

RAINFOREST ABORIGINAL



ISSUE FOUR : July 2017

Honouring Late Elder

We pay our sincere respects to the late Vince Mundraby, Traditional Elder of Mandingalbay Yidinji/Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji. We send our deepest condolences to family and friends. Vince was highly respected and well known across the region, Queensland and more broadly, having been involved in many state and national committees over the years. Vince played a key role in the negotiation and recognition of the Mandingalbay Yidinji co-managed, multi-tenured Indigenous Protected Area – the first of its kind in the country. As Chair of the Gunggandji Mandingalbay Yidinji RNTBC, he has also achieved great things for the Yarrabah community through their master planning process. We understand that his passing will be a deep loss to many in the community and we will especially miss his advocacy, strong leadership and unwavering commitment to Rainforest Aboriginal issues in the Wet Tropics.

We thank the Mundraby family and Mandingalbay Yidinji/Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji for allowing us to acknowledge Vince in this issue of the Rainforest Aboriginal News.

World Heritage Update

Welcome to the fourth edition of Rainforest Aboriginal News (RAN). We are hearing some excellent feedback about RAN and it's great to see Rainforest Aboriginal people and their organisations doing great work and contributing good news stories in each edition. Let's spread the word!

On 31 July we met with Indigenous Advisory Members [IAM] of the Authority's Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The IAM is keen to provide advice on a culturally appropriate process for the Wet Tropics Management Plan review and to investigate opportunities for funding to support Aboriginal land management in the Wet Tropics.

The Authority's staff and consultants BioCultural ConneXions have been out and about yarning with Rainforest Aboriginal groups to discuss issues and proposed changes to the Plan. This Plan is a statutory regulation that manages impacts on the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area through a zoning scheme and permit



system. An interactive story map is now available to show Aboriginal land interests, current zoning maps and proposed changes—check it out <https://arcg.is/2u0w5KX>

The Authority has extended the timeframe for Rainforest Aboriginal submissions for stage one to 7 August. We can assure you the conversations will go on beyond this period to ensure the Authority continues to have appropriate regard to Aboriginal tradition in the management of the World Heritage Area. The postponed workshop will be rescheduled. New dates will be sent to native title applicants and RNTBC's.

Before we wrap up, we would like to thank Eric Wason for filling in for Rachael Burgess (*Principal Project Officer*) in the Aboriginal Partnerships team for the last few weeks. We also thank Zoe Andolfatto for her contributions to Aboriginal partnerships over the last four years, we wish Zoe and her family all the best with their move to Brisbane.

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

NRM Update

Congratulations to the Indigenous organisations who have received funding through the Rainforest Aboriginal Grants program. Terrain and the Authority look forward to working with you.

We'd like to acknowledge national reconciliation week that occurred from 27 May – 3 June, which spans two significant dates—50 years since the 1967 referendum, and 25 years since the Mabo decision. We hope everyone had a great week in their community.

In May, Indigenous land and sea managers from right across the Wet Tropics came together at an Indigenous Ranger Workshop. Jabalbina did an admirable job at hosting the workshop, which was organised and lead by Traditional Owners from start to finish.

Girringun Aboriginal Corporation acted as the lead agency for the first time in June on two controlled hazard reduction and ecological burns in the Cardwell region. It was a great success and we hope it's the start of many more contracts for them.

Terrain is hoping to talk to Traditional Owner groups about mapping opportunities within the NRM plan. If your group is interested in learning about how we can help you, please contact Terrain community partnerships staff.

Finally, Cairns was announced as the host city for the National NAIDOC Awards. We jointly hosted a stall at NAIDOC (7th July) and Gimuy Fish Festival (16th July) with the Authority. It was great to see so many people drop by and say hi.

Allison Halliday ~ Director, Terrain Board



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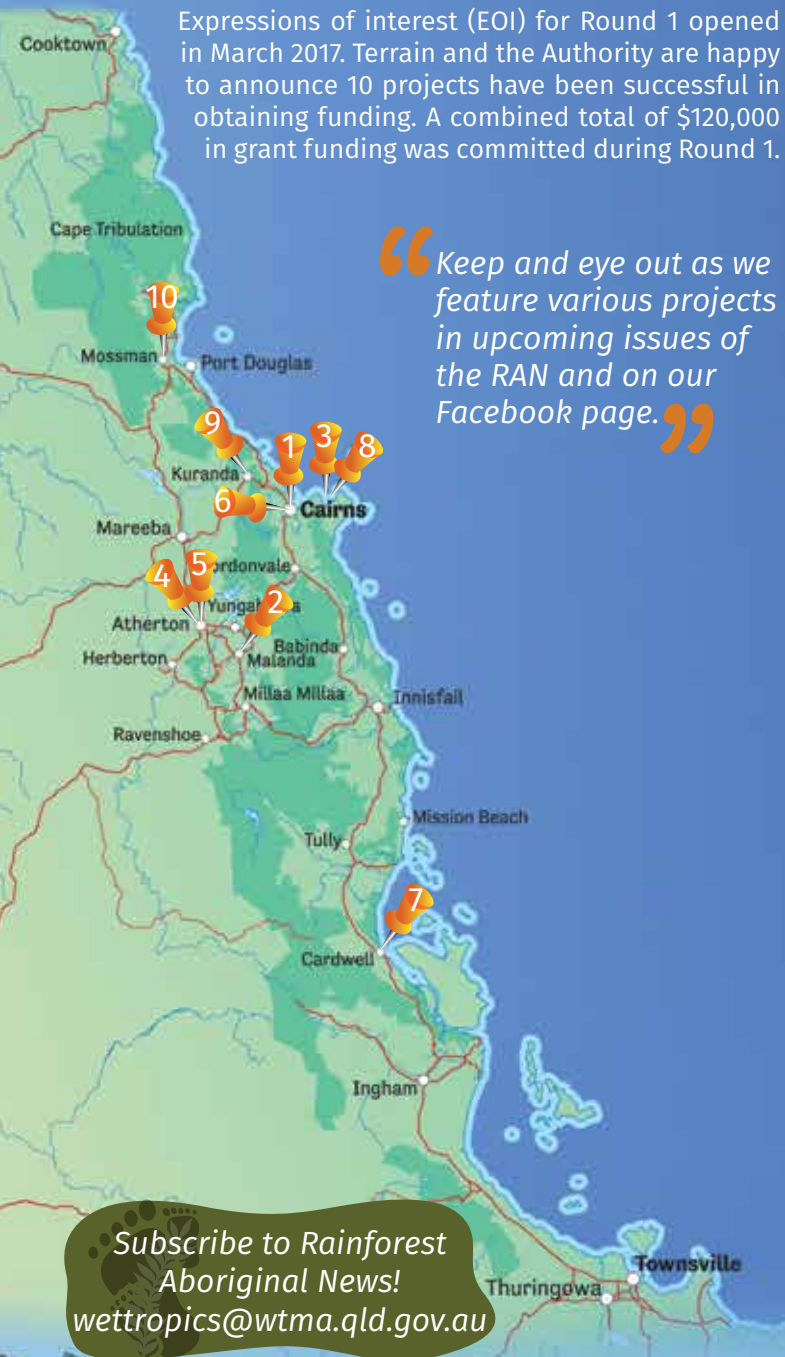
We acknowledge Rainforest Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and recognise their connection to this cultural landscape. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.



Successful Rainforest Aboriginal Grants

The Rainforest Aboriginal Grants Program supports Rainforest Aboriginal people and their organisations to enhance knowledge, fulfil cultural responsibilities to country and improve capacity to manage the cultural and natural values of their traditional land and sea estates in the Wet Tropics region. Terrain and the Authority can provide funding and in-kind support of between \$5,000 - \$15,000.

Expressions of interest (EOI) for Round 1 opened in March 2017. Terrain and the Authority are happy to announce 10 projects have been successful in obtaining funding. A combined total of \$120,000 in grant funding was committed during Round 1.



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

Subscribe to Rainforest Aboriginal News!
wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au

Projects funded through the Authority:

- Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation [1]**
Capacity Building and Planning Project
- Choorechillum [Ngadjon-Jii PBC] Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC [2]**
Maintenance of Country Project
- Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji RNTBC [3]**
Signage Project
- Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC [4]**
Cultural Heritage Mapping and Maintenance of Country Project
- Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC [5]**
Cultural Heritage & Protection Project

Projects funded through Terrain:

- Abriculture [6]**
Tribal Ecologist Network Project
- Girringun Aboriginal Corporation [7]**
Knowledge Sharing Project
- Gunggandji PBC Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC [8]**
Enhance cultural recognition and presentation of cultural values for Gunggandji peoples
- Buda-dji Aboriginal Development Association Aboriginal Corporation [9]**
Djabugay ~ Cultural and Aboriginal Land Management Project
- Bamangu Bubu Ngadimunku Inc. [10]**
Recording of Traditional Ecological Knowledge with Yalanji Women Project

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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PEOPLE : COUNTRY : CULTURE



Terrain is able to support this imp

Indigenous Ranger Workshop on Kuku Yalanji county

Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation hosted a 4-day workshop in May on Kuku Nyungkal clan estate, Kuku Yalanji country with support from Terrain and the Authority. The workshop responds to calls for continued support for networking and knowledge sharing opportunities raised at previous gatherings of Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers in the Wet Tropics region.

More than 60 people participated including representatives from established ranger groups such as Yirrganydji, Djunbunji, Giringun and Gunggandji, and emerging and aspiring ranger programs such as Djabugay and Jirrbal.

Groups were united in commending Jabalbina for their innovative Junior Ranger program. The program is a collaborative initiative with Mossman State High School which sees senior school students work toward a Certificate II in Rural Operations with field activities and mentoring support provided by Jabalbina.

The workshop also featured sessions ranging from technical know-how and information about weeds, fire management, and drone operation, to joint management and enterprise development discussions. Jabalbina CEO Jim Turnour said the benefits extend far beyond practical skills.

“ This is also about bringing people together—sharing knowledge and experiences, and inspiring and motivating. It’s not easy working in two different worlds, and it’s important to ranger groups to keep culture strong and making that work within a government context. ”

Jim Turnour ~ Jabalbina CEO

TERRAIN NRM

2017 Northern Indigenous Staff Network

The first Northern Indigenous Staff Network (NISN) meeting was held in Cairns on 14 and 15 March. Over 40 Indigenous Department of National Parks Sport and Racing (NPSR) staff attended from as far north as Cape York, Townsville and west out to Mt Isa.

The Network has been re-established to support Indigenous NPSR staff, Indigenous employment and Traditional Owners’ aspirations to Work on Country. The NISN will also further promote cultural awareness and understanding across Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

The forum allowed participants to hear from those who have been successfully running the Southern Indigenous Ranger Network (SIRN), and were challenged by James Newman, Executive Director, Northern Parks and Forests to develop ideas for improving work opportunities for Indigenous staff, assisting career development, as well as improving cultural awareness and capabilities.

Attending member’s workshopped and agreed on a draft Terms of Reference, and nominated and elected members from within the NISN to establish a Reference Group.

We look forward to hearing more about the work of the Northern Indigenous Staff Network into the future.

NPSR NEWS



Sharing Knowledge about Spectacled Flying Fox

Your customary connections with Wet Tropics flora and fauna are important, and especially to ongoing research, monitoring, planning, protection and management of species such as the speckled flying fox, and its natural and cultural values in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The Authority’s Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) would like to connect with Rainforest Aboriginal peoples who hold traditional ecological knowledge or knowledge of customary connections with the spectacled flying fox. These connections may follow your relationships with Indigenous knowledge systems, stories, and songlines with other Bama outside your cultural landscapes, and in spectacled flying fox country. Spectacled flying fox can be found a far north as Papua New Guinea, Coen and the Iron Ranges but are typically found between Kalkajaka ‘Black Mountain’, south to parts of the Paluma range and as far west as Chillagoe.

JOHN LOCKE ~ MALANBARRA

If you would like to share stories about Spectacled Flying Fox please email Terry.Carmichael@wtma.qld.gov.au or call 07 4241 0522

Terry is the SAC secretariat and Principal Project Officer for the Authority’s learning landscapes project.

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Congratulations Leah Talbot

The Authority congratulates Leah Talbot, a Kuku Yalanji woman and Board Director on her recent PhD pre-completion seminar and the submission of the PhD in June. Leah's research explores how Indigenous governance systems recognise and support the application of Indigenous knowledge in protected areas. Leah compared two World Heritage Areas: Australia's Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (working with Bama People) and Laponia World Heritage Area in Northern Sweden (working with Sámi People). The Bama and the Sámi People in these areas manage and or own large areas of land often rich in biodiversity and their Indigenous knowledge systems have critical insights for ensuring that they are managed sustainable into the future.

Community Consultative Committee (CCC) 2016-2019

The CCC advises the Board on community views about the Authority's policies and programs in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (the Area). Two of the twelve members are Rainforest Aboriginal people.

Mr Dennis Ah-Kee is a Wanyurr Traditional Owner from Babinda, Director of Jaragun natural resource management and co-founder/Director of the Wet Tropics Biodiversity Foundation. He is passionate about reinstating the natural ecology of Babinda Creek, improving water quality in the Russell catchment and advocating for Indigenous interests and research priorities in natural resource management.



Ms Seraeah Wyles has an Aboriginal Asian heritage with strong connections to Girramay and Warrgamay Traditional Owner groups within the Giringun region. She has been a member of Giringun Aboriginal Corporation for over 18 years and is currently Giringun's Communications Officer. Seraeah holds a very strong passion for our culture, country and its survival and protection into the future.



Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) 2016-2019

The SAC advises the Board on research priorities and scientific developments that may concern the Area. Two of the eight members are Rainforest Aboriginal people.

Mr John Locke is a Malanbarra Traditional Owner and a Co-Founder, Director & Biocultural Strategist for Biocultural Consulting. John focuses on the importance of cultural DNA (biological, linguistic and cultural strands) that connects and sustains Indigenous peoples, their living landscapes, and the significance of Indigenous science. He completed Aboriginal Studies (UniSA), and has worked in corporate office management within the Queensland Government.



Mrs Joann Schmitter is a Mamu Traditional Owner, Waribarra Clan—one of the six tribal groups of Dyirbalngan language. Her passion is two-way understanding and Aboriginal people's participation in decision making. She brings over 30 years' experience across quadruple bottom line fields, community engagement and policy, and 10 years' experience with the region's 20 Rainforest Aboriginal peoples' agenda interests.



What's Coming up in the Wet Tropics

Authority Board meeting ~ Cardwell... 17-18 August 2017

Terrain Board meeting ~ Daintree... 25 August 2017

Country Based Planning Info Day ~ Innisfail 24 & Cairns 26 October 2017

Updates

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

Jabalbina Shiptons Flat Ranger workshop ~ 8-11 May 2017

Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting ~ 4 May & 27 July 2017

Wet Tropics Tour Guide Course Workshops ~ 5 May 2017

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting ~ 9 May & 25 July 2017

Wet Tropics Management Authority Board Meeting ~ 25-26 May 2017

Terrain NRM Board Meeting 26-27 May 2017

Laura Dance Festival 30 June – 2 July 2017

NAIDOC WEEK : National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony ~ 2-7 July 2017

2017 Indigenous Fire Workshop hosted by the Balnggarrawarra Rangers at Melsonby ~ 7 July 2017

Queensland Government governing from Cairns ~ 10-14 July 2017

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair [CIAF] 14-16 July 2017

Gimuy Fish Festival ~ 16 July 2017

Meeting of the Indigenous Advisory Members [IAM] ~ 31 July 2017

Available Grants

Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) Land and Sea Grant Program are open. Funds of up to \$75,000 to support Indigenous communities on ground environmental and cultural heritage projects, with a key focus on projects which build collaboration and partnerships with key stakeholders. **Expressions of Interest close 5pm, Thursday 17 August 2017.**

For more info <http://bit.ly/2uHqHIA>

Community Sustainability Action grants open. Funds of up to \$50,000 for projects that undertake on-ground activities to rehabilitate degraded landscapes, protect and improve habitat and biodiversity and improve the climate resilience. **Applications close 4pm 15 August 2017.**

For more info <http://bit.ly/2uPq3Rp>