

# RAINFOREST ABORIGINAL news

ISSUE THREE : April 2017



## Honouring Late Elder

We pay our sincere respects to the late Ken Reys, Traditional Elder and custodian of Gimuy Walubara Yidinji. We send our heartfelt condolences to family and friends. Ken made a significant contribution towards the recognition of Rainforest Aboriginal people's rights in the Wet Tropics and beyond. His legacy and determination will continue to inspire and encourage us all.

WE THANK THE GIMUY WALUBURA YIDINJI PEOPLE AND THE REYS' FAMILY FOR ALLOWING US TO ACKNOWLEDGE KEN IN THIS ISSUE OF THE RAINFOREST ABORIGINAL NEWS

## World Heritage Update

Welcome to the third edition of the Rainforest Aboriginal News (RAN).

The 2017 'People Country Culture' Calendar was very deadly and a big hit! Thanks to all who contributed artwork, photos, stories and content.

It's so exciting to see the Authority and Terrain collaborating on the Rainforest Aboriginal Grants to make the process of applying easier. Round 1 Expressions of Interest (EOI) have closed, but Round 2 EOIs will be advertised in August and we encourage you to apply. Successful applicants from Round 1 will be announced by the end of April.

The planning team at the Authority spoke with Prescribed Bodies Corporates (PBCs) at the North Queensland Land Council governance training in February about the Wet Tropics Management Plan review process. Aboriginal Partnerships staff will be in touch with your PBCs to yarn about this further.

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Community Consultative Committee (CCC) met in February. The SAC recommended the Authority prepare a framework to facilitate better engagement between researchers and Rainforest Aboriginal people. The CCC recommended the Authorities various engagement



Leah Talbot & Phil Rist  
Directors, Wet Tropics  
Management Authority Board

strategy actions make a connection with aspirations in the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement and the Which Way our Cultural Survival report.

The Board met on 7 March 2017. Directors considered the Wet Tropics Management Plan review process and intentions to improve the recognition of Aboriginal Tradition. Directors were also updated on the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Project (YCAEP) and Student Research Grants.

The Authority has recently signed a three year Partnership Agreement with the Departments of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) and National Parks, Sports and Racing (NPSR). The agreement includes performance measures to enhance Rainforest Aboriginal engagement through planning, operational activities and regard for cultural practices in National Parks. Some Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) staff profiles are included in this edition and we encourage you to get in touch with your local Rangers.

The Authority is also happy to announce a recent increase in Indigenous employment positions in YCAEP, Business Management and Aboriginal Partnerships (See the back page for more information).

## NRM Update

This Terrain update sees the retirement of Mike Berwick from his position as Chair of Terrain NRM and the Queensland Regional Groups collective. Dr Keith Noble will Chair Terrain until a new Chair is appointed at the Annual General Meeting in November.



The Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project (MIP) has welcomed Alf Joyce and Clarence Kinjun to the Project Panel. The MIP aims to reduce nutrient, sediment and pesticide loads into waterways in the region. Alf is a Ma:Mu man and is providing advice on Traditional Owner interests in the Lower Johnstone Catchment. Clarence is a Gulnay man providing advice on Traditional Owner interests in the Tully Catchment.

Rainforest Aboriginal Grants provide excellent opportunities for support to your group and I encourage you to submit an application in further rounds if you didn't apply in Round One.

Everyone involved with the Jalbu Jalbu Land & Sea Management Workshop is thrilled with the outcomes - you can read more about the event in this edition of RAN. Stay tuned for details about the Shipton's Flat Ranger Workshop in May 2017.

Allison Halliday  
Director, Terrain Board

Want to know more about  
the Major Integrated  
Project? [www.terrain.org.au](http://www.terrain.org.au)

Subscribe to Rainforest  
Aboriginal News!  
[wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au](mailto:wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au)

We acknowledge Rainforest Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and recognise their connection to this cultural landscape. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.





# Biocultural baseline survey at Minjilji

Gimuy Walubara Yidinji people have special cultural connection with Minjilji (Lake Morris) and Dinden National Park. Before the dam was constructed it was a meeting place and there is a village site now flooded. Today, Gimuy people are interested in ecologically sustainable use and management of Minjilji to protect culturally sensitive areas.

Gimuy Rangers and Abiculture conducted a baseline survey on foot in areas identified by Elders. The purpose of this survey was to identify important biocultural hotspots and areas suitable for tracks and future recreational activities. The baseline survey recorded 123 species of plants, 76 animal tracks, scats and other

traces and as well as a number of culturally significant areas.

To help make this possible, Gimuy Traditional Owners successfully applied for a small grant with the Authority which helped to fund Gimuy rangers and Elders to get out onto country. Gimuy also worked with Cairns Regional Council to secure road and boat access for the baseline survey.

These findings show the potential for future development of walking tracks, cultural tours, and guided cultural camping trips. Gimuy Traditional Owners believe that this would not only be possible, but would add value to Cairns and the Wet Tropics region.

*Gudju Gudju ~ Gimuy Walubara Yidinji*



## The fight against Yellow Crazy Ants

Yellow crazy ants are listed among the world's 100 worst invaders. The name 'crazy ant' comes from their frantic movements, especially when they are disturbed. The ants were first found within the World Heritage Area and Little Mulgrave National Park in 2012.

In 2013 the Wet Tropics Management Authority was funded \$2M over five years to eradicate a large yellow crazy ant infestation in the Edmonton area. The program is also working to eradicate a smaller infestation at Russett Park near Kuranda.

In late 2016 the Authority received commitments of \$7.5M from the Australian Government and \$3M from the Queensland Government to continue the eradication program until 2019 as part of a ten year eradication program. With access to the additional funding the Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program

(YCAEP) team are now in a position to deploy their own operations and monitoring field teams.

To help deliver surveillance and treatment on time the YCAEP team have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Abiculture Rangers. This work is to assist existing field crews in the Edmonton area over a period of four weeks, with potential for additional fee for service opportunities in the future. Similar opportunities are also being explored in Kuranda for the Djabugay Bulmba Rangers once they are established.

Yellow crazy ants have invaded around 900 hectares of land in the region, including over 200 hectares of rainforest inside and outside the World Heritage Area.

*“ We have a strong interest in sharing skills and knowledge related to invasive ant management with local Rainforest Aboriginal groups. We are keen to work together and support Indigenous groups with opportunities to respond to threats like yellow crazy ants. ”*

*Chris Clerc ~ Senior Project Officer,  
YCAEP, Wet Tropics Management  
Authority*



# Jalbu Jalbu Land and Sea Management Workshop held on International Women's Day 7-9 March 2017

More than 30 Indigenous women from the Wet Tropics came together over three days in March to attend the Jalbu Jalbu (women) land and sea management workshop hosted by Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation.

The opening ceremony was held at a Women's sacred place with healing waters. Yalanji women shared their experiences about trying to protect this special place.

International Women's Day was celebrated on day two of the workshop. This year's theme "Be Bold for Change" tied in nicely with the workshop

program. Important questions were workshopped by the women including how to encourage greater participation by women in caring for country, and our rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

The workshop has signalled the beginning of a more collaborative network of Indigenous women in the Wet Tropics. An agreed outcome was to produce a short video to promote the contribution and value Indigenous women bring to the workplace. The next steps are to establish a working group to progress the network. Thankyou to our partners who contributed to this fantastic event.

Jenny Joyce ~ MaMu

*"There are high expectations for female rangers to prove themselves in the field, and the workshops were a great way to talk about breaking down barriers."*

Danica Beveen Reisener ~ Jabalbina

*"We all felt like we grew closer to each other over the duration of the workshop, and the break away from family and work commitments, whilst committing ourselves to something that is bigger than all of us, was very empowering."*

Jenny Joyce ~ MaMu.

WE THANK THE AUSTRALIAN AND STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR FUNDING AND SUPPORT OF RANGER PROGRAMS.



## Wet Tropics Management Plan Review

The Authority is seeking Rainforest Aboriginal people's views on how the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 can better recognise Rainforest Aboriginal Tradition and the contribution of traditional management practices in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The Authority's Aboriginal Partnerships team will support the plan review team to contact Registered Native Title Body Corporates (RNTBCs) and PBCs to plan formal and informal meetings with Rainforest Aboriginal people during the review periods. Staff will also discuss the ways that the Authority can best support these meetings to take place. A contractor will assist Rainforest Aboriginal people make a formal submission.

**Stage 1:** Initial feedback is sought from May to June 2017.

**Stage 2:** A draft of proposed changes to the Plan will be released for public comment in early 2018.

## Djabugay Bulmba Rangers

Over the past few months the Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation's have been developing the Bulmba Ranger program. To have rangers working on country has long been an aspiration within the Kuranda Indigenous Community.

This aspiration is now becoming reality after successfully attaining a grant through the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program and a work-for-the-dole arrangement with Rise Ventures.

To prepare for the Bulmba Ranger program the Buda:dji Aboriginal Corporation has been holding workshops with stakeholders and potential partners and is currently recruiting rangers.

*"My culture and land have great significance to me, and this is an important step in learning more about my land, culture and language."*

Maria Grauner ~ Aspiring Bulmba Rangers ranger candidate

It is envisaged that the rangers will undertake work in managing cultural and natural resources as well as flora and fauna surveys to gather a greater understanding of biodiversity and vegetation values.

Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation's are entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mona Mona Bulmba Aboriginal Corporation which will allow the Bulmba Rangers to work in the Mona Mona Reserve. In addition to their work at Mona Mona, the Bulmba Rangers will also support the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program to control the Yellow Crazy Ant infestation in Russet Park near Kuranda.

Barry Hunter ~ Djabugay

## More Information...

For more information about the Bulmba Rangers contact Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation's on 07 4084 0967.

## Connect with QPWS rangers across the region

The rangers below will be able to assist you with information about your local National Parks and State Forests or put you in touch with other staff with specialist knowledge.

### Ben Jones [RANGER ~ SOUTH DAINTREE & MOSSMAN]

Ben has a Bachelor of Science Ecology and has been working in the natural resource management field for ten years. Ben is looking forward to further collaboration with local Indigenous rangers.

P: 4098 2188 or E: ben.jones@npsr.qld.gov.au



### Rob Miller [RANGER IN CHARGE ~ NORTHERN TABLELANDS, INC. MAREEBA]

Rob has worked in the field of parks and natural resources for over 20 years. Rob has interests in cultural landscapes and traditional fire management.

P: 0427 577 931 or E: robert.miller@npsr.qld.gov.au



### Karl Goetze [RANGER ~ TABLELANDS REGION, INC. TINAROO, ATHERTON TABLELANDS]

Karl is part of a small team of rangers who care for the critical habitat of threatened species such as Northern Bettongs and both Northern and Spotted Tail Quolls. P: 07 4095 8459 or E: karl.goetze@npsr.qld.gov.au



### Linden Henry [SENIOR RANGER ~ CAIRNS REGION, BARRON GORGE & KURANDA NP]

Linden has been involved in conservation/protected area management across North Queensland over the last 31 years and has worked closely with many Traditional Owners across the region.

P: 07 40479612 or E: linden.henry@npsr.qld.gov.au



### Cameron Sharpe [SENIOR RANGER ~ INNISFAIL REGION, INC. TULLY RIVER TO RUSSELL RIVER & SLOPES TO THE TABLELANDS]

Cameron has spent almost 20 years in operational National Park management across the Top End of Australia working closely with Traditional Owners.

P: 0401 717 514 or E: cameron.sharpe@npsr.qld.gov.au



### Tim Devlin [RANGER-IN-CHARGE ~ PALUMA RANGE NP]

Tim has been the Ranger-in-Charge at Paluma Range National Park since 2001, previously working as a wildlife ranger in Townsville. Tim has worked in the nature conservation/protected area management field for 29 years. P: 07 4777 3112 or E: tim.devlin@npsr.qld.gov.au



# Updates

## What's been happening in the Wet Tropics 2017

Preview of Wet Tropics Management Plan review to PBCs at North Queensland Land Council meeting ~ 8 February

SAC meeting ~ 10 February

CCC meeting ~ 16 February

Terrain Board meeting ~ 24 February

Authority Board meeting ~ 7 March

EHP Land and Sea Senior Ranger Conference ~ 7-9 March

Jalbu Jalbu workshop ~ 7-9 March

Terrain's carbon sequestration workshop in the Wet Tropics ~ Atherton 29 March and Innisfail 30 March

Terrain's Major Infrastructure Project:

Consortium Meeting ~ 24 January

Workshop 1: Creativity ~ Innisfail

2 March & Tully 3 March

Workshop 2: Prioritisation ~ 20 March

## Successful EHP Land and Sea Grants 2016-2017 announced. Four projects in the Wet Tropics region!

For more information go to [www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/community/grants-program/](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/community/grants-program/)

## Introducing four new Indigenous faces at the Authority:



Welcome LJ Stockdale & Sam Carroll, Field Officers (YCAEP); Shaneen Cyganpichler, Trainee Business Management; and Rachael Burgess, Principal Project Officer Aboriginal Partnerships.

## What's Coming up in the Wet Tropics

Rainforest Aboriginal Grants EOI outcomes... 30 April 2017

Terrain's Major Infrastructure Project ~ Workshop 3... 27-28 April 2017

Wet Tropics Tour Guide Course Workshops

~ Flora, Fauna & Landscape Workshop... 28 April 2017

~ Cultural Landscape Workshop... 5 May 2017

Jabalbina Shipton's Flat Ranger workshop... TBC May 2017

The Authority's CCC meeting... 4 May 2017

The Authority's SAC meeting... 9 May 2017

Authority Board Meeting... 25-26 May 2017

Terrain Board Meeting... 26-27 May 2017

EHP Land and Sea grants 2017-2018 Open.. July 2017

Round Two EOI Rainforest Aboriginal Grants advertised... August 2017