

RAINFOREST ABORIGINAL news

ISSUE FIVE : March 2018



World Heritage Update

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Rainforest Aboriginal News (RAN). We hope you had a relaxing break with family and friends over the festive season. A lot has happened since the last edition of RAN and we are looking forward to the rubber hitting the road this year.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority's board of directors was hosted by Giringun Aboriginal Corporation in Cardwell on 17-18 August 2017. Directors visited Giringun's commercial nursery, Murray Falls and the new Giringun Art space in Edmund Kennedy National Park. The board considered Plan Review submissions from the first formal round of consultations and noted ongoing consultations with Rainforest Aboriginal people.

Indigenous Advisory Members (I-AM) of the board, Community Consultative Committee and Scientific Advisory Committee are working to support the Authority develop a clear Aboriginal partnerships service model. This will ensure appropriate recognition of Aboriginal tradition in policy and management planning.

I-AM would like to see significant long-term investment in Rainforest Aboriginal people to support their contribution to the management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area's natural and cultural values.

We would like to thank I-AM members for their assistance in the planning and delivery of the Rainforest Aboriginal People's Regional Workshop held in Palm Cove on the 21-22 October 2017.

Almost 60 representatives of regional Native Title bodies, senior government officials, North Queensland Land Council (NQLC) and Terrain NRM attended to consider key issues emerging from the consultation with Traditional Owners and the wider community.

The Authority is now progressing outcomes and actions from the workshop, in collaboration with the I-AM and Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) – learn more about the workshop on page three.

The board had its first meeting for 2018 in Cairns on Monday, 15 January. The board approved the release of the Wet Tropics Management Plan Review Phase 1 Consultation report and were briefed on the Rainforest Aboriginal People's Regional Workshop. We are excited to see that the next Wet Tropics Tour Guide School will be held on Mandingalbay Yidinji Country on the 16-17 March 2018, this is a great opportunity for Rainforest Aboriginal people to share knowledge and experience across the region.

We thank Rachael Burgess for her contribution as Principal Project Officer in the Aboriginal Partnerships team at the Authority, and congratulate Rachael and her husband on the recent arrival of their baby boy.



Leah Talbot and Phil Rist
Directors ~ Wet Tropics
Management Authority
Board



Successful EHP Land and Sea Grants announced for 2017-2018

Congratulations to the successful applicants from the Wet Tropics region!
Check the link for more information <https://bit.ly/2Eo8uOm>

NRM Update

Round 2 of the Rainforest Aboriginal Grants have been assessed and successful recipients are now finalising project plans. We're looking forward to working with you to get your land and sea country projects finalised and ready for implementation.

Country-based Planning workshops were held in Yungaburra and Cairns in October, and approximately 30 Traditional Owners attended. We had feedback like "Great to have an opportunity to learn from fellow TOs who are doing it already," and "It has changed the way I think about planning for country" – this really makes it worthwhile.

The Queensland Weed Symposium was held in December and Terrain NRM is pleased to have supported a number of Traditional Owners to attend. Terrain NRM is also planning on running a weeds and pests roadshow throughout the Wet Tropics early this year. If this is something you're interested in, please get in touch with Rowan Shee on 0458 875 745.

The Australian Government has released its new National Landcare Program overview for funding between 2017 and 2023. It's worth having a read about the latest updates at www.terrain.org.au and www.nrm.gov.au. The next phase includes \$15 million in funding for new Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA), in addition to ongoing support of existing IPAs, which has the potential to be of great benefit.



Allison Halliday ~
Director, Terrain NRM
Board

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.



Successful Rainforest Aboriginal Grants : Round Two

Terrain NRM and the Wet Tropics Management Authority administer the Rainforest Aboriginal Grants Program which supports Rainforest Aboriginal people and their organisations to enhance knowledge, fulfil cultural responsibilities to country, support country-based planning and improve capacity to manage the cultural and natural values of their traditional land and sea estates in the Wet Tropics. Terrain NRM and the Authority can provide funding and in-kind support of \$5,000 - \$15,000. Previous grant recipients are featured in the 2018 People, Country, Culture calendar.

Keep an eye out as we feature various projects in upcoming issues of the RAN and on our Facebook page.

Wet Tropics Management Authority 2018 grant recipients:

[1] **Djunbunji Ltd** Showcasing Tourism & Wet Tropics Tour Guide Field School Host

[1] **Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation** RNTBC Interpretive Signage Project

[2] **Bana Yarralji Bubu Banyan Kabanji Inc** Ngananga Ngamunka – Kuku Nyungkal Ecological Language Project

[3] **Western Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation** RNTBC Cooperative Management of Mt Windsor Area

Terrain NRM 2018 grant recipients:

[4] **Mungalla Aboriginal Corporation** Wet Tropics Traditional Owners Economic Development through Land Management and Tourism Workshop

[5] **Girringun Aboriginal Corporation** on behalf of Kinjufle – Gulnay Traditional Owners Cultural and Environmental Values for Tully River Film Project

[6] **Dulabed Malanbarra and Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation** RNTBC Review and Finalise the Country-based Plan Jilljirri

[7] **Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation** RNTBC Safeguarding the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Culture in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

[8] **Mamu Aboriginal Corporation** RNTBC Country-based Planning – Mapping critical partnerships, aspirations and management priorities

[9] **Abriculture** Review and Update the Munyami Bana Yabanday Management Plan (2013–18)

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wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au

For more information about the Rainforest Aboriginal Grants Program, email Alicia.Haines@wtma.qld.gov.au or call 07 4241 0510

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Rainforest Aboriginal People's Regional Workshop

On 21-22 October 2017, the Authority invited two representatives from each Native Title applicant group, Prescribed Body Corporate and Registered Native Title Body Corporate to attend a Rainforest Aboriginal People's Regional Workshop in Palm Cove, Cairns.

The Rainforest Aboriginal people in attendance confirmed key issues that need to be addressed during the Wet Tropics Management Plan review. The workshop participants agreed that the following key points form the basis of the Terms of Reference for finalising Phase 1:

1 Cultural values not 'heritage' - Rainforest Aboriginal Knowledge Systems, traditional laws and customs

2 Duty of Care

3 Aboriginal Zoning in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

4 Aboriginal Management of Country

5 Land tenure related issues within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

6 Income opportunities for Traditional Owners arising from our interests and rights in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

7 Culturally informed approaches that strengthen the relationships and understanding of the implications of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, National Parks and other tenures and agreements, and Native Title / Future Act Notices (as an example, the Wet Tropics Management Plan can override ILUAs and local government planning regulations and zonings)

8 Rights and interests of Traditional Owners (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on Biodiversity, World Heritage Convention, the Nagoya Protocol and other applicable national and international conventions).

Representatives at the workshop also passed a resolution detailing a Traditional Owner-led governance framework to refresh the 2005 Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area Regional Agreement (the Regional Agreement) with all partners:

In recognising Traditional Owner-led governance and shared resources involving the Board of the North Queensland Land Council (NQLC), the Indigenous Advisory Members to the Authority and the Indigenous Director of Terrain NRM Ltd.

Regarding the agreement made by participants at this workshop about the 8 points to culturally inform Phase 2 consultations, including the guiding principles.

The resolution is that Traditional Owners across the Wet Tropics, through their Prescribed Bodies Corporate and other representative organisations, negotiate a collaborative framework with the Wet Tropics Management Authority and the Queensland Government in a series of negotiations to refresh the Regional Agreement with all partners and make the Wet Tropics Management Plan a document that recognises the rights and interests of Traditional Owners in 2018 and going forward.

Workshop participants demonstrated strong support for a collaborative and Traditional Owner-led approach to improving the way we do business in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The Authority will work closely with the Traditional Owner leadership Group (TOLG) (identified in the resolution above), local Rainforest Aboriginal organisations, NQLC and other government agencies to ensure the best possible outcomes for Rainforest Aboriginal people. The outcomes report can be found at <https://bit.ly/2ChoADv>.

If you have any questions about the Plan review please contact:

Eli Taylor | Ph: 07 4241 0505 | eli.taylor@wtma.qld.gov.au

OR Max Chappell | Ph: 07 4241 0516 | max.chappell@wtma.qld.gov.au



Country-Based Planning Workshop

Country-based planning days were held in Yungaburra and Cairns in October 2017. It was great to see such a wide representation of groups from across the Wet Tropics region with approximately 30 Traditional Owners in attendance.

A lot of information was shared, including how country-based planning works, what it can and can't do, and why it's different to mainstream planning.

Other topics of discussion included resourcing and where to find support, Indigenous Protected Areas, and approaches for working together with neighbours and partner organisations.



Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation shared their approach to economic development and Traditional Owner livelihood options on Yalanji Country, and Giringun Aboriginal Corporation discussed the value of a partnership approach with participants. A number of country and community-based planning specialists also attended to provide examples of planning approaches and answer Traditional Owners' questions.

Thanks to everyone for attending. Terrain NRM considers country-based planning as critically important to realising Traditional Owner aspirations and will be supporting some groups through a Rainforest Aboriginal Grant to develop new, or refine existing, country-based plans.

Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Wabubadda is the legal entity that represents Jirrbal Native Title holders, Rainforest Aboriginal people from North Queensland. Their determinations cover about 92,000 hectares of land and waters.

Their vision is to inspire and empower Jirrbal people as Traditional Owners:

- To take responsibility for ongoing management of Jirrbal Country
- To be strong in culture and identity
- To achieve control over their economic future
- To derive economic benefits from country by working together
- To be recognised and respected as an active partner in the region.

Wabubadda was successful in obtaining a Rainforest Aboriginal Grant for a Cultural Heritage Mapping and Maintenance of Country project in July 2017 and this has helped Jirrbal people to build their skills to work on country. It has also contributed to establishing Wabubadda as a respected, active partner in the Wet Tropics region.

Contact details: Phone: 07 4091 7215 | Email: wabubadda.rntbc.org@gmail.com

Directors: Ms Desley Mosquito (Chairperson) | Mr Nathan Joinbee | Mr John Keynes | Ms Narelle Miller | Ms Ruth Miller | Mr Liam Roberts | Ms Jacqueline Shaw

Djabugay Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

The Djabugay-speaking people are traditional Aboriginal people of the rainforest, the original inhabitants (Bama) of Barron Gorge and the surrounding areas within the Wet Tropics of Queensland. A key priority of the Djabugay people and Djabugay Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC is to build on native title recognition over the Barron Gorge National Park and take up our responsibility as custodians to manage the Barron Gorge as a Djabugay Landscape.

For Djabugay people this means:

- Developing a Bama Plan for Barron Gorge National Park which jointly informs the operational plan of the national park and provides an interpretation/description of the national park as a Djabugay Landscape.
- Working side by side with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in an agreed cooperative management arrangement.
- Make use of commercial opportunities in Barron Gorge National Park to provide long-term employment and business opportunities for Djabugay people.

Funding for the Barron Gorge Bama Plan Project has been secured from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Djabugay Madja (people with knowledge) are being recruited to guide the direction and outcomes of the project. Funding to support the great work of the Djabugay Bulmba Rangers in 2017-18 has also been secured from the Department of Environment and Science (formerly Department of Environment and Heritage Protection).

Contact details: Phone: 07 4084 0967 | Email: administration@djabugay.org.au

Directors: Mr William Duffin (Chairperson) | Ms Rhonda Brim | Ms Rhonda Duffin | Ms Delvene Richards | Ms Tracy Dell Richardson | Mr Bernard Singleton

Updates

What's been happening in the Wet Tropics...

The Authority's Scientific Advisory Committee [SAC] meetings : Cairns 25 July 2017 & 23 October 2017

The Authority's Community Consultative Committee [CCC] meetings : Cairns 27 July 2017, 2 November 2017 & 1 March 2018

Authority board meeting : Cardwell 17-18 August 2017
Cairns 15 January 2018
Cairns 8-9 March 2018

Terrain NRM board meeting : Cairns 25 August 2017 & 23 February 2018
Cairns 17 November 2017

Rainforest Aboriginal People's Regional Workshop : Palm Cove 21-22 October 2017

Country-based planning days : Yungaburra 24 October 2017, Cairns 26 October 2017

Terrain NRM board meeting and Annual General Meeting : Cairns 17 November 2017

14th Queensland Weed Symposium Port Douglas : 4-7 December 2017

Cassowary Recovery Team meeting: Cairns 6 February 2018

Cassowary Awards : Cairns 10 March 2018

Coming up in the Wet Tropics...

Wet Tropics Tour Guide School : Mandingabai Yidinji Country 16-17 March 2018

Traditional Owner Leadership Group meeting : Cairns 23 March 2018

Fire Training Course : May 2018

Womens Land and Sea Managers Workshop : 24 April 2018



BECAUSE OF HER, WE CAN!
8-15 JULY 2018

NAIDOC Week 2018 will celebrate the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made—and continue to make—to our communities, our families, our rich history and to our nation. If you want to share stories about inspirational women in the Wet Tropics through the RAN, please let us know.