

# RAINFOREST ABORIGINAL

ISSUE SEVEN : October 2018



## World Heritage update

Welcome to the seventh edition of Rainforest Aboriginal News (RAN)—we have some exciting news to report on!

The Traditional Owner Leadership Group (TOLG) have been very busy working on refreshing the Regional Agreement, with continued support from the Authority, North Queensland Land Council and Terrain NRM. The TOLG reported back to Rainforest Aboriginal people at the 2018 Regional Forum held at Mission Beach on 19-20 October. The forum was a great success with over 80 participants. A resolution was passed to extend the term of the TOLG until an Implementation Agreement is negotiated and a Rainforest Aboriginal expertise-based committee is established.

An update on the progress of the TOLG was provided to the Wet Tropics Management Authority Board, who met on 13-14 September. The Board acknowledged the great work of the TOLG and reaffirmed their support for the group. The Board also confirmed funding from the Department of Environment and Science to support engagement, meetings and working with Rainforest Aboriginal people and government agencies to refresh the Regional Agreement.

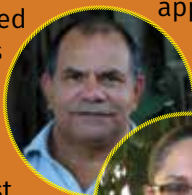
The review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan is still underway with phase 2 of consultations to commence end of January 2019. In response to submissions and comments received from Rainforest Aboriginal people and others, the Board provided advice on proposed new simplified classifications of roads, refinements to zoning systems and potential legislation changes.

The Authority's Principal Scientist, Dr Sandra Abell, led a climate change workshop on 5 July to discuss the

significant threat to the World Heritage values of the Wet Tropics. The workshop brought together Rainforest Aboriginal people, land managers, scientific experts and other stakeholders. Participants heard from Indigenous cultural ecologists as well as mainstream researchers who identified that climate change is already having a measurable impact on the natural values of the region.

The Natural Assets Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC) Taskforce (an alliance of yellow crazy ant stakeholders) comprehensively surveyed a number of watercourses around the known yellow crazy ant infestation area, looking for any evidence of the ants spreading. Only one new infestation was identified, which can now be treated and contained. We are proud to announce some excellent news: yellow crazy ants have officially been eradicated from 3 sites in the infestation area. We acknowledge the support of Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and Djabugay Bulmba Rangers in this important work.

There are some new faces at the Authority: welcome to Brian Singleton (Principal Project Officer) and Liam Roberts (Project Officer) who have recently started working with the Wet Tropics Management Authority to support the Aboriginal partnerships program (see page four for introductions). A big congratulations to Alicia Haines and Eli Taylor who were successful in being permanently appointed to their positions.



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



## NRM update

Terrain NRM and the Authority are part of the new Wet Tropics Cooperative Research Partnership which has made \$40,000 available for research into traditional land and water management practices. The research will help inform future management techniques in the Wet Tropics, with the aim of linking science and traditional ecological knowledge to improve on-ground outcomes.

On National Threatened Species Day (7 September) we launched a new video 'Explore the Secret Lives of Tropical North Queensland's Endangered Species'. This video showcases the work by Rainforest Aboriginal people, community groups and scientists to protect threatened species in the Wet Tropics. It was produced through National Landcare Program funding and supported by the Authority. You can watch the videos on Terrain's Youtube channel or Facebook page.

It is fantastic to see that Yirrganydji Dawul Wuru and Djabugay Bulmba Rangers now have funding from the Department of Environment and Science. These groups, along with Gunggandji, all have new Ranger Coordinators—a big welcome to you all.

I will be retiring from my role as a Board Director with Terrain NRM later this year. It's been inspiring to see the many achievements of Rainforest Aboriginal people during this time. At the time of writing, recruitment for a new Indigenous Director is underway and I look forward to the valuable contribution they'll bring—Indigenous voices are vital if we are to integrate Indigenous interests into natural resource management.



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.



<https://www.youtube.com/user/terrainrm/about>

## Wet Tropics round up



PHOTO: NATASHA EMECK



## Native title determined for Girramay people

On 1 August 2018, the official determination hearing for the Girramay people was presided over by his Honour Justice Rangiah in Cardwell. Girramay people, Elders and invited guests watched as the native title applicants were presented with copies of the consent determination booklet. The Federal Court formally recognised Girramay people's exclusive native title over approximately 1200ha and non-exclusive native title rights and interests over about 94,700ha of land around Cardwell, Kennedy and Murray Upper areas.

“The Authority would like to congratulate the Girramay people on this significant achievement and the recognition that this land is and always will be Aboriginal land.”

## Successful collaboration

2017 Rainforest Aboriginal Grant recipient Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC has successfully wrapped up their 'Cultural Heritage Mapping & Maintenance of Country' project at Koombooloomba.

“The project was a successful collaboration between a team of Jirrbal people (female and male Elders and young people) and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). Richard Carney was the project supervisor.”

The project aimed at getting Jirrbal people involved with mapping out areas of cultural significance and clearing a walking track to enable access to country. This was a great opportunity to share knowledge between Traditional Owners and QPWS rangers, and to support Traditional Owner connection to country and their involvement in the management of national parks.

Phase one of the project involved up-skilling the team to obtain qualifications in chainsaw operation, GPS, mapping and first aid in preparation for on-country work. In the final stages of the project Traditional Owners overcame delays with wet weather and the Christmas period to achieve positive outcomes for the community. The project played an important role in identifying the aspirations of Jirrbal people with an interest in working on country.

PEOPLE : COUNTRY : CULTURE

# The Dendroglyph of Mount Windsor

Western Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (WYAC) have been making significant headway on the management of a rare dendroglyph (carved tree) on the Windsor Tableland. In 1979, Steve Kitchener (a chainsaw operator from the Queensland Forestry Service) was surveying a logging track when he found a yellow walnut with a girth of over 5m and near life-sized man carved high up the trunk. He knew it was something special. You could drive right up to the tree from 1980 to 1988 but few people made the difficult trek to visit the tree after the logging roads were closed.

In 2015, WYAC supported a team that included Rupert Russell (former Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger), Bill Carrodus (Wet Tropics Management Authority) and Alice Buhrich (archaeologist from James Cook University) to locate the tree and assess its preservation. It was found

alive but suffering from extensive fungal rot and natural ageing. This year, WYAC members Johnny Murison, Dwayne Williams and Chivaree Brady along with Ben Jones (QPWS) and Alice Buhrich went to the site to evaluate the health of the tree—this was the first time in a long time that Yalanji people had visited the carving.

Sadly, they found that the tree had fallen. WYAC are now investigating management options to recover and preserve the carving.



PHOTOS: ALICE BUHRICH

## Building a strong foundation for the future

Djabugay Bulmba Rangers have been very busy over the last 6 months. The ranger program has hit the ground running, securing a memorandum of understanding with the Mona Mona Bulmba Aboriginal Corporation, a Rainforest Aboriginal grant through Terrain NRM and most recently, additional funding through the Queensland Government's Looking after Country Grant program (formerly Indigenous Land and Sea Grants).

The rangers have undertaken both traditional and historic knowledge recording with Djabugay Elders at Mona Mona and other significant areas for Djabugay. Rangers have also developed strong relationships with the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and undertaken joint burning activities at Mona Mona with RFS and Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji people.

Rangers presented a summary of the work they undertook in 2017 to

the Djabugay community and the Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation Board. The Bulmba Rangers have also successfully completed the following training:

- Rural Fire Level 1 - operate and maintain chainsaw, operate chemical application, machinery and equipment
- Chainsaw training - FWPCOT2239 trim and cut felled trees and FWPCOT2236 felling trees manually.



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## Congratulations to Alicia Haines

Congratulations to Alicia Haines, a young Yalanji woman and Project Officer at the Authority. Alicia was awarded one of the Top Ten Young Leaders awards in 2018 by the Institute for Public Administration Australia (IPAA) Queensland. To receive this award Alicia demonstrated that she is exceptional in her field, seeks the best outcomes, challenges the status quo, stands out from the crowd, inspires others and makes a difference. We at the Authority, are proud to have Alicia in the team and congratulate her for dynamic leadership, commitment and hard work supporting Rainforest Aboriginal involvement in the World Heritage Area, including through the Rainforest Aboriginal grants program.

**Well done Alicia!** More on the awards at <http://www.ipaa.org.au/qld/>

## New faces at the Authority

We are excited to announce that two Rainforest Aboriginal people from the Wet Tropics have recently joined the Wet Tropics Management Authority team:

**Brian Singleton (Yirrganydji man)** is the new Principal Project Officer supporting the Aboriginal Partnerships program. Brian is supporting Traditional Owner involvement in the plan review process and the refresh of the Regional Agreement. Brian previously worked with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks Authority (GBRMPA) in the Indigenous Compliance Team.

P: 4241 0504 or E: [Brian.Singleton@wtma.qld.gov.au](mailto:Brian.Singleton@wtma.qld.gov.au)



**Liam Roberts (young Jirrbal man)** is currently acting in the Project Officer position supporting the Aboriginal partnerships program while Eli Taylor is seconded to the Planning and Conservation team. Liam's projects include the Rainforest Aboriginal News and the 2019 People Culture Country Calendar. Liam previously worked with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPWS) in the Joint Management team.

P: 4241 0550 or E: [Liam.Roberts@wtma.qld.gov.au](mailto:Liam.Roberts@wtma.qld.gov.au)



# Updates

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

- NAIDOC Week 8-15 July
- Girringun youth camp 26 July
- Traditional Owner Leadership Group meeting 2-3 August, 31 August and 10 September
- Terrain Board meeting 24 August
- Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings 24 August and 26 October
- Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting 24 August and 1 November
- Wet Tropics Management Authority Board meeting 13-14 September
- Wiyi Yani U Thangani – Women's Voices 28 September
- EKY Tourism workshop 22-23 October
- Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples Regional Forum 19-20 October
- TESS seminar at James Cook University 17 October
- PechaKucha at the Tanks Arts Centre 24 October
- Science in the Pub 1 November
- Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program 2-3 November

### Coming up in the Wet Tropics...

- Australian Government Protected Indigenous Knowledge Roundtable meeting in Cairns 7 November
- National Heritage Listing of Indigenous Values (Wet Tropics) 6th Anniversary 9 November
- Traditional Owner Leadership Group meeting November
- 30 year anniversary of the listing of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area 9 December
- Wet Tropics Management Authority Board meeting December
- Phase 2 consultations for the Wet Tropics Plan Review commence end-January 2019

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