

RAINFOREST ABORIGINAL news

Issue nine : August 2019

World Heritage update

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Rainforest Aboriginal News (RAN). We are halfway through an eventful year with the rest of 2019 shaping up to be even bigger.

This year we see 'Voice. Treaty. Truth. Let's work together' as the theme for NAIDOC. What a fitting theme it is, especially with the Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) working on the refresh of the Regional Agreement and strong Traditional Owner input into the review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 (the Management Plan).

The second phase of the public consultation for the Management Plan review has now wound up and we would like to thank everyone for their input. We are very grateful for the discussions we have had and for those that were able to attend our plan review public meetings in Cairns, Mossman, Cardwell and Atherton.

We held our first board meeting for the year on 4-5 March. It was a very busy meeting schedule, with a number of strategic matters considered on the first day including Yellow Crazy Ant Funding, some essential infrastructure rezoning and ideas towards collaborative governance of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The morning of the second day was spent across Trinity Inlet with Mandingalbay Ancient Indigenous Tours. We were guided through Mandingalbay Yidinji country on the Mayi Bugar trail (in Yidinji language mayi means food and bugar means walking, migrating from one place to the next) at the base of Grey Peaks National Park.



Tour guides Victor Bulmer and Laurissa Mundraby shared their vast knowledge on using their 'bush supermarket' and 'pharmacy' for food and healing, as well as how they manage country.

In the afternoon, we travelled through Yarrabah to the Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate (GMYPPBC) trustee area. GMYPPBC Chair Dwayne Mundraby, warmly welcomed us discussing masterplan, initiatives and aspirations for their country. It was a positive day and great to see work happening throughout the area. We look forward to hearing more in the future.

Finally, the 2019 Cassowary Awards took place on 15 June. The Cassowary Awards recognise community efforts to conserve, present and protect the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Well done to all Rainforest Aboriginal People who were nominated. This year included a new category 'Climate Change Leadership' in recognition of exceptional leadership in climate change response which we would like to congratulate Jaragun Natural Resource Management for receiving. Also a big congratulations to Betty Cashmere for her People Country Culture Award, Allison Halliday for receiving this year's Chair's Award, and Mandingalbay Ancient Indigenous Tours for the Tourism and Presentation Award. The list of all Cassowary Award recipients can be found at wettropics.gov.au/cassowary-awards



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

NRM update

There's a lot of work that happens on-ground looking after country, and it's not always acknowledged. Terrain Natural Resource Management (Terrain NRM) ran a campaign highlighting the work being done by Wet Tropics people to protect the land and waterways, featuring Gulngay Traditional Owner, Clarence Kinjun. If you missed it on TV you can watch it on the Terrain NRM website: terrain.org.au/projects/wet-tropics-major-integrated-project

Good luck to the people and groups who submitted bids for the federal Indigenous Protected Areas funding, and also to those who applied for Wet Tropics Cooperative Research Partnership funding. This research will help link science with traditional ecological knowledge, which is critical to improve on-ground outcomes.

After more than 9 years as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Terrain, Carole Sweatman has made the decision to explore new career opportunities. A recruitment process has begun for the new CEO.



Carole will be here until that process is completed so there is a smooth transition.

Barry Hunter
Director, Terrain NRM Board

Looking after Country grants

Grants are open up to \$75,000 per project to support conserving the environment and cultural heritage on country, which can include traditional management practices, pest, weed and animal control, cultural heritage mapping, data collection and development of country management plans. Applications close midnight Friday 9 August 2019. Go to: www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/conservation/community/land-sea-rangers/grants-program

Treasuring the Tully



Traditional Owners from the Gulngay and Jirrbal Rainforest Aboriginal tribes came together to share their stories about the Tully River at the World Rafting Championships in May 2019.

They welcomed everyone to country and shared the Water Story with more than 300 athletes from 49 countries, who embraced traditional knowledge and culture.

Setting the scene for the event were the three main characters of the Water Story, Banggarra (blue tongue

lizard), Galu (rainforest rat) and Gijilordi (the kingfisher). This was shared internationally over social media.

Traditional Owner participation was a huge success, enhancing awareness of the strong cultural connections Rainforest Aboriginal People have to their country.

A Wet Tropics Management Authority Rainforest Aboriginal Grant enabled Traditional Owner involvement in the event and the creation of event specific products such as t-shirts and caps.

outstanding fire management and pest control underway

Jabalbina rangers are following cultural protocol to gain the consent and direction of their Elders to look after country. The new direction merges traditional and western governance structures.

Rangers and Elders met in Mossman, Wujal Wujal and Shiptons Flat to discuss best practices for fire management and pests control on bubu (country).

'Those [Elders'] views were then represented by Jabalbina staff at the joint fire and pest management meeting, where our agreements were made with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for the next 12 months,' said Jabalbina's National Parks Planning Officer, Dan Keynes.

As part of this land management focus, five Jabalbina rangers have completed their Level 2 Fire Crew Leader training, and now run their own fire crews and lead fire management within the Daintree, Black Mountain, Ngalba Bulal and Hope Islands national parks.

This will prove especially useful as weather this year points to a need for good fire management in the upcoming season.

The end result is country will benefit from traditional forms of land management because Jabalbina Rangers working with the Department of Environment and Science will be able to better manage country with increased resources and access to cultural knowledge....



Djabugay Bulmba Bama Plan launch

Djabugay launched the Bulmba Bama Plan (the Bama Plan) at Kuranda Amphitheatre on 20 March. Barry Hunter, the project manager, thanked everyone for attending and being a part of the celebrations.

The Bama Plan aims to guide the development of a joint management model to incorporate the social, cultural and economic benefits for Djabugay People and the people of Queensland for Barron Gorge National Park also known as Din Din.

This plan enables Djabugay people to have a seat at the table with Australian and Queensland governments to coordinate the future protection and presentation of Din Din

The Wet Tropics Management Authority acknowledges and congratulates the work of Barry Hunter and the Djabugay People. We look forward to our continued partnership.

A version of the Bama Plan can be found on the Djabugay website djabugay.org.au



Gulngay success in determination

Congratulations to Gulngay on their successful Native Title determination.

Gulngay's connection to country was officially recognised by the Federal court on 4 April and it was celebrated

at the Tully Country Club. The determined area encompasses about 37,000ha of waterways and land from Girramay National Park in the south to Japoon National Park in the north.

A first for Gulngay, who now hope to use their Native Title to empower their own work in sustainable cultural and environmental management of their country.



Building Rainforest Resilience in the Wet Tropics project

Cassowaries, Mabi forests' and littoral rainforest habitats are the focus of a new 4-year project, for Terrain Natural Resource Management (Terrain NRM).

As part of this project Terrain will be advertising an Indigenous-identified position that aligns with Terrain's support for Indigenous employment.

'This is an opportunity for someone who is passionate about the recovery of threatened species in the Wet Tropics,' Terrain NRM Project Manager, Tony O'Malley said.

'The new employee will work with all partners and coordinate monitoring of project solutions delivered through a community grants program and targeted landholder incentives,' he said.

'We'll be working with the Cassowary, Mabi forest and littoral rainforest recovery teams, as well as Traditional Owners, landholders and the wider community to get the best possible multi-species results from this project by funding tree-planting, weed management and habitat protection in priority areas,' Tony O'Malley said.

A rainforest recovery network will be set up to help project planning and implementation. The project will also negotiate solutions to cassowary deaths on roads within



the Wet Tropics in agreed priority locations.

While cassowaries are a well-known iconic species in the Wet Tropics, the Mabi forest and littoral rainforest are less well known but all are listed as critically endangered. Mabi forest is a type of rainforest restricted to fertile basalt soils that are located north and west of Malanda, whereas littoral rainforest is coastal rainforest that grows right near the sea.

The project is a \$1.9 million Australian Government Regional Land Partnership to improve conditions for these threatened species and habitats and is supported by Terrain NRM, through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

For information about the new role, contact Tony O'Malley 0437 728 190 or email tony.omalley@terrain.org.au

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

20 March—Djabugay Bulmba Bama Plan launch

25–28 March—Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger workshop

28 March—Bulmba fire workshop at Kanjini

28 March—Indigenous Women's Ranger Network workshop

4 April—Gulngay Native Title determination

13–20 May—2019 IRF Tully World Rafting Championships

31 May–2 June—2019 Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Regional Forum

10–12 June—Girringun Women's Land & Sea Workshop

15 June—2019 Cassowary Awards

18–19 June—Country-based planning workshops

19–21 June—Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program

5 July—NAIDOC in the park

6 July—NAIDOC Awards ceremony (Canberra)

7–14 July—NAIDOC Week

9 July—Tjapukai NAIDOC open day

10–14 July—Cairns Indigenous Art Fair

25 July—SAC meeting & Wet Tropics Climate Change Adaptation Plan Workshop

What's coming up...

5–8 August—Garma Festival (Northern Territory)

20–21 August—Authority board meeting

27 August—Annual Reef Guardian Network Meeting

Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Regional Forum

The Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' Regional Forum took place on 31 May–2 June. The forum saw the Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) host discussions regarding the Regional Agreement refresh process, Management Plan review process, and Wet Tropics research protocols among other topics.

Details about the event will be in the next edition of Rainforest Aboriginal News.