Rainforest Aboriginal News

Welcome to edition 13 of the Rainforest Aboriginal News. In this edition we have included on-ground stories and projects our Bama of the Wet Tropics has been engaged in over the past few months during the COVID-19 pandemic. We showcase the innovative and adaptive ways our groups have been continuing with projects and initiatives for the Wet Tropics region. We also highlight the Wet Tropics Management Authority’s vision for Country and people.

The plan’s promise to visitors is to ensure they experience the outstanding natural and cultural values of the Wet Tropics through a making a positive and materially beneficial connection with nature. Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples and our regions engaging storytelling, becoming advocates for the place and building strong ties.

Tourism in the Wet Tropics

Tourism and world heritage sites across the globe have an important relationship. When done sustainably, tourism brings economic benefits to areas, as well as directly and indirectly for Indigenous peoples. It also plays a significant role in contributing to the long-term sustainability of world heritage sites 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.

Updates

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

- 5 to 10 July: NAIDOC Week
- 12 to 20 July: Aboriginal National Science Week
- 22 to 30 July: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child’s Day

NRM update

The Traditional Owner Leadership Group has been active finalising a number 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 fresh process is about taking forward the discussions with government and finding commitments to the process.

I have been involved in discussions with Terrain’s Ashley Doherty about the potential development of ‘cassowary credits’. While it is early days, the credits are another way of looking at biodiversity offsets and they are an exciting concept for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples and our region’s Blue Green Economic Stimulus Package. It is calling for investment in this region as a CDIO financial recovery mechanism. A component for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples in particular is management and associated job creation.

A coalition of more than 20 industry and environmental organisations from terrain, community, education, local government 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 also strengthen the infrastructure and community service.

An exciting concept for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples is discovering the Gurra Gurra Framework 2020–2026. Launched on 4 May 2020, the Gurra Gurra Framework was developed to refine the way DES does business by building capacity and people at the centre of operations and decision-making. The Gurra Gurra vision aims to work together, from two paths to one, in a partnership founded on respect, trust and First Nations peoples’ wish for Country and people.

The Authority would like to welcome all the new contribution members to the Wet Tropics Community Consultation Committee (TCC) and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).

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

NAIDOC Week

To Infrastructure’s newest committee member

The Wet Tropics Management Authority is pleased to welcome Green Street to its Community Consultative Committee.

Green Street is a local Wet Tropics Management Authority supporter and a strong advocate of rainforest and world heritage sites. We thank Green Street for being a valuable member of our Authority and look forward to a continued relationship.

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

- 5–11 October: Australian Wildlife Week
- 20 September: World Tourism Day
- 7 October: World Habitat Day
- 15–21 October: National Water Week
- 16–November: NAIDOC Week
- 20 November: National Recycling Week

On the new Gurra Gurra Framework 2020–2026. Launched on 4 May 2020, the Gurra Gurra Framework was developed to refine the way DES does business by building capacity and people at the centre of operations and decision-making. The Gurra Gurra vision aims to work together, from two paths to one, in a partnership founded on respect, trust and First Nations peoples’ wish for Country and people.

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World Heritage update

In 2019, Green Street received a Community Champions Cassowary Award from the Wet Tropics Management Authority for its outstanding work in the region.

In 2018, Gavin received a Community Champions Cassowary Award from the Wet Tropics Management Authority for its outstanding work in the region.

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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.

We acknowledge Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples 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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Yirrganydji rangers building capacity in fire management

Muluridji Tribal Aboriginal Corporation on tackling invasive weeds

Jabalbina undertake Snapper Island clean up and compliance training

Rainforest Aboriginal Grants Update

WTMA World Heritage Connections team members held day