### Updates

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

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### Celebrating Rainforest Aboriginal women:

**BECAUSE OF HER, WE CAN!**

**8-15 JULY 2018**

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 Scientific role formerly held by Dr Steve Goosen.

### World Heritage update

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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. It’s a great opportunity 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.

### Terrain NRM update

Fire has been on the horizon lately! It’s been great to see Girringum’s fire program, which is supported by Terrain, build on last year’s experience. Girringum 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 Bulumba rangers, Mamu Traditional Owners and Agriculture.

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 workshops in May—thanks to participants from Djiru Warraburra Aboriginal Corporation, Gambir Cultural Heritage Team, Abicriulture 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.

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.

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### 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 the Wet Tropics Management Authority: World Heritage Area launched at Cairns ECOFiesta.

Six years ago the World Heritage Area transitions into retirement. Dr Steve Goosem.

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###Terrain NRM Board

Director,
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**

Jenny Joyce-Daley is a Mamu Traditional Owner of the Warrumbri 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. Lorraine is the office/finance administration for Mamu Aboriginal Corporation. 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 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. Missioing is 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. A network with local suppliers and help tell our story to our people, the connection with country. Working with community and young people inspires Rona to ensure they are closely connected to country and are motivated to keep the fire alive that the Elders have carried from their ancestors.

**Djinjubi Land and Sea Ranger Laurissa Mundraby**

(Djinjubi 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, Gungarlin 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 to follow. 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 Bangardabi (the platypus), and the little mum was Bangardabi (the platypus)." 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 Wujal Wujal women: Kylie Clibby, Maria Tappin, Zosia Bobb, Ruby Clibby and Emma Clibby. 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 share 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 Rural Resources, Mines and Energy to assist with training the next generations.

Joiann 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 all Wet Tropics Indigenous 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.

They see the role of women working in country as crucial to maintaining the workplace to ensure that women’s and men’s cultural obligations are taken care of.

"All our work colleagues are fantastic, 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 Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation. "It’s not just about maintaining country, but also about engaging the next generation."

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wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au
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).

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