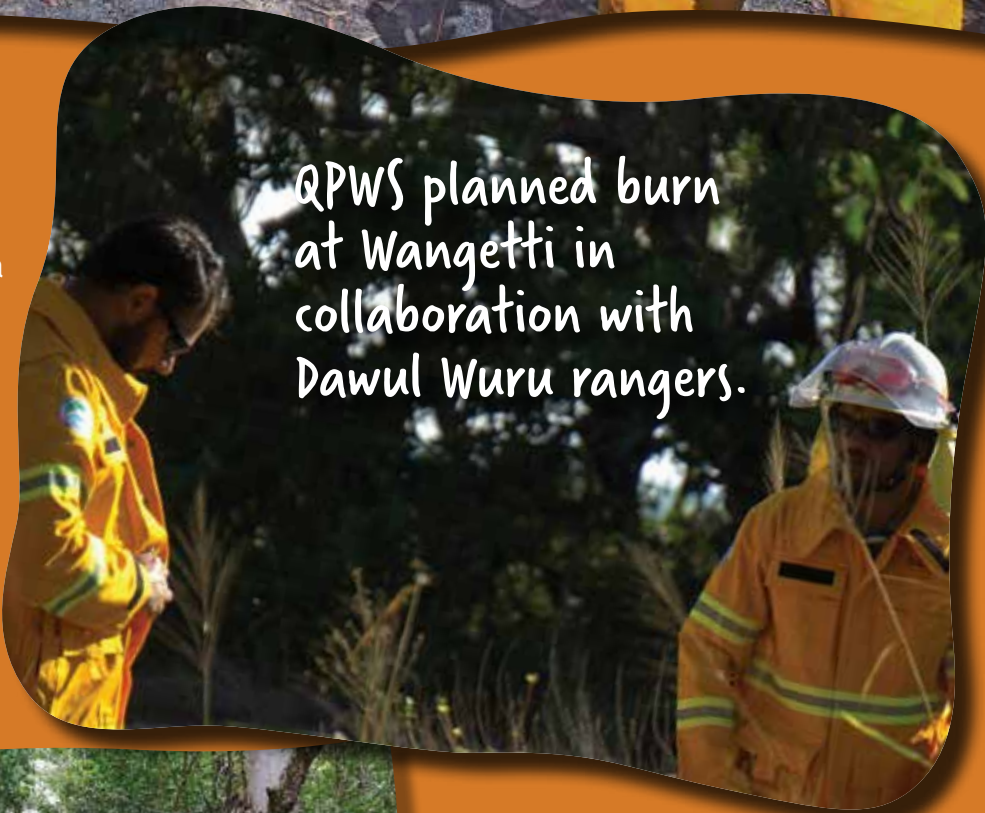


Girringun women fire power

Girringun women Fire power: Cindy-Lou Togo (front left) and Evelyn Ivey (front right) with (L-R) Justine Douglas, Olivia Mooka, Kayla Henry and Karen Toohey in a cool burn site at Cardwell.

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QPWS planned burn at Wangetti in collaboration with Dawul Wuru rangers.



Left: Jabalbina rangers compliance Noahs Beach Campgrounds Compliance Inspections, Rangers: Vincent Tayley, Anthea Solomon, Charlie Ross-Kelly and John Dockrill, Supervised by Andrew Bates and Paul Cochran.

Introducing the Authority's newest committee member

The Wet Tropics Management Authority is pleased to welcome Gavin Singleton to its Community Consultative Committee.

Gavin currently manages the Yirrganydji Land and Sea Ranger Program, which operates in the Cairns and Port Douglas region in north Queensland, for the Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation.

Gavin has family connections to Yirrganydji/Djabugay people (Cairns to Port Douglas region), Umpila people (Nesbit River, Cape York), and Kalkadoon (Central Queensland).

Gavin has attended, presented and performed at various events across the globe including the United Nations' Climate Change Conference in Poland (2018), the United Nations' Oceans Conference in New York (2017), the International Union for Conservation of Nature's World Parks Congress in Australia (2014), and the COP-11 Convention on Biological Diversity in India (2012).

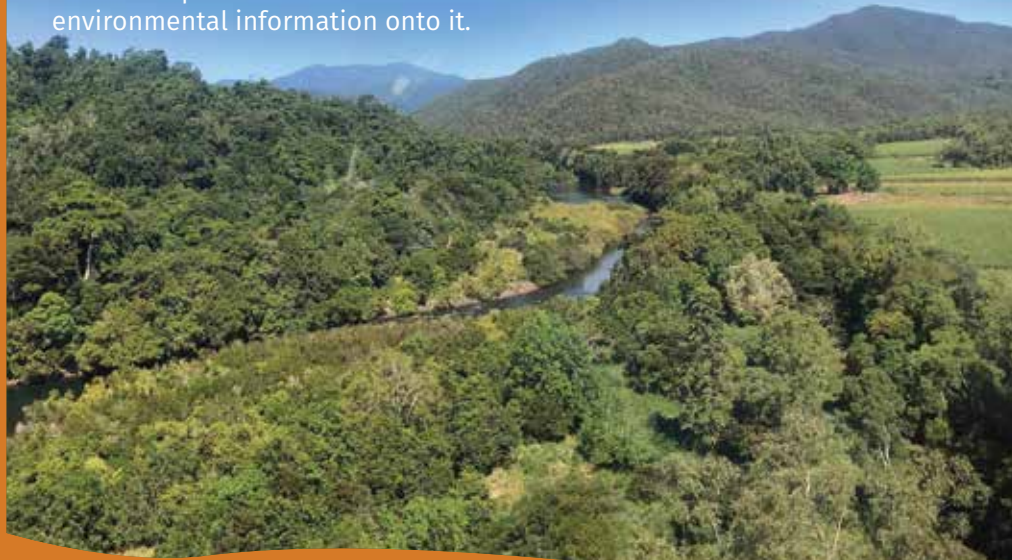
In 2018, Gavin received a Community Champions Cassowary Award from the Wet Tropics Management Authority and was selected as a speaker for TEDx JCU Cairns. As a graduate from Curtin University with Honours in Applied Science, he is a passionate cultural, environmental, and community development practitioner.



Mapping country in innovative ways

The Dulabed Malanbarra and Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation have been funded through the latest round of the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Rainforest Aboriginal Grants to undertake a participatory 3-dimensional modelling process. This process will produce a practical 3-dimensional model of country, enabling Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji peoples to interact with and interpret cultural and other environmental information onto it.

By having access to this tool, stories and culture can be more readily explained and planning for country made more effective. This approach will enable a good two-way learning experience with our Elders passing on cultural knowledge to the young and the young passing on knowledge of how these systems are made and function. It will ensure that culture and relationships are maintained and revitalised.



Updates

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

5-12 July: NAIDOC Week

2 August: National Tree Day

4 August: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

9 August: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

13-23 August: Cairns Indigenous Art Fair

15-23 August: National Science Week

17-23 August : Keep Australia Beautiful Week

4 September: Indigenous Literacy Day

7 September: National Threatened Species Day

7-13 September: National Landcare Week

13 September: Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

26 September: World Cassowary Day

27 September: World Tourism Day

What's coming up in the Wet Tropics...

5-11 October: Australian Wildlife Week

27 September: World Tourism Day

7 October: World Habitat Day

19-25 October: National Water Week

8-15 November: NAIDOC Week

9-15 November: National Recycling Week

RAINFOREST ABORIGINAL NEWS

Issue thirteen : September 2020

World Heritage update

Welcome to edition 13 of the Rainforest Aboriginal News. In this edition we have included the on- ground stories and projects our Bama of the Wet Tropics have been engaged in over the past few months during the COVID-19 period. We showcase the innovative and adaptive ways our groups have been continuing with projects on country to ensure work is still being achieved.

We begin this update by giving thanks to the three valued directors who have moved on from the Authority's board of directors. Dr Leah Talbot, Mr John Courtenay and Ms Anne Clarke all joined the Authority's board in 2015 and have each been key contributors to the strategic directioning, action planning and forward-thinking which has come to characterise this board.

Ms Cheryl Leavy—Executive Director of Partnerships, Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES)—was a welcome guest at the board meeting held in May and provided a briefing

on the new Gurra Gurra Framework 2020-2026. Launched on 4 May 2020, the Gurra Gurra Framework seeks to reframe the way DES does business by holding country and people at the centre of operations and decision-making. The Gurra Gurra vision aims to walk forward together, from two paths to one, in a partnership founded on respect, trust and First Nations peoples' vision for Country and people.

The Authority would like to welcome our new committee members to the Wet Tropics Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).

On a final note we would like to congratulate all the applicants who were successful in our 2019-20 and 2020-21 Rainforest Aboriginal Grants programs and look forward to seeing the projects achieved—more information on those projects is included in this edition.

Phil Rist

Director, Wet Tropics Management Authority Board



Tourism in the Wet Tropics

Tourism and world heritage sites across the globe have an important relationship. When done sustainably, tourism brings economic benefit to areas and supports local livelihoods, particularly for Indigenous peoples. It also plays a significant role in contributing to the long term sustainability of world heritage sites directly and on a global scale.

The Authority is collaborating with Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples, the tourism industry, conservation sector and agency partners to work towards a sustainable, resilient future for tourism in the World Heritage Area.

The plan's promise to visitors is to ensure they experience the outstanding natural and cultural values of the Wet Tropics through making a genuine and mutually beneficial connection with nature, Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples and our region's inspiring storytellers, becoming advocates for the place and leaving enriched.

A draft plan will be available for comment in early October. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to comment on the draft, please email emma.hedditch@wtma.qld.gov.au.

NRM update

The Traditional Owner Leadership Group has been active finalising a refresh of the Regional Agreement and has met a number of times with partners including Terrain NRM and the Wet Tropics Management Authority. Called the supplementary agreement, this refresh process is about taking forward the discussions with government and finding commitments to the process.

I've been involved in discussions with Terrain's Chelsy Maloney about the potential development of 'cassowary credits'. While it is early days, the credits are another way of looking at biodiversity offsets and they're an exciting concept for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples to be part of.

Traditional Owners have provided input into the Tropical North Queensland Blue Green Economic Stimulus package. It's calling for investment in this region as a COVID financial recovery mechanism. A component for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples in particular is fire management and associated job creation.

A coalition of more than 20 industry and environmental organisations from tourism, commerce, education, local government, environment and Indigenous sectors are behind the package. It's currently a proposal and it is still early days, but organisations are working hard to actively promote the \$180 million package designed to create jobs in north Queensland that will also strengthen the community and our environment.

Barry Hunter
Director, Terrain
NRM Board



Yirrganydji rangers building capacity in fire management

Since 2015, the Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation have been administering the Yirrganydji Land and Sea Ranger Program which has been involved in a range of different cultural and natural resource management activities on the coast between Cairns and Port Douglas in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

In recent times, the Yirrganydji rangers have become more involved in fire management. We understand that fire plays an important role in land management and provides benefits not only to the environment, but to our people, community and culture.

With the recent bush fire events, this indicates the need and demand to improve on fire management practices, particularly in north Queensland.

Through our project, 'Develop Yirrganydji Fire Management Practices', we hope to build our capacity in fire management such as training, consultation and planning, and acquiring resources so that we can be better engaged in fire activities on-country. We acknowledge and thank the Wet Tropics Management Authority and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for supporting our project.

"we hope to build our capacity in fire management such as training, consultation and planning, and acquiring resources so that we can be better engaged in fire activities on-country"

Muluridji Tribal Aboriginal Corporation on tackling invasive weeds

Amazon frogbit (*Limnobiium laevigatum*) is a floating freshwater plant classed as an invasive weed that has taken over waterways in the Mareeba region. It can rapidly invade and smother waterways and poses a serious biosecurity threat as an introduced species from Central and South America. Muluridji Tribal Aboriginal Corporation have undertaken work to remove this invasive species of weed that causes significant impacts in waterways that are an important source of survival to people.

Muluridji Tribal Aboriginal Corporation have been fighting the battle against

Amazon frogbit and have encountered problems with funding. There have been previous infestations that have come back due to lack of funding—more is needed to control and eradicate this invasive weed. Traditional Owner and Muluridji Elder Auntie Rhonda said the funding has not gone far enough. It is also hard to get workers to remove the plant as no-one wants to be neck deep in water. Mareeba Shire Council are currently assisting Muluridji Tribal Aboriginal Corporation with letters of support to gain more funding to remove this introduced species from their waterways.

Anyone who would like to help with clearing the waterways is encouraged to contact Muluridji Tribal Aboriginal Corporation at muluridji@ntbc.nth@yahoo.com



Jabalbina undertake Snapper Island clean up and compliance training

On 31 July, Jabalbina Rangers and Eastern Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners, Alfie and Johnny Diamond conducted a 'Welcome to Country' ceremony at Snapper Island for Tangaroa Blue Ceo Heidi Tait and the Federal Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management, Trevor Evans, before attending a marine debris clean-up on the island. The ranger manager and Traditional Owners took this opportunity to discuss future funding needs that would complement waste reduction through our healthy

Jalun planning and EKY goals to ensure our waters are clean and healthy.

On 6 July, Jabalbina ranger Anthea Solomon and ranger manager John Dockrill completed compliance training with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in Cairns. Trainer Andrew Bates of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Paul Cochran, former Senior Compliance Manager for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority attended a patrol with the team.



"It's up to all of us look after country and land."

Rainforest Aboriginal Grants Update

The Rainforest Aboriginal Grants Program has now closed and a total of 23 applications were received for the two rounds. The Authority is pleased to announce that the following applications were successful in securing funding for their submitted projects.

2019/20 (Round One) Total Funding: \$40,000

Djunbunji Ltd 'Pine Creek Walking Trail' Project - \$10,000

Dulabad Malanbarra and Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation (DMYAC) 'Participatory 3D Mapping for Dulabad Malanbarra and Yidinji Country' Project - \$9,972

Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation 'Cultural Heritage recording, protection and evaluation' Project - \$10,000

Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation 'Development of Yirrganydji Fire Management Practices' Project - \$10,000

Gunggandji-Mandingalabay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate Aboriginal Corporation 'Develop Cultural Burning Plan' Project - \$10,000 (funded through the Climate Change budget)

2020/21 (Round Two) Total Funding: \$40,000

Girringun Aboriginal Corporation 'Reprint of Wabu Jananyu' Project - \$5,000

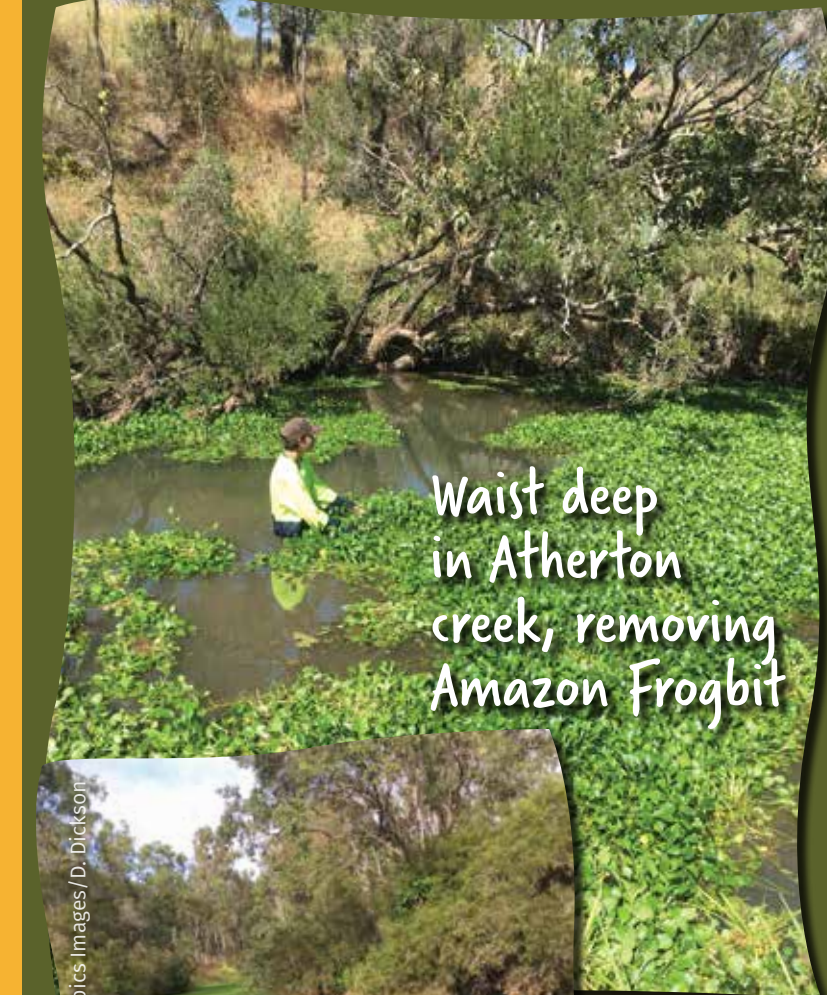
Buluwai Indigenous Corporation 'Indigenous-led Tourism Handbook' Project - \$10,000

Wanyurr-Majay Aboriginal Corporation 'Gulgibarra Cultural Mapping & Cultural Planning' Project - \$7,500

Jumbun Limited 'Rainforest Aboriginal Eco-Network Training Workshop' Project - \$10,000; and

Malenbarra Aboriginal Corporation 'Recording and management of significant Malanbarra sites in the Little Mulgrave Valley' Project - \$7,500

WTMA World Heritage Connections team members field day.



Waist deep in Atherton creek, removing Amazon Frogbit



Amazon Frogbit invades waterways in Mareeba, Before and after images of the work undertaken by Muluridji Tribal Aboriginal corporation.