund	Donette Walsh
Djabugay	Rhonda Brim	Tommy Brim
Kunggandji	Hilton Noble	Edgar 'Man' Harris Howard Patterson Rico Noble
Kuku Yalanji	Peter Wallace	Rodney Riley Marilyn Wallace
Yirrgandyji	Kevin Singleton	Vincent Singleton
Wulgurukaba	Christine George	Arthur Johnson
Kuku Muluridji	Mervyn Riley	Maureen Green

Here's what some of them had to say.



Russell Butler JR

CHAIRPERSON

My name is Russell Butler Jr. I am a Traditional Owner from the country we traditionally call Bandjin (sea water country) and which is known to the wider

community as Hinchinbrook Island. At present I have the honour of being the elected Chairperson of the RAAC, which is an advisory committee to the Wet Tropics Board. I see this as a unique opportunity for the Traditional Owners of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area to have much greater input into the way our traditional lands and country are being managed. I am really looking forward to making things happen for Rainforest Aboriginal people.



and ARC Delegates?



DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Hi, I am a Ngadjon-Jii Traditional Owner, Eliza Morta and Deputy Chair of the RAAC. My goal is to give our people a fair go. It is important for our people to be able to go back on country to look after issues in our own way, which to us is the only way. I am very proud to be working with RAAC

Eliza Morta

and ARC and making progress not only for my own mob but for all Rainforest Aboriginal people.



G'day. My name is Danny James Hooligan and I am a Warungnu man. I am honoured to have been elected by the people at the Gennazano Regional Workshop to represent Giringun on the RAAC and the ARC. I feel the wishes from the people who elected me because I have the same wishes and I shall pursue these for the people of the rainforest. If some of my elders were alive today they would have felt very proud!

Danny Hooligan



Hi, my name is Rhonda Brim. I am a Djabugay woman and I feel honoured to have been elected to the RAAC and ARC to represent all Traditional Owners within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. I was also very pleased to be elected to the Aboriginal Negotiating Team (ANT) and play a part in negotiating the Regional Agreement. I am very proud to be a Djabugay and I will be here in the RAAC on everybody's behalf for all the dwellers of the rainforest.

Rhonda Brim



Hi, my name is Peter Wallace and I am a Kuku Yalanji person. My country is on the east coast in between Cape Tribulation and Cooktown. I am a person with strong beliefs about my culture and I think it is very important that you know your country, where you come from and where

Peter Wallace

you are going. Being a representative on the RAAC and ARC gives me the opportunity to inform the broader community about the past, the present and the future.



Hi, my name is Victor Maund and I am a Ma:Mu Traditional Owner. Some of the things facing us mob today are:

- No access to land;
- No formal agreements between Traditional Owners and landholders;
- Little or no access to funding;
- No Intellectual Cultural Property protection;
- A lack of understanding of industry requirements; and
- A lack of training.

Victor Maund

Through the RAAC and the ARC we can address some of these issues by:

- Seeking access to land;
- Being involved in training and workshops;
- Developing partnerships with non-Indigenous organisations and people;
- Seeking policy changes; and
- Taking a holistic approach.



My name is Hilton Noble. Most of you would know me or have seen me working for WTMA. I am the Kunggangdji delegate on the ARC and RAAC.

My appointment as the ARC/RAAC delegate, was made officially by the three Kunggangdji clan groups – Gurubana Kungganji, Gurugulu Kunggangdji, and Yarriburra Kunggangdji. I come from the family group known as descendants of George Christian (Yarriburra) and I am very honoured to be the representative for the Kunggangdji tribal group.

Hilton Noble

I believe the ARC is a very important and valuable organisation for all Rainforest Aboriginal people. The ARC will enhance the working relationships between Rainforest Aboriginal people and WTMA, EPA, DNR&M, and DEH.

I look forward to the challenge ahead of improving outcomes for all Aboriginal Rainforest people in the social, economic, spiritual, cultural issues affecting Bama today.



Down to Business

Getting Involved in World Heritage Management

A cooperative partnership approach is the key aim of the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement to make sure that Rainforest Aboriginal people have effective involvement and meaningful input to the decision-making and hands-on management of the Wet Tropics. Rainforest Aboriginal people are already becoming more involved in World Heritage Area management. For example, some people are members of the Aboriginal Rainforest Council (ARC) while others are working directly on projects with World Heritage management agencies such as WTMA, EPA/QPWS or DNR&M. Another way to get involved is through the direct consultation that agencies are required to do under the Regional Agreement.

The Regional Agreement currently contains **10 detailed protocols**.

Protocol Name	Relevant Agency
Consultation	All
Operational management	EPA/QPWS
Policy development and strategic planning	All
Park planning	EPA/QPWS
Integrated Aboriginal involvement	EPA/QPWS, WTMA
Scientific & educational permitting	EPA/QPWS
Commercial activity permitting	EPA/QPWS
Rainforest Aboriginal cultural heritage management & mapping	All
Environmental impact assessment	WTMA
Monitoring & reporting on Regional Agreement implementation	All

The protocols apply to a broad range of management activities and projects and are based on five key principles of the Regional Agreement:

- ☞ Recognition and respect of the rights, interests and obligations of all parties
- ☞ Ensuring participation of the “right people for the right country”
- ☞ Active, early and informed involvement of Rainforest Aboriginal people
- ☞ Opportunity for Rainforest Aboriginal people to

define and negotiate their own priorities, needs and levels of involvement

- ☞ Recognition of intellectual and cultural property, native title and social, cultural, economic and environmental issues in policy and planning.

These protocols list the steps that agencies and the ARC must follow to properly involve Rainforest Aboriginal people.

The Consultation Protocol is a standard that applies to all activities by World Heritage management agencies, such as developing a management plan or carrying out maintenance works on country. However, some protocols apply only to a specific agency, such as QPWS when granting permits for scientific or educational purposes, or WTMA when an Environmental Impact Assessment is required.

As time goes on, more protocols may be added and existing protocols adjusted by mutual agreement between the parties. So, if you have been involved in a project with a World Heritage management agency or you have some ideas about protocol improvement, please contact your ARC delegate, speak directly to the ARC or to a WTMA Community Liaison Officer (CLO). The Regional Agreement will be formally reviewed in April next year at the annual workshop between Rainforest Aboriginal people and the World Heritage management agencies.

A Protocol in Action

Because the Regional Agreement has only just been put in place there has not been the chance for many Rainforest Aboriginal people to experience a protocol in action. So, to have a better understanding of how a protocol might work, have a look at the following made-up example.

WTMA wants to identify where rare mountaintop frogs live so that it can develop a “Threatened Frogs Protection Strategy”.

Following the Right Track

The WTMA strategy would initially trigger the **Strategic Planning Protocol** and require the following actions:



1. WTMA notifies the ARC in writing with an explanation of the need, the expected impact on the Wet Tropics and the expected timeframes of the project. WTMA invites the ARC to comment on the proposal.
2. The ARC gives advice on who are the relevant Traditional Owners (after seeking advice from the relevant Native Title Representative Body).
3. WTMA arranges a meeting with the relevant Traditional Owners and ARC to workshop the project and any issues raised by the ARC.

The meeting agrees that WTMA is to hire a biologist to research where the rare frogs live.

The biologist needs to visit difficult to reach parts of the World Heritage Area that would require her to camp overnight. She has identified on a map areas where she expects to find the frogs. Some of the identified areas to be visited may be sacred to the Traditional Owners. The WTMA contract has identified that she must follow the Consultation Protocol.

The biologist must now apply the **Consultation Protocol**, noting that some actions have already been done.

4. The ARC confirms with the biologist the process for contacting the Traditional Owners, the ARC's desired level of involvement, timeframes and the process for monitoring and providing feedback on the progress and effectiveness of consultation.
5. Working with the ARC and the CLO's, the biologist arranges an on-country meeting with the Traditional Owners. She plans the meeting using the Consultation Protocol as a guide.
6. Using the Meeting Guidelines the biologist, with assistance from the ARC and the CLO's:
 - a. Makes it very clear what the research/field trips will involve, the purpose of the proposed strategy and why she needs to visit the proposed sites.
 - b. Discusses how the Traditional Owners want to be involved. For the field trips they clarify that:
 - particular people will guide her through country
 - some young people want to learn her techniques
 - weekends are the most suitable times for them to participate
 - two way knowledge sharing is important
 - a key contacts list is prepared.

- c. With the Traditional Owners, establishes a field visit calendar considering the weather and one that suits most people. They note that at times cultural obligations may make it impossible for them to accompany her. They agree on:
 - a plan B for unexpected changes
 - how the information will be collected and stored
 - who will have access to information and how they can use it.
- d. Agrees to obtain written consent before using any culturally sensitive material, including anything that may include intellectual property.
- e. Discusses with the Traditional Owners the potential benefits and negative impacts of the fieldwork and proposed strategy from each viewpoint.
- f. Discusses the technical and financial resources available. The Traditional Owners voice that they would like to be paid for contributing their expertise. Some people are disappointed that there may not be money for this payment. The CLOs and biologist suggest a short 'time out' for discussion (see Meeting Guidelines in the Regional Agreement). The Traditional Owners explain they would prefer some financial recognition for their time, efforts and knowledge. They agree the biologist will look for some funding.
7. The Traditional Owners and the biologist agree that she will:
 - document and distribute outcomes of meetings and field trips to the Traditional Owners for approval
 - document how both parties worked together
 - seek approval and comments from Traditional Owners for a final document to forward to WTMA for inclusion in the strategy.



This then brings us back for WTMA to complete the **Strategic Planning Protocol**.

8. WTMA provides a final strategy to ARC, including a report on the ARC's submission.
9. ARC reports on the success of the consultation process to Traditional Owners and WTMA and seeks any feedback.

Prior informed and self-determined participation



Highlights of the Agreement Sign



1



2

- Main photo L-R Ethan Rist, Shane Singleton, Matty Kinjin, Emmett Rist and Andrew Morta (front)
1. Eliza Morta
 2. Djabugay, Kuku Muluridji and Kuku Yalanji dancers
 3. L-R Benjamin Burns, Dean Purcell, Brian Purcell and Ben Purcell
 4. Former ANT Chair, Allison Halliday

the Regional Signing Ceremony



- 5. L-R Minister Desley Boyle, James Moran and Lillian Freeman
- 6. ARC Chair, Russell Butler Jr and Parliamentary Secretary Greg Hunt
- 7. Rainforest Aboriginal dancers with Parliamentary Secretary Greg Hunt and Minister Desley Boyle
- 8. L-R Lisa Stagoll, Jack Macalister and Syb Bresolin

Caring for Country and Culture Cultural and Natural Reso



Natural Resource Management

It's taken more than three years to develop Caring for Country - The Wet Tropics Aboriginal Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan, or the 'Aboriginal Plan' as many people call it. It started back in March 2002 at a big

regional workshop held in Cairns at the Sisters of Mercy Retreat where Traditional Owners and government people talked about the roll-out of the second stage of Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) money. As part of the second stage of NHT, 15 Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions were established in Queensland. For each of these regions a Regional Investment Strategy to guide NHT funding and a Regional NRM Plan had to be developed. In addition, a Board had to be established for each of the 15 regions. In the Wet Tropics NRM region the regional Board is called FNQ NRM Ltd. The primary role of FNQ NRM Ltd is to involve the Wet Tropics community in decision-making and directing funds to manage the environment.

Aboriginal Aspirations

At the workshop in March 2002 many Aboriginal people were concerned that they didn't receive much of the funding in the first round of NHT and there was a lot of discussion about how to make sure that this didn't happen in the second stage of NHT. So an Indigenous Technical Support Group (ITSG) and an Indigenous Working Group (IWG) were established. Traditional Owners at a second regional workshop in August 2002 decided that the best way to make sure their concerns were addressed in the new arrangements for NHT was to develop a separate Aboriginal Cultural and Natural Resource Management Plan. The idea was

that the Aboriginal Plan would then be integrated into the regional Wet Tropics NRM Plan but would also be a Plan in its own right!

Developing the Aboriginal Plan

The development of the Aboriginal Plan was funded by FNQ NRM Ltd and the Rainforest CRC and many Rainforest Aboriginal people generously gave their time, support and input through various workshops undertaken in the last few years and by being involved in advisory groups. Many people from government and non-government organisations have also supported the development of the Aboriginal Plan. The way that the Plan was developed here in the Wet Tropics has not happened anywhere else in Australia, so there has been a lot of interest from all over the country about what has been achieved in the Wet Tropics and how it has been achieved.

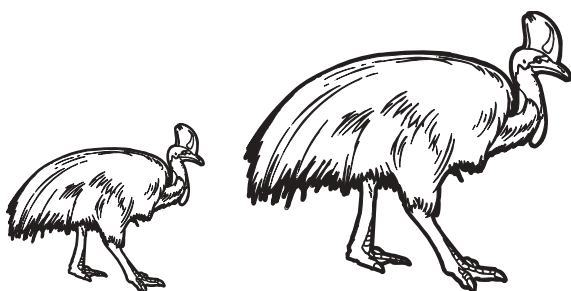
Key Issues Addressed

The Aboriginal Plan has four main goals:

- ☞ To inform the Wet Tropics NRM Plan and the Regional Investment Strategy to generate funding for projects;
- ☞ To educate government and non-government organisations and the broader community about the aspirations and issues Traditional Owners have in caring for country and culture and to clearly identify roles and responsibilities these groups have in implementing the Aboriginal Plan;
- ☞ To attract investment and resources for strategies and actions identified in the Aboriginal Plan from a range of sources; and
- ☞ To inform legislation, policy and management arrangements for natural and cultural resource management in the Wet Tropics Region.

Implementing the Plan

On 29 April 2005 at Warrina Lakes Innisfail after the signing of the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement the Aboriginal Plan was officially launched with State Ministers Desley Boyle and Stephen Robertson and Australian Parliamentary Secretary, Greg Hunt. It is now very important to make sure the Aboriginal Plan is implemented. A new advisory group called the Traditional Owner Advisory Committee (TOAC) has been established to help guide the implementation of



- The Wet Tropics Aboriginal Resource Management Plan

the Plan. The TOAC, FNQ NRM Ltd and Rainforest CRC are working together to ensure there are enough funds to implement the Plan. To fully implement the Plan's strategies and actions, a whole lot more resources and support are needed from the Australian, Queensland and Local Governments as well as from research organisations, community groups and the private sector.

Want to know more about the Aboriginal Plan?

For more information or copies of the Aboriginal Plan, the Aboriginal Plan Poster, the CD Rom (which includes video profiles of 5 projects in the Wet Tropics) and the DVD about the launch of the Aboriginal Plan and the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement contact:

FNQ NRM Ltd (07) 4061-6477 (phone)
PO Box 1756 (07) 4061-4677 (fax)
Innisfail QLD 4860

Who is on the Traditional Owner Advisory Committee?

Lexton Assan	Russell Butler Jnr
Lynley Halliday	Eliza Morta
Ernie Raymont	Dean Purcell
Ken Reys	Silvia Rosas
Kevin Singleton	Peter Wallace

Troy Wyles-Whelan (Indigenous Board Director – FNQ NRM Ltd)

Elsie Go-Sam (Indigenous support person for Indigenous Board Director FNQ NRM Ltd)



Natural Heritage Trust

Helping Communities Helping Australia
An Australian Government Initiative

FNQ NRM LTD

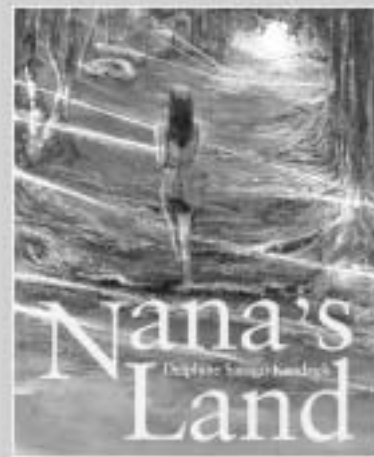


Rainforest CRC

Book Review

Nana's Land \$18.95

www.magabala.com



Nana's Land is a vividly illustrated full colour children's book by local Jirrbal and Yidinji author and artist Delphine Sarago-Kendrik. This wonderful book shows the important role of Aboriginal storytelling and of listening to Elders through the adventures of three siblings Warabul, Kutabah and Bidu. The survival skills of the kids are tested when they become separated from the family and have to make their own way back to Nana's Land using the things they learned about through stories from their Elders

**Got a story or a poem
about your country?**

**We would love to publish
it, please send it in.**



ARC Update

with Russell Butler Jr, Chairperson



Russell Butler Junior
Chairperson

Hello again, I'd like to fill you in on what the Aboriginal Rainforest Council (ARC) have been up to around country. Allison Halliday, Michelle Cochrane and myself have been working flat out since the ARC was incorporated in September 2004, and it doesn't look like we will be slowing down at

any time soon which is a good thing, I think. Anyway, read on to find out some of the things that have been keeping us busy.

Building Relationships with Local Councils

The ARC have given presentations to eight of the Shire Councils that fall within the Wet Tropics about the role of the ARC and educating them on the Regional Agreement. The Councils include Eacham, Atherton, Douglas, Mareeba, Cardwell, Herberton, Cook and Hinchinbrook Shires. We are currently organising meetings with the remaining five Councils including Cairns, Wujal Wujal, Yarrabah, Townsville and Dalrymple. At each presentation the ARC has ensured that the right Traditional Owners are present to build the Councils' awareness of who the Traditional Owners are in their area.

Collaborating with Ma:Mu

The ARC has been working with a number of projects happening around Ma:Mu country. Just some of the initiatives we have given support to, include:

- ☞ Deed of Agreement negotiations with the Department of Main Roads, Johnstone Shire Council, and Mareeba Environmental College. The Agreement is based on the employment of ten Aboriginal people for roadside revegetation works on Ma:Mu country.
- ☞ Assisting Ma:Mu people in their proposal to develop a Weed Busters Program. ARC has attended meetings with Ma:Mu, the Department of Workplace Relations (DEWR) and State Development to look at what assistance is needed to get the Weed Busters program up and running.
- ☞ The Canopy Walk Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by assisting Ma:Mu to make some significant changes to the MoU which will benefit Ma:Mu people in the future.

Working with Ngadjon-Jii

The Ngadjon-Jii Traditional Owners and ARC have initiated talks with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, State Development, Cairns Regional CDEP, Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) and local business people to access funding for the future operating costs of the Ngadjon Mitcha Jimmar Mar Aboriginal Corporation, as well as seeking funding for the establishment of a bush tucker venture.



Michelle Cochrane
Executive Officer



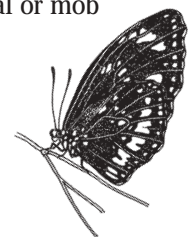
Allison Halliday
Project Officer

Cultural Heritage Mapping

Another important project the ARC is seeking funding for is the Cultural Heritage Mapping project which will require every one of us to contribute. This project is about us, the Traditional Owners mapping our own cultural heritage in our own traditional homelands. One of the protocols in the Regional Agreement is to do this project. The main aim is to seek re-listing of the Wet Tropics for its cultural values on the National and possibly the World Heritage lists to assist Traditional Owners to manage their traditional country. This will in turn hopefully bring about the long overdue acknowledgement and recognition of us Rainforest Aboriginal people as the original custodians of the lands now known as the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The ARC is also keen to work in partnership with other representative organisations, and talk with government about the big picture issues for Rainforest Aboriginal people.

Please remember that the ARC is here to help all Rainforest Aboriginal people but we can only give assistance if we are made aware through your delegate of the issue/concern that an individual or mob might have with regard to land management or cultural heritage on country.



You can contact the ARC by:

- ☞ phoning 4035 5213
- ☞ posting or drop in to 277 Hartley St, Portsmith, 4870
- ☞ emailing to arcinc1@bigpond.com.au



Kuku Yalanji set Melbourne on Fire!



“It's not just a book for us, its cultural survival, it will keep our language, culture and law alive”
 Ms Francis Walker, Eastern Kuku-Yalanji Traditional Owner

Almost 10 years of collaborative research on fire management practices between Eastern Kuku Yalanji people and Dr Rosemary Hill, supported by the Rainforest CRC and other organisations, has resulted in national recognition honouring Yalanji customs and beliefs. WTMA's significant funding enabled payment of Senior Elders in the early years of this research has produced a wonderful legacy for both cultural and natural heritage.

Photo: Ric Magazowski. Shot on Sight Photographics



L to R The Hon. Dr. Brendan Nelson MP, Adelaide Baird, Dr. Rosemary Hill, Prof. Nigel Stork, Steven Nowakowski, Roy Gibson, The Hon. Tony Staley, Chair CRC Association.

Earlier this year, the Rainforest CRC identified an opportunity to bring national attention to the Yalanji project and the extensive knowledge gained through their collaborative research by nominating the fire book for an Award for Excellence in Innovation - with success! With support from the Australian Conservation Foundation and Rainforest CRC, Yalanji Traditional Owners, researchers and staff travelled to Melbourne in May 2005 to accept the award at the Cooperative Research Centre Association's Awards for Excellence in Innovation dinner.

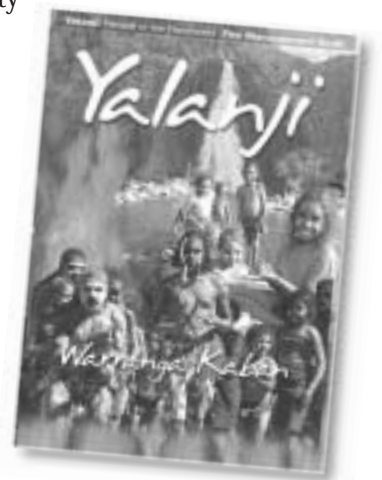
“Yalanji-Warranga Kaban: Yalanji People of the Rainforest Fire Management Book”, proudly

written in Yalanji language and in English, contains stories from Elders about using fire in traditional natural and cultural resource management and demonstrates why fire is so important to the survival of Yalanji culture and the environment. Yalanji Elders have worked hard to record their language in a written form since early last century, but this is the first major book in Yalanji language, giving Yalanji people the chance to pass on their cultural knowledge in the “right” way - through language.

The Yalanji book project was made possible by Natural Heritage Trust funding to a partnership with Yalanji people led by the Rainforest CRC, together with Cape York Land Council, Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku, Wujal Wujal Community Council, and supported by the Australian Conservation Foundation and James Cook University School of Tropical Environment Studies and Geography.

Yalanji-Warranga Kaban: Yalanji People of the Rainforest Fire Management Book

is an exciting step forward for all Rainforest Aboriginal people because it pays a deep respect to the importance of culture while also showing other Rainforest Aboriginal people what can be done to keep culture alive. The award given to the team in Melbourne gives them the recognition they deserve for years of hard work and will open the eyes of many non-Indigenous people to Rainforest Aboriginal culture.



Copies of the book are available for \$29.95 with all proceeds from the sale returning to Yalanji organisations to support ongoing land management and cultural projects.

Purchase your copy by calling Little Ramsay Press on 4055 1163 or sending an email to ramsaypress@ozemail.com.au





Keeping Culture

Across the Wet Tropics there are people and organisations doing their bit to keep culture alive and strong. They are sharing their own culture with young people and international and national tourists educating them on Rainforest Aboriginal cultural values. Cavel Cora, Community Liaison Officer for the central region recently spent some time with people doing their bit!

Kids and Culture at Clump

Leonard Andy is a Djiru Traditional Owner and tour guide at Clump Mountain Wilderness Camp. Here's what he had to say...

The Clump Mountain Wilderness Camp located near Mission Beach provides a safe caring environment for young people free from drugs and alcohol. Spending time at Clump Mountain allows kids the opportunity to find peace of mind by offering them time to reflect on their past, present and future.

Cavel - So Leonard, what sort of environment does Clump Mountain provide?

Leonard - The Clump Mountain Wilderness Camp is a real cultural experience and has great camping in 67 hectares of tropical rainforest.

Cavel - Who uses Clump Mountain?

Leonard - Lots of different groups can visit Clump Mountain, from pre school to tertiary school groups, youth groups, youth at risk, Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander organisations and other government and non-government groups.

Cavel - What are some of the organisation's objectives?

Leonard - Our main objective is to provide 1 day excursions or 3-10 day camps for youth at risk, school groups etc. The kids are taught survival skills in a challenging environment, they learn about Aboriginal culture and are also shown environmental awareness.

Cavel - Do you give walks or provide talks about artefacts?

Leonard - Yes, local Rainforest Aboriginal people like myself give bush walks, information about bush tucker and bush medicines, and we teach spear and boomerang throwing as well as midja (rainforest shelter) building. We also tell dreamtime stories and talk about how the artefacts are used.

Contact Clump by:

- ☞ Dropping in at 7 Cassowary Drive, Mission Beach
- ☞ Writing to PO Box 240, Mission Beach 4852
- ☞ Phoning or faxing us at 4068 7408
- ☞ Or emailing to clumpmountain@dodo.com.au



Cavel chats with Leonard Andy



Strong

Celebrate Culture at Work

Cavel also caught up with Marita Budden a Jirrbal Traditional Owner who runs the Bajinjilla Indigenous Arts and Crafts store on the Atherton Tablelands.

Cavel - Marita how exactly did the idea of Bajinjilla come about?

Marita - The idea of the business was discussed by some of my family members around the kitchen table during the Christmas holidays in 2002. The discussion centred on doing something positive for Indigenous people.

Cavel - So the business is owned locally then?

Marita - Yes, the business is locally owned and operated by Indigenous families of the Ngadjon-Jii and Jirrbal people of the Atherton Tablelands.

Cavel - How did you come up with the name "Bajinjilla"?

Marita - It comes from the Jirrbal dreamtime story "The Origin of Fire". Bajinjilla the Spangled Drongo, is the hero of this story.

Cavel - What can Bajinjilla offer as a locally owned and operated Indigenous business?

Marita - We sell a huge range of work reflecting our culture including books and poetry, bush tucker, cosmetics, CD's, ceramics, traditional instruments and tools, jewellery, artwork and clothes. We want to celebrate and share our culture and values through art and stories and to promote local Indigenous artists in the local community and to other Australian and international visitors.



Marita Budden

**You will find Bajinjilla at:
Shop 2, No 7 Herberton Rd, Atherton
(Opposite the IGA store)
Tel. 4091 2602 or Fax. 4091 2604**

InnisVegas Kulture!

Welcome to Innisfail! With a population of about 20,000 and home to Ma:Mu people, Innisfail comes alive every year on 14 August with the sweet smell of ethnic foods, music, culture and dance.

The Kulture Karnival is all about uniting people of all backgrounds and sharing traditions, cultures and customs to produce an atmosphere of peace and tolerance. This year many cultures were represented at the Karnival through a variety of displays from Pacific and Solomon Islanders performing their traditional dances, to folk music ballads from Italy and Croatia, Aboriginal storytelling and Chinese Dragon dancing. This blend of entirely different cultures makes the Kulture Karnival exciting and educational.

Singer and songwriter Vivian Edwards is one person contributing to the spirit of Kulture Karnival. As a Ma:Mu woman, Vivian returned to her roots in Innisfail from Mt Isa and performs songs about Ma:Mu country interwoven with bits about life and family and culture. With two albums and a performance at the



Islander dancers at the Kulture Karnival

Tamworth Country Music Festival under her belt Vivian shows local kids with a desire to sing, that the Kulture Karnival in their very own backyard isn't a bad place to start.



Girringun Reviving Culture

by Luke Clubb

Over the last twelve months Girringun Aboriginal Corporation has been working closely with tribal groups around the Cardwell and Jumbun areas to keep culture alive and strong by learning about and teaching the ancient art of basket weaving. The main aim of this project is to pass on traditional and important knowledge from the Elders to the younger generations and help them to build a foundation of cultural knowledge.



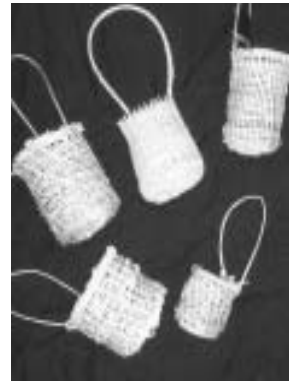
Abe Muriata and Murita Budden

Initiated by Arts and Craft Unit Project Officer Nina Dawson, Girringun has been collecting vital information and conducting three day workshops to teach Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the skills of basket weaving. On the first day of the workshop the focus is on the collection and preparation of materials.

Elders take the trainees on country and show them how to select the right lawyer cane and then how to prepare it to be ready for weaving.

By the second day trainees learn how to spilt the lawyer cane to get the right thickness for whatever is going to be

woven. Once all the preparation is done trainees then try their hand at learning the techniques of weaving. On the third and final day Traditional Owners help the trainees to develop an understanding of the different techniques and styles of weaving and how Rainforest Aboriginal people used the finished products. There are a number of styles of baskets from traditional eel traps (wungarr) to different types of dilly bags and grass baskets (jawun, mindi, and gundala) and trainees learn about their range of uses.



Basket Weaving Display

This project has already created fantastic exposure for this wonderful traditional art form. Later in the year six ladies from Jumbun are travelling to Brisbane for a basket-weaving exhibition and to display some of their art at the Craft Queensland Art Gallery. The Arts and Crafts Unit are also very keen to have similar workshops in shield making but are currently restricted due to the lack of funding.

So if you are interested in basket weaving or want to have your own piece of local handmade art contact The Davey "Buckaroo" Lawrence Cultural Centre at Cardwell on 4066 8300 or just drop in!

Djabugay Make Wet Tropics Native Title History!!!

Recognition through a Native Title determination is something that many Rainforest Aboriginal people hope for and are working towards. The Djabugay people have achieved just that! After more than 10 years of hard work, on 17 December, Djabugay people became the first recognised Native Title holders in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area by winning back non-exclusive rights and interests over the Barron Gorge National Park.

Djabugay are keen to work with other interest holders such as Skyrail and the Queensland Government to continue managing the Park sustainably while also developing their own economic opportunities to move away from Government assistance.

"We have prepared ourselves for this and have many trained up and eager rangers ready to work on country" said Mr Willy Brim, Chair of Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporation. Our ancestors managed and worked this country for generations, now it's time for our young people to take up the challenge.

The Native Title determination will be put into place when Djabugay people register an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). Through the ILUA, Djabugay and the other parties with an interest in Barron Gorge National Park will work together to establish management plans and other arrangements.



Diary Dates

SEPTEMBER 2005

North Queensland Land Council Land Summit
Wet Tropics Ministerial Council meeting

OCTOBER 2005

Girringun AGM
ARC meeting

NOVEMBER 2005

ARC Memorandum of Understanding review
RAAC meeting in Cardwell
WTMA Board meeting in Townsville

FEBRUARY 2006

ARC meeting
RAAC meeting
WTMA Board meeting

APRIL 2006

Wet Tropics Regional Agreement Annual Workshop

MAY 2006

ARC meeting
RAAC meeting
WTMA Board meeting



Dates for many of these events have not been confirmed, but keep your ears and eyes open or contact your Community Liaison Officer or the ARC for more information.

If you have an idea or issue to raise at an ARC or RAAC meeting please see your delegate or your proxy (see pages 6 and 7)

Jargon: useful words to get to know

- ☞ **Allocated:** given to someone as their share and for them to use in a particular way
- ☞ **Collaborative:** when two or more people or groups work together on the same project
- ☞ **Engagement:** involving people to ensure their needs and ideas help make decisions
- ☞ **Establishment:** the setting up of something such as an organisation, a meeting or a list
- ☞ **Facilitated:** to have made possible by organising and coordinating
- ☞ **Guidelines:** information that guides how something should be done
- ☞ **Implementing:** putting into place, making something happen
- ☞ **Incorporated:** a body or organisation which has legal status, usually with members, elected representatives and rules of operation
- ☞ **Jawun, mindi, gundala:** types of fish traps
- ☞ **Legacy:** something left behind for someone else
- ☞ **Parties:** the people or groups signed on to an agreement, or who are involved in negotiations
- ☞ **Practices:** ways of doing a particular activity
- ☞ **Protocol:** a set of agreed steps or rules for a particular activity, similar to practices but usually means more formal recognition
- ☞ **Resolution:** an official decision that is made after a group or organisation has voted
- ☞ **Tabled:** to put forward an idea or document for discussion at a meeting
- ☞ **World Heritage management agencies:** the government agencies involved in managing the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. These are the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH), Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA), Environmental Protection Agency and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (EPA/QPWS), and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM).



Help Us Help You

If you want help with the management of your traditional country in the Wet Tropics – give us a call, we can help you by.....



*connecting you up with the
Aboriginal Rainforest Council (ARC)*



*keeping you up to date on relevant
World Heritage Area issues
& activities*



*providing you with resource support
such as useful government contacts,
maps, and scientific and
technical advice*



*providing you with advice about your
concerns and inquiries regarding your
community's goals and aspirations in
the World Heritage Area*



*assisting you with community
settlement and environmental
management planning in the World
Heritage Area.*

We have staff experienced in working with Rainforest Aboriginal people.

Who we are:

Aboriginal Resource Management Program

Manager

Nigel Hedgcock

07 4052 0526

email address: nigel.hedgcock@epa.qld.gov.au

Northern Region Community Liaison Officer

Hilton Noble

07 4052 0584

email address: hilton.noble@epa.qld.gov.au

Central Region Community Liaison Officer

Cavel Cora

07 4052 0537

email address: cavel.cora@epa.qld.gov.au

Southern Region Community Liaison Officer

Derrick Oliver

07 4052 0585

email address: derrick.oliver@epa.qld.gov.au

NOTE: Luke Clubb currently acting in this position

luke.clubb@epa.qld.gov.au

Acting Project Officer

M'Lis Flynn

07 4052 0536

email address: mlis.flynn@epa.qld.gov.au

Wet Tropics Management Authority

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How many Copies: _____

Please send this form to:

Aboriginal Resource Management Program
Wet Tropics Management Authority
PO Box 2050
CAIRNS QLD 4870
OR Fax: 07 4031 1364

Would you like to be included in our
Wet Tropics Contacts Database?

(The database helps us keep in touch with you)

Please tick box: