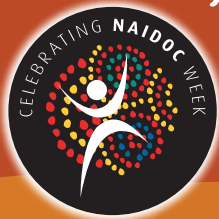


# RAINFOREST ABORIGINAL news

ISSUE SIX : June 2018



## Celebrating Rainforest Aboriginal women:



### BECAUSE OF HER, WE CAN!

8-15 JULY 2018

## World Heritage update

Welcome to the sixth Rainforest Aboriginal News (RAN). This is a special edition focussing on Rainforest Aboriginal women in celebration of the 2018 NAIDOC theme 'Because of her, we can!'. We acknowledge the invaluable contributions that Rainforest Aboriginal women have made—and continue to make—to our communities, our families, our rich history and our nation.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority) has been busy with the review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan. In response to the many comments and suggestions made by Rainforest Aboriginal people, the Board is currently considering changes to the zoning proposals and amendments to the Plan. We will continue to engage with Rainforest Aboriginal people, State and Commonwealth government agencies and other organisations during this Plan review.

There are some new faces at the Authority:



Tim Wong is the new Planning and Conservation Manager, and is taking on the responsibility of the Plan review as Max Chappell transitions into retirement.



Dr Sandra Abell has taken on the Principal Scientist role formerly held by Dr Steve Goosem.



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



Allison Halliday ~ Director,  
Terrain NRM Board

The first Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) meeting took place on 23 March 2018, with invited partner agencies such as the Queensland Department of Environment and Science and the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy. The TOLG developed a series of key points to ensure processes to refresh the Regional Agreement are culturally informed. Read more about the TOLG on the back page.

We take this opportunity to congratulate those organisations selected to host Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers, including two from the Wet Tropics region: Dawul-Waru Aboriginal Corporation and Buda-dji Aboriginal Development Association Aboriginal Corporation. It's good to see our mob employed in jobs on country to protect our culture and country.

On 3 June, the Authority launched the 30 year anniversary celebrations of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area listing at ECOFiesta. Phil had a yarn with ABC Far North Queensland to promote the cultural listing and the important role Rainforest Aboriginal people play in managing the area. We thank the Gimuy Art Gallery for hosting the storytelling and face painting activities with kids.

## NRM update

Fire has been on the horizon lately! It's been great to see Girringun's fire program, which is supported by Terrain, build on last year's experience. Girringun recently led their second burn, and 11 rangers completed their level 1 fire training. Controlled burns will also take place in the Cooktown region over coming months, completing fire training for Jabalbina and Bulmba rangers, Mamu Traditional Owners and Abiculture.

Another great event was the recent weeds and pest roadshow. This was all about peer-to-peer learning, with rangers getting to know the weeds and pests of different regions, and learning specifically from the ranger groups who manage them. We had Traditional Owners from the Tablelands, coastal Wet Tropics regions, and even from Bamaga to the Torres Strait.

Terrain NRM ran three media release training workshops in May—thanks to participants from Djiru Warrangburra Aboriginal Corporation, Gambir Cultural Heritage Team, Abiculture and the Authority for coming along. Getting our stories out there is becoming more and more important, and we hope the workshops will help you to promote your work even more.

Reconciliation Week ran from 25 May–3 June with the theme of 'Don't keep history a mystery'. It's a theme that can be applied all year round!

And finally, Vanessa Drysdale from our community partnerships team will be conducting a satisfaction survey with groups. We want to know how we've performed over the years, and your responses will help us improve our services to you.



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.





In this issue, the Wet Tropics Management Authority and Terrain NRM celebrate women as vital and active leaders in the management of the Wet Tropics natural and cultural values. To amplify the NAIDOC Week 2018 message 'Because of her, we can!' we are proud to bring you the stories of a selection of inspiring women of the Wet Tropics region, showcasing the ways they are each leading the charge forward. From Elders to board directors, rangers and artists, the Authority and Terrain NRM support and collaborate with women to ensure proper

recognition and inclusion of Rainforest Aboriginal people in the business of land and sea country management. The women featured in this issue are just a few of the individuals who are paving the way for younger generations to take a more active role in looking after country. We want to celebrate their passion and achievements, but also acknowledge the Elders and leaders (both men and women) who have encouraged, mentored and demonstrated the important role that women have in caring for culture and country. Congratulations to every one of you for taking up the challenge of caring for your traditional estates, ensuring a balance of male and female influence is retained. **Read on!**

## Rainforest Aboriginal women of the Wet Tropics region



Jenny Joyce-Daley and Lorraine Maund are a dynamic team instrumental in leading Mamu Aboriginal Corporation toward a positive future.

**Jenny Joyce-Daley** is a Mamu Traditional Owner of the Waribarra Clan. Born and raised in Innisfail, Jenny is a current Board Director and the contact person for Mamu Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC. The knowledge that her grandmother was born just nearby, in the 'gorge' between North and South Johnstone, strengthens Jenny's connection to country and drives her aspiration to develop a ranger program for Mamu Traditional Owners. Jenny is currently part of the team which is developing a Country Based Plan for all of Mamu people. **"We gotta keep going with caring for country for the future generation, my kids and grandkids."**

With her dad Victor—a vocal and committed warrior in the fight for Traditional Owners—as her role model, **Lorraine Maund** draws on his strength, knowledge and work ethic to inspire and motivate her every day. Lorraine is a Mamu Traditional Owner of the Waribarra Clan born in Darwin, but raised in Kairi and Townsville. **"We were on country every single school holiday, learning and doing. It's now my responsibility to make sure my kids also have that connection too, so I am raising them on country."** Lorraine is the office/finance administration for Mamu Aboriginal Corporation.



Djiru woman **Rona Hart** also feels the strong guidance of her Elders and takes her obligation seriously to follow in their footsteps and maintain their legacy. Mission Beach, at the heart of Djiru country, is one place where Rona is engaging local, unemployed youth in revegetation and water quality testing. **"My role is to engage positively with community and our partners. I network with local suppliers and help tell our story to our people and the wider community."** Working with young people inspires Rona to ensure they are more deeply connected to country and are motivated to keep the fire alive that the Elders have carried from their ancestors.



Djunbunji Land and Sea Ranger **Laurissa Mundraby** identifies as a Mandingalbay Yidinji woman. As a mother to 8 children, Laurissa is determined to see more young people connecting to country and having pride in their Aboriginal heritage. When asked how she sees her role as a ranger, Laurissa reveals **"I see myself as lucky to hold this special position where I can represent all women within my group, and hopefully show them that they too can do anything they set their minds to! I want to be a positive role model for that next generation."** Since she started looking after country as a ranger, Laurissa believes she has become a stronger, more confident and proud woman.



**"My mum is my strength"** says April Thomas, Gunggandji Land and Sea Program's only female compliance ranger. **"She is my role model: she has taught me how to be a good mother and the importance of balancing responsibilities for both family and country."** April is passionate about ensuring that land and sea continues to be looked after by Aboriginal people and is keen to demonstrate to other women that there are pathways for them. For now though, April plans to build her strength and confidence by deepening her skills in managing country so that she too can pass on her wisdom, just like her mum.



**"When my three mothers were together, they only spoke Jirrbal language. They never spoke any English,"** recalls Desley Mosquito, a Jirrbal woman from the Jirrbalngan language group and Chairperson of Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC. "The three sisters (my mum and her two sisters) came from the Ravenshoe area. They were my role models and were very strong women in our family. My big mother was Yarrcali (the stinging tree), the middle mum was Gugula (the platypus), and the little mum was Bangardabi (the eel)." Desley says, **"For us, the power of language and relationship with our Elders is very strong and gives us a sense of pride, strength and passion for working with our mob. I hope in the future to keep learning our language and having a respectful relationship with Elders."**



The **Gambir Yidinji Cultural Heritage Women's Fire Team** is an exciting collaboration of Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji women: **Kylee Clubb, Maria Turpin, Zara Clubb, Ruby Clubb and Emma Clubb**. Born and bred in Far North Queensland, the team was established to maintain and preserve women's sacred sites and to engage in cultural burning practices. **"We come as one, we are young and we are old. We are grandmothers, mothers, sisters and daughters."** As a new team, the

women are determined to deepen their knowledge and engage in opportunities that keep them immersed in culture and country. Recently they have established partnerships and commenced training with Herberton State Emergency Services and Tinaroo Rural Fire Brigade. The women are also exploring developmental opportunities with Cape York NRM, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, and Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to assist with training the next generations.



**Joann Schmider** is a Warriburra Mamu woman from Millaa Millaa and the Palmerston through to Innisfail. She provides Rainforest Aboriginal peoples' (RAP) perspectives in matters being considered by The Authority's Scientific Advisory Committee. Since her return to FNQ in 2004, Joann has offered voluntary service on committees and boards, promoting RAP views as well as the broader interests of Traditional Owners and Indigenous peoples. One achievement she's proud of is the work by RAP regional leaders to secure the 2012 National Heritage Listing for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area's cultural values. Over a period of four years Joann was a pivotal member of the leadership team that laboured to develop a strategy and three discussion papers to formulate a plan of action and drive recognition. This work has led to better outcomes for all Wet Tropics Traditional Owners and custodians. The statement **"Because of her, we can!"** reminds Joann about practising in accordance with traditional law and custom, and the importance of drawing direction from Elders.



Kuku Yalanji and Kuku Nyungkal **jalbu** (women) **Saisha Schonenberger, Sheryl Burchill, Aaleyah Sheldrick-Port, Kudisha Pierce and Danica Reisener** all have a strong connection to country through culture, kinship and by helping Kuku Yalanji people manage the **bubu** (land). Recognising that the Ranger Program is great, the women want to see even more females working at Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation.

They see the role of women working on country as crucial in balancing the workplace to ensure that women's and men's cultural obligations are taken care of. **"All our work colleagues are fantastic, are always on the go and our Chief Executive Officer is very supportive and helps us to develop professionally."** The women's aspirations are for Jabalbina to move towards financial independence and host a new Cultural Heritage Centre.



**"I see myself as a mentor and a leader, I help the board where I can,"** says Jirrbal woman Marita Budden. **"Women need to be inspired, showing them and letting them know they play major roles in family, community and business."** My mum and dad are my role models, and when I was a small girl I saw my parents work hard. My father in particular was very community-minded and set up the first art organisation in the community. My mother was the first Indigenous person on the Terrain Board, she was a strong woman and wasn't scared to speak her mind." Marita aspires to continue being a leader working with the community.

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wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au



## Traditional Owner Leadership Group

The Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) consists of: Kaylene Malthouse, Alwyn Lyall, Tracey Heenan and Victor Maund (North Queensland Land Council Board Directors); Allison Halliday (Indigenous Director, Terrain NRM); and Phil Rist, Leah Talbot, Joann Schmider, John Locke, Dennis Ah Kee and Seraeah Wyles (WTMA Indigenous Advisory Committee members).



TOLG's first meeting was held 23 March, 2018. The group considered the outcomes of the Rainforest Aboriginal People's Regional Workshop at Palm Cove, 21–22 October 2017, and also began to develop a collaborative framework/implementation plan for refreshing the Regional Agreement. The refresh will continue through a series of negotiations between original signatories, Traditional Owners across the Wet Tropics, the Authority, and the State and Commonwealth governments. The TOLG also aims to ensure the updated Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 is a document that appropriately recognises the rights and interests of Rainforest Aboriginal people, many of which have already been articulated in the Wet Tropics Regional Agreement. The next TOLG meeting is scheduled for early August 2018.

## 30th anniversary of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area launched at Cairns ECOfiesta

The Wet Tropics of Queensland was inscribed as a World Heritage property in 1988 following a community-driven campaign lasting a decade. This year's 30th Anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate the World Heritage listing as a significant milestone and to encourage people to consider the next 30 years.

At Cairns ECOfiesta on Sunday 3 June, the Wet Tropics Management Authority launched six months' of activity for #WetTropics30 leading up to the 9 December anniversary of Wet Tropics' listing. The well-received program

included a children's area with cultural storytelling and face-painting, main stage conversations with community leaders such as Phil Rist, and an official cake cutting with Asha Mayberry and other previous Cassowary Award recipients.

The Wet Tropics is a living cultural landscape and remains integral to the lives of Rainforest Aboriginal people. Six years ago the World Heritage Area was placed on the National Heritage List for its Aboriginal cultural values.



# Updates

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

International Women's Day  
6 March 2018

Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program workshops 6–7 March 2018

Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program field school Mandingalbay Yidinji country 16–17 March 2018

Wet Tropics Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) meeting 23 March 2018

Cairns ECOfiesta 3 June 2018

Reconciliation Week 27 May–3 June 2018

Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting 7 June 2018

Thinking Beyond Borders (Indigenous Protected Areas and economic development conference) 19–20 June 2018

Mungalla Aboriginal Tours workshop (experience how tourism and land management works on country) 23–24 June 2018

Wet Tropics Management Authority Board meeting 21–22 June 2018

## Coming up in the Wet Tropics...

NAIDOC Week 8–15 July 2018

Girringun youth camp 26 July 2018

Traditional Owner Leadership Group meeting 2–3 August 2018

Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting 16 August 2018

Terrain Board meeting 24 August 2018

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting 24 August 2018

The Cultural Heritage Duty of Care Guidelines are currently being reviewed by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP). You can read more about it and how it could affect land use on the DATSIP website.

[www.datsip.qld.gov.au](http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au)