

KANTRI LAIF

News for North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Managers

Kimberley...Northern Territory...Gulf of Carpentaria..Cape York...Torres Strait

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Puija Barunga and Janet Oobagooma enjoying the trip
Photos: Tom Vigilante

Visiting Saltwater Country

By Tom Vigilante

Mayala, Dambimangari, Unguu and Balangarra Traditional Owners of the North Kimberley coast have been doing sea trips in 2005 as part of the Saltwater Country Project. Elders were keen to get back to country to teach young people the stories for places and to keep an eye on developments on the coast.

For many people it was their first time seeing their country. Everyone was concerned about the number of charter tourist boats visiting places without permission. There are also lots of new pearl farms and other commercial ventures starting up.

The Saltwater Country Project is about making a sea country plan that covers all of the important places and issues. This includes getting sea ranger programs started. Funding comes from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and the project is coordinated by the Kimberley Land Council's Land & Sea Unit and the Department of Indigenous Affairs.



Balangarra traditional owners at Koolama Bay in the mouth of the King George River.



(Left) John Daley, Joe Morrison, Tom Birch, Gordon Duff, Des Hill, Norman Fry, John Christopherson (back), Christine Parter, Wayne Bergman, Peter Yu and Kelly Gardner

Message from NAILSMA Executive Officer

In early September, NAILSMA held its inaugural Board meeting in Cairns to discuss and plan the future development of not only the alliance, but also the future development of the Indigenous estate across the north, with respect to land and sea management and potential future economic activities.

The Board is made up of partners from the north and importantly, contains a mix of current and future partners but also community members from each region. The NAILSMA Board is chaired by Mr Peter Yu, who also represents the alliance on the CRC Tropical Savannas Board of Management. The broad outcomes of the board were to update the partners on the activities of the alliance, as well as to work towards a strategic approach to the development of the Indigenous estate to create to maximum benefits to Traditional Owners, who desire to remain, return or reoccupy their traditional estates.

The main points discussed by the board included consolidating membership to include the Carpentaria and Torres Straits to participate, confirming the chair position, development of a 'Brand' for NAILSMA

to articulate the opportunities that are presented to Indigenous people in the North and developing a strategic direction on identified targets. These targets included; tourism, mining and the general resources boom in the North, pastoral, border patrol and quarantine, landuse planning, bush products i.e. food and medicines, correctional services, construction industry, carbon credits, Indigenous knowledge maintenance, digital networking, youth leadership, communications, fire management and water rights.

Overall the Board, whilst not attended by a core partner in Balkanu, was a successful meeting to commence the development of a strategic approach to management and development of the north's Indigenous estate. It is timely that these discussions are being held in the current political context where a number of opportunities do in fact exist. A 'draft' vision and mission statement was created and will be further developed over time in dialogue with the Board, Steering Committee, partners and communities. Unfortunately Mr Gerhard Pearson was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment.

The members of the board are:

Mr Peter Yu – Independent Chair
Mr Wayne Bergmann – KLC Executive Director
Mr Des Hill – Kimberley Community Representative
Mr Norman Fry – NLC CEO
Mr John Daley – NT Top End Community Representative
Mr Gerhardt Pearson – Balkanu CEO (Absent at meeting)
Mr Peter Guivarra – Cape York Community Representative
Ms Kelly Gardner – Carpentaria Land Council (Standing in for CEO)
Ms Christine Parter – Carpentaria Community Representative
Mr Gordon Duff – CEO CRC Tropical Savannas
Mr Joe Morrison – EO NAILSMA

Also in attendance were Mr Wayne Seekee from Torres Strait Regional Authority and as observers were Mr John Sheldon, Tracker Tilmouth, John Christopherson, Tom Birch and Rod Kennett.

The alliance is also working to consolidate our efforts to date but continue to build and expand to support initiatives in the north during 2006 and 2007. Much has been achieved by the alliance and its partners to date, and we look forward to further expansion in the future. Important to this is the continued dialogue with Traditional Owners who obviously own the alliance in the first instance and to work with other collaborators to ensure that the hard battles in the past are followed on in a manner that builds on the achievements of our old people.

Finally, it's been a very hectic year, and difficult for all of us at times, given the circumstances we find ourselves in, however there is no doubt that Indigenous management and development of country will provide rewards for some of our kids down the track and ensure that they are able to enjoy their country, culture and kin. Given the population projections of Indigenous people in the north and the increasing pressures from many fronts, it's imperative that Indigenous people stay in the driving seat to determine their own futures.

For information relating to any of the points above, please contact me at <joe.morrison@cdu.edu.au> or on Tel. (08) 89466 702

Juicy News



Photo: Greg Calvert

An unusual tree with an unusual reputation could be the means for a new industry in the remote township of Pormpuraaw on Cape York Peninsula. *Morinda citrifolia* is famous across the south Pacific for the alternative health drink, Noni Juice—but its taste is unlike any other fruit, with some likening it to a combination of blue-veined cheese and hot mustard! Yet this hot fruit could become hot property for the Christmas Creek Aboriginal Corporation, which plans to enter the fledgling Australian Noni juice market with its first plantation scheduled for picking in 2006.

Eddie Holroyd, chairman of the corporation, said that the Noni Juice production project would mean a steady income for the Pormpuraaw people. Pormpuraaw is located in the Gulf of Carpentaria near Weipa and supports between 750 and 1000 residents.

“Aboriginal people have always chewed the fruit as a medicine for many illnesses,” said Mr Holroyd. He also doesn't have a problem with the fruit's taste.

“I like it; it's very different to every other fruit, like apples and oranges. It's bitter and smells horrible—but it does have a lot of good properties.”

There is no previous history of large-scale production in Australia, but the fruit is starting to be grown south of Cairns, where a growers' association is now based. In the early stages, the Christmas Creek Noni juice will be sold to the association, which Tony says is a good step into the market for the corporation.

The fruit does have high amounts of vitamin C, but its reputation as a health tonic is still largely anecdotal. However, it is used for ailments as diverse as the common cold, influenza, diarrhoea, asthma, coughs and sore throats, not to mention relief from joint pain, clearing skin blemishes, heart palpitations and cancer.

“It's powerful and potent stuff,” said Eddie. “Take my word for it, it won't cure you in a day or two, but over the years you will feel as good as gold again!”

Contact Eddie Holroyd, Christmas Creek Aboriginal Corporation, Tel. 0420 104 164
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Story by Kate O'Donnell

Photo: Felicity Chapman



Dugong and Marine Turtle Project

By Rod Kennett

Traditional Owners from the Kimberley, Top End of the Northern Territory, southern Gulf of Carpentaria, Cape York and the Torres Strait are joining forces to develop community-driven approaches to the sustainable management of marine turtles and dugongs in northern Australia.

Coordinated by the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA), the Dugong and Marine Turtle project takes a fresh approach to dugong and turtle management, by ensuring that Traditional Owners and Indigenous communities are driving research and management activities.

Project partners comprise the Kimberley Land Council, Northern Land Council, Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Cape York Balkanu Development Corporation and the Torres Strait Regional Authority. It is these organisations who will oversee the delivery of the project in selected ‘pilot’ or ‘trial’ communities in their regions.

A Technical Reference Group (TRG) of researchers, and government, non-government and industry representatives will provide professional advice and expertise on dugong and marine turtles and management issues. With funding of \$3.8 million over 2.5 years from the Australian Government’s Natural Heritage Trust and cash and in-kind contributions from project partners and participating communities of over \$3 million, the project represents a substantial commitment by all involved.

The project began in January 2005 and the first meeting of project partners and the TRG was held in February 2005 in Darwin.



Nalkuma Burrawanga and Banula Marika releasing turtle

At this meeting people discussed Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives on dugong and turtle management and the aims and objectives of the project. It marked the start of the project planning phase in which project partners worked with Traditional Owners to develop Regional Activity Plans (RAPs). The RAPs determine how the project will be delivered on the ground, identifying Traditional Owners needs and aspirations, the issues and threats facing dugong and turtle management, and the management and research activities that communities wish to undertake during the project. Development and revision of the RAPs was assisted by TRG members who provided technical and scientific advice and comments. Revised RAPs were presented and discussed at the second meeting of the Project Partners and TRG held in July in Cairns.

At the July meeting project partners worked together to ensure that funding was allocated fairly taking into account the needs and circumstances of each partner and participating communities.



Photo: Rod Kennett

(From Left) TSCRC CEO, Professor Gordon Duff and Paul Sampi from One Arm Point, Western Australia, at July meeting in Cairns.



Project Partners and Technical Reference Group at July meeting, in Cairns.

This was particularly challenging because the strong community interest in the project (and high costs of working in remote areas) meant that collectively partners were asking for twice the amount available.

One of the meeting participants described the meeting as:

“A forum generously garnished with mutual respect and a desire to reach practical agreement and resolution of very difficult issues”.

Despite the many different backgrounds and locations of the people and communities involved in the project, many similar issues and activities were identified. All communities identified the need to record and value Indigenous Knowledge and customary practice as a basis of developing sustainable management arrangements.

Participants also wanted to actively manage and monitor dugong and turtle populations and habitats, as well as to work with other Indigenous people and scientists to improve understanding of the many threats and issues faced by dugong and turtle, including Indigenous hunting.

Across northern Australia, NAILSMA will work with project partners to develop standardised ways of recording and storing information, and to conduct research projects such as a study of the cultural and economic importance of dugongs and turtles to Indigenous livelihoods.

By identifying and creating opportunities for training and for exchange visits between participating communities from different regions, the NAILSMA project will assist people to learn and share new ideas, knowledge and experiences. Communication activities such as videos, media stories, art competitions and the soon to be launched NAILSMA web site will promote communication amongst partners and improve public understanding of the rights, roles, responsibilities and achievements of Indigenous people in managing dugong and marine turtles.

The project planning phase winds up in late 2005, following formal approval of the RAPs by the NHT Joint Steering Committee and the launch of on-ground activities in early 2006.

NAILSMA, the Project Partners and communities believe that by working together they can contribute to a long term vision of healthy and sustainable populations of dugong and marine turtles that support Indigenous livelihoods across north Australia.

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New staff join NAILSMA



NAILSMA Fire Project Officer, Jean Fenton

Jean Fenton is the new Fire Project Officer for NAILSMA. She has taken over from Wayne Davis and is based in Darwin. Jean has worked in caring for country projects with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in both North Queensland and the Kimberley for the last five years. She has been employed for a one year period to progress greater involvement of Aboriginal people in fire management programs across Northern Australia.

If you would like to talk to Jean you can contact her on (08) 8946 6820.

Photo: Alan Anderson



(left) Rod Kennett and Peter Christophersen at the NT Innovation Awards Dinner. Peter Christophersen, Sandra McGregor and Violet Lawson were finalists for their wetlands fire management project in Kakadu National Park.

Rod Kennett was born and grew up in suburban Sydney, NSW. In the mid 1980s, after completing a science degree at Macquarie University in Sydney, he travelled north to Darwin to enjoy the tropics, go fishing and study crocodiles. Some twenty years later he is still in Darwin. While in Darwin he has worked on a range of wildlife research and management projects. He has completed an Honours degree in Zoology at The Australian National University and then a PhD in Zoology at the University of Queensland and the (then) fledgling Northern Territory University (recently re-named Charles Darwin University). In addition to this formal education, Rod worked with Aboriginal people across the Top End building his experience and

gaining an understanding of indigenous perspectives on wildlife management and looking after country.

In the mid 1990s as a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Indigenous Natural and Cultural Resource Management at the Northern Territory University, he worked with Aboriginal people in eastern Arnhem Land and the Gulf country on indigenous management of marine turtles. In 2001 he moved to Kakadu National Park as the Natural Resource Management Project Officer before taking on the newly created position of Natural and Cultural Programs Manager. In 2005 he moved back to Darwin to take on the role of Coordinator of the Dugong and Marine Turtle Management Project. The project is a collaboration of NAILSMA partners across northern Australia aimed at developing regional an community capacity for the sustainable community based management of dugongs and marine turtles.



Rod and dinner for 10!

Photo: Ilse Kiessling



Forum participants

NAILSMA holds Annual Forum

The North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance, recently held its second annual forum bringing together Traditional Owners from across Northern Australia to share their experiences and concerns around a variety of land and sea management and Indigenous knowledge related issues.

The NAILSMA forum was held at Bizant in Lakefield National Park, Queensland on the 12th and 13th of September 2006. About 70 TOs from across northern Australia attended.

NAILSMA coordinator Joe Morrison said the get together, held deep in *Lama Lama* country in the Cape York hinterland 80 kilometres northwest of Laura, provided an opportunity for NAILSMA staff to report back to TOs on what had happened over the year and to seek their further endorsement for the alliance and ongoing NAILSMA projects.

“We held a highly successful NAILSMA board meeting in Cairns yesterday, during which we floated a number of ideas aimed at securing people’s rights to manage and benefit from their country in a post land rights era, and we want to follow up on these ideas during the forum and over the coming months,” Joe said.

He added that in the meeting Peter Yu, NAILSMA Chair and representative on the Tropical Savannas CRC Board, had talked about a ‘culture based economy’. Peter said that northern Australia is in the grip of a resources boom and Indigenous Australians as major land owners and managers should benefit from this boom with innovative and culturally appropriate planning for commercial development.



Dr Tommy George (Snr) welcomes people to country.

“Now is the time to build on and move to the next phase of claiming and defending rights to country, to a time when our people can get relief, enjoyment and benefits out of exercising these rights” Peter said.

According to Steve Johnson, NAILSMA Project Officer, TOs have made it clear that Indigenous Knowledge (IK) is the key to the success of this next phase. For this reason the forum was built around this theme. Steve added, that the meeting took place after the hand back of country to *Lama Lama* People, which provided an appropriate setting for the talks that followed.



Traditional Owner Albert Lakefield and grandson Woibo.

Photo: Lisa Binge



Handover Ceremony, Albert Lakefield signs papers.

“After years of struggle, *Lama Lama* people have some of their land back and this is something to celebrate but now, like many TOs, they need real time support, not just empty words, to enter the next phase and benefit from the rights they should enjoy on their country”.

TOs talked about this need for support and many other things in some workshops which were held on the second day of the forum. One of the most important things discussed was the connection between people, country and Indigenous Knowledge. Col Lawrence a senior TO from Kowanyama said that in many cases, when Indigenous people got their land back, it was sick because it had not been looked after properly, “That country, government bugger him up” said Col.

Dean Yibarbuk from Arnhem Land followed up on Col’s words adding that where TOs had been taken off their country the land had suffered. He said,

“The land is crying itself, because there [are] no people”.

John Christopherson from Garig Gunak Barlu National Park in the N.T. expressed these concerns, saying that, “Country need[s] laughter. If we don’t look after country, we’ll shrivel up”.

Steve said that it was clear from this and other comments made during the forum, that the health of people and country was closely connected and for TOs Indigenous Knowledge or Law is the key to maintaining the health of both.

“We built this meeting around an Indigenous Knowledge theme so that TOs could reclaim ownership of the term and what they mean by it, which is sometimes different to how whitefellas see things...for many countrymen caring for country

includes a whole cultural dimension – ceremony, ritual, hunting, harvest, family, fire and knowledge – where all things are connected and make an essential contribution to the maintenance of healthy people and healthy country”.

Don Banu from the Torres Strait summed up this general feeling stating that “Indigenous Knowledge *needs* to form the basis for *all* [land and sea] management plans” on the Indigenous estate. However, all the TOs noted that it was hard to get proper support for these activities.

Some of the main challenges faced in applying Indigenous Knowledge to caring for country were discussed in detail in the workshops. Key areas of concern included transfer of knowledge, ownership and knowledge protection, education; and developing linkages with other TOs and research organizations.

Steve said that the information from the forum and other workshops held across northern Australia will form part of a strategy NAILSMA is putting together to help TOs get the support they need to look after kin and country properly, their way.

“We are hoping that the strategy will provide Indigenous Land and Sea Managers with a valuable resource for getting business done as well as educating whitefellas as to what’s important on country and how to work properly with Indigenous Australians”.

It was made very clear during the forum that Indigenous Knowledge is vital to successful cultural land and sea management.

“The knowledge is very powerful. If that knowledge is gone, we are gone too”.

Dean Yibarbuk



Dean Yibarbuk, talks at the forum.

(NAILSMA Forum cont...)



Gail Fischer and Tommy George at the forum.

A forum report and DVD from the forum will be published in January 2006. A draft copy of the strategy will be available mid 2006.

For more information contact: Steve Johnson, Indigenous Knowledge Project Officer, Tel.(08) 8946 6357 Email: <steve.johnson@cdu.edu.au>

THANKS!

NAILSMA wants to thank everyone that travelled to participate in the forum and the Caring for Country Unit staff at Balkanu for all their hard work in preparing for the forum. Especially the Buru mob, Rod, Aunty Gail and family - thanks for your help. Kerry Kiss, for her hard work. Also, thankyou caterers from Kalpower Outstation, for feeding us.

Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation

Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation has supported the Traditional Knowledge Recording Project from its early stages through the Caring for Country Unit.

Balkanu was established in 1996 and is owned by the Cape York Aboriginal Charitable Trust, on behalf of the Aboriginal People of Cape York.

Balkanu is committed to supporting Aboriginal People of Cape York through initiatives which deliver positive outcomes for the economy, society and culture of Cape York people.

Chaired by Gerhardt Pearson, Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation based

in Cairns, employs over forty people in fields such as land and sea management, housing, cultural maintenance, property planning, business development, communications and advocacy.

Balkanu has developed partnerships with educational institutes, land councils, health organisations, Indigenous enterprise development, corporate businesses, Cape York organisations, philanthropic groups and government departments, including Cape York Land Council, Queensland Government, Westpac, Optus, NAILSMA and the Christensen Fund to name a few.

Caring for Country Unit

The Caring for Country Unit is also a part of Balkanu. It's a flexible unit that supports traditional owner groups in Cape York Peninsula to look after country. The unit also provides links to organisations for collaborative projects and scientific research activities. All projects undertaken by Balkanu are collaborative agreements with traditional owners, with benefits going back to traditional owners.

Some of the activities undertaken by the Caring for Country unit include property

management planning, ethno-ecology and recording traditional knowledge, investigating commercial partnerships, natural resource management planning, and coastal and marine planning. The unit will also be involved in the NAILSMA turtle and dugong management project.

Caring for Country Unit,

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Celebration of knowledge

TWO Kuku-Thaypan Elders, George Musgrave (Snr) and Tommy George (Snr) pictured right, were awarded doctorates from James Cook University in May, 2005. Dr George Musgrave and Dr Tommy George are Senior Elders of the Kuku-Thaypan clan and are the only two holders of their traditional knowledge and are fluent in the Kuku-Thaypan language.

Drs George and Musgrave were both born on their country in the North West region of Lakefield National Park, or what is traditionally known as Kuku-Thaypan country. Tommy is the younger of the two at 78; George is 85. George and Tommy can always be found 'on country' working to teach, demonstrate and mentor Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to look after the country in the traditional way.

During the time when police and trackers took Aboriginal children away from their families and placed them in missions under the 'Aboriginal Protection Act', the Elders (then boys) were able to remain on country by being hidden in mailbags by the station owner, Fredrick Sheppard, whom they had worked for since the age of ten. They avoided becoming part of the Stolen Generation and were able to stay on country with their family and learn about the significant Indigenous knowledge system of the Kuku-Thaypan people. They learnt traditional law and language, management practices of their country and how to live off the land.

After working on stations, George was recruited by the police force as a tracker. He had intricate knowledge of the area and helped police find lost tourists and missing children. He also helped to capture criminals and locate drug crops.

Tommy became head ranger of his homelands using Aboriginal land management practices to manage the Park. Both he and George are working as self-appointed care-takers of Lakefield National Park in the hope of realising their life-long ambitions of country being run in a sustainable way under traditional land, water



Photo: Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation

Dr George Musgrave, left, and Dr Tommy George

and natural resource management practices.

A great number of linguists, anthropologist, ecological researchers, botanists and social researchers have had their careers launched from the knowledge passed on by Tommy and George and other Indigenous Elders.

They are involved in a Traditional Knowledge Recording Project (TKRP) in collaboration with Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation. The project, which has been running for three years, records all aspects of their language and culture, from fire, land and water management, to Indigenous medicines, uses for flora and fauna and how it all inter-relates.

The doctorates recognise their traditional knowledge, contributions to research, and their role in maintaining a significant Indigenous cultural system and its survival for future generations by way of the TKRP.

To celebrate Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation and the Traditional Knowledge Recording Project also hosted a family day at Munro Park, featuring Indigenous music, dancers, food stalls and guest speakers.

Article courtesy of Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation and Savanna Links.

The Traditional Knowledge Recording Project was initiated by the Kuku Thaypan elders who wanted their knowledge, beliefs and practices recorded and preserved for present and future use by their families and youth. The project recognises elders as mentors and knowledge holders and their desire to revitalise youth and culture.



Traditional Knowledge Recording Project

Elders are concerned that identity, culture, language and inherited knowledge of Indigenous clans are rapidly disappearing.

The Traditional Knowledge Recording Project pilot program involved Kuku-Thaypan elders George Musgrave (Snr) and Tommy George (Snr) and Victor Steffensen recording, demonstrating, documenting and utilising their traditional knowledge to address key areas of concern for their community.

The project has developed a recording database that potentially can be used in all communities across Australia to record traditional knowledge and to implement traditional practices in a contemporary setting. Addressing issues relating to poor land management practices, by developing traditional protocols for land management and cultural management.

Activities already underway include conducting burns in traditional style to promote regrowth and prevent destructive large fires around ceremony and rock art areas, monitoring of a scared lake area and story place based in the Lakefield National Park, and the monitoring of waterways, lagoons and fish stocks.

The project has already gained international recognition for its fire management practices through the University of California.

Kuku-Thaypan elders have demonstrated to other groups that the TKRP and digital technology was easy to use, trustworthy and cost-effective. Kuku-Yalanji, Djabugay and groups from Aurukun have adopted the methods of the project and are undertaking their own knowledge recording on country.

Young people are being trained in how to use cameras for recording and the database for storing knowledge collected, to deliver the project in their own homelands.



With more clan groups interested in taking on the methodology, the main concern is ongoing project support. The opportunities surrounding the TKRP are too valuable to lose as the elders are providing direction through sustaining their knowledge for all future generations.

Project Coordinator Victor Steffensen said, if the knowledge is not saved in a few more years' time we might be saying,

“If only we got our act together when our old people were still alive.”

The project is funded by Balkanu, NHT, Envirofund, Cape York Peninsula Development Association, CRC Tropical Savannas Management, The Christensen Fund, University of California, James Cook University, ACF, University of Technology – Sydney, NAEA, Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships, Telstra and Qwestacon.

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Traditional Knowledge Recording Project

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Badu Rangers Off To a Great Start

Badu Island in the Torres Strait have initiated their own ranger program employing three official Land and Sea Rangers to participate in land, sea and cultural resource management and community and visitor education.

The Ranger Program is one of many positive outcomes negotiated in connection with an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) between the native title holders for Badu Island, Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation, and the Australian Government over the establishment of a radar facility on Pumpkin Island (Koey Ngurtai).

The new Rangers, Horace Nona, Naseli Tamwoy and Jimmy Panuel, are involved in many activities on behalf of the native title holders for Badu Island, including land management, cultural resource management, fisheries surveillance and monitoring, tourist/visitor management, community education and liaison. Since they began in March this year, the three have inspected beaches and roads for fallen debris and wildlife; addressed litter management on beaches, around swimming holes and at sea; and erected interpretive signage and fencing around culturally significant places.

The program is administered by Badu Island Council on behalf of Mura Badulgal, with the assistance of Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and the Regional Natural Resource Management Facilitator who provides capacity-building support and access to training. Funding is provided for the program under the Natural Heritage Trust, the Indigenous Employment Program of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the National Landcare Program.

TSRA Chairperson, Toshie Kris believes the program is unique in that it is driven by, and directly benefits, the Badu Island community and goes some way towards ensuring appropriate local management and protection of land and sea country. Importantly, the project also pioneers an approach to Torres Strait Islander participation in activities that contribute to border protection and the achievement of strategic regional outcomes in collaboration with other agencies.

“The Ranger Program has demonstrated the Australian Government’s preparedness to work together with the native title holders in this



Naseli Tamwoy and Jimmy Panuel, Badu Rangers

Photo: Torres Strait Regional Authority

community,” Mr Kris said. “This will assist them in realising some of their aspirations for sustainable management of land and sea country.

“In this case, the Badu Island community has benefited by having three Land and Sea Rangers employed through its Council, which will also greatly enhance the community’s local capacity to support government agencies in their efforts to contribute to sustainable management of the Torres Strait environment,” Mr Kris said.

In the near future, the Badu Island Rangers may have the opportunity to become partners in a cross-regional project to address marine debris and ghost nets across northern Australia.

They will also be involved in activities under the Torres Strait dugong and marine turtle management project which links in with the cross regional project being coordinated through the North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA). This project will soon be underway in five participating regions, from the Kimberley, across the Northern Territory, to the Gulf of Carpentaria, Cape York and Torres Strait.

“The Rangers have a broad charter of responsibility and although it’s early days, they have made some very good progress towards protecting their land and sea. With continued community support their positive impact on the environment can make a significant difference,” Mr Kris said.

Article courtesy of Torres Strait Regional Authority

QES provides Indigenous opportunities



(From left) Julie Jones, Harry Tamwoy, Samantha Leo, Alf Joyce, Mary Barlow, Mark Sarago and Claine Underwood, at the Laura Festival 2005.



Mary Barlow, SES volunteer from Wujal Wujal Far North QLD

Photos: Courtesy of QAS

Queensland's Department of Emergency Services (DES) provides services covering all phases of emergency and disaster management across a single portfolio, making it unique in Australia. DES works with Indigenous communities in Cape York and Torres Strait to build communities' ability to deal with emergency situations, natural disasters and promote public safety.

The department works in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to provide a range of services including pre-hospital care, counter disaster and fire and rescue services, and is also working collaboratively with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to build their capacity to prepare for, prevent and respond to a range of emergencies and disasters in their respective communities.

About 8000 DES staff, working with more than 85,000 volunteers in organisations such as the State Emergency Service, the Rural Fire Service, Australian Volunteer Coastguard and Volunteer Marine Rescue associations, and Local Ambulance Committees, deliver ambulance, fire, search, rescue and disaster management services, along with a vast number of community safety programs.

Indigenous Coordination Unit

In 2003, the Director-General established the DES Indigenous Coordination Unit based in Cairns. This unit works closely with the DES Community Engagement Unit to engage with Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities around emergency management and community safety initiatives.

The unit ensures consultation and negotiation with relevant government, non-government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to meet their specific needs. In partnership with allied agencies, the unit contributes to the development and implementation of community plans.

Training Indigenous communities for emergencies

Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) Field Officers have been appointed in Indigenous communities in the Cape and Torres Strait to work with community health providers, State Emergency Service (SES) and Rural Fire volunteers to form strategies to improve emergency procedures, pre-hospital care and non-emergency health care transport.

Members of communities including SES and Rural Fire volunteers are trained to provide basic life support skills and to respond to emergencies to give first aid until the arrival of ambulance services, aeromedical services or medical care from Queensland Health.

The Emergency Services Cadet Program has been introduced in a number of Indigenous communities in Queensland. Cadets are school-aged children trained by State Emergency Service volunteers, Rural Fire Training officers and QAS Field Officers. The Emergency Services Cadet Program training includes skills and knowledge in first aid, general rescue, communications, map reading and navigation.

(Cont next page..)



Joanne Thomson, Paul Elliot, Maria Passi and Rita Palombo from Department of Emergency Services, Indigenous Coordination Unit

(Cont....)

Many Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders throughout Queensland have now received training and have been successful in obtaining certificates in first aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). This training is critical especially in remote areas where immediate medical attention is unavailable.

Knowledge of basic life support skills allows community members to commence appropriate treatment prior to the arrival of medical care.



Shane completing the Conservation and land Management Program, conducted by the Douglas TAFE "on Country" at Bulimba Station in Far North Queensland. The Fire Management component was conducted by Rural Fire Training Officer Jamie Haskell.

Indigenous work opportunities

The Department of Emergency Services (DES) has recruited Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders into the permanent, part-time and volunteer ranks of the Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service. A recruitment program is conducted on a regular basis and encourages Indigenous people to apply for positions across the emergency services.

For more information contact: Paul Elliot, QAS State Coordinator Tel. (07) 4039 8264 Email: <pelliot@emergency.qld.gov.au> Website: <www.emergency.qld.gov.au>



(Left) David Claudie, Kaanju traditional owner and Chairman of Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation and Lyndon Schneiders, from The Wilderness Society

In June this year, the Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation, representing the Kaanju people of the Wenlock and Pascoe Rivers, and the Wilderness Society (TWS) entered into a Cooperation Agreement.

Chuulangun sign agreement

David Claudie is a senior Kaanju Traditional Owner, chairman of Chuulangun, and signatory to the agreement.

In a recent statement he noted that through the agreement Chuulangun and TWS accept "a shared responsibility to preserve, protect and manage the environment for the benefit of future generations".

Kaanju homelands feature a range of ecosystems that are rich in biodiversity and support a myriad of wildlife. This includes some species found only in the spring-fed lagoons and water systems in and around the free-flowing Wenlock and Pascoe Rivers.

Over a number of years Chuulangun has been developing a sustainable base for land and resource management through regaining a permanent presence on Country, weed and feral management, water management, reinstating fire regimes, and biodiversity conservation.



David and Anthony Esposito, TWS Indigenous Program Manager, at Chuula

This work has led to a comprehensive management plan for Kaanju homelands, and underpins the proposal for the first formal Indigenous Protected Area on the Cape.

“Kaanju people have a plan in place for the protection of our homelands”

David says. “This plan sets out to protect the natural and cultural values of our homelands, and also recognises that people live on the land. We are developing cooperative arrangements and agreements to further our aspirations as primary land managers and to ensure sustainable outcomes for all, in particular the protection of the environment”.

Proper land management and sustaining Country are the basis of the Cooperation Agreement between TWS and Chuulangun. The agreement addresses contemporary land management and environmental issues, and places the Kaanju Land and Resource Management Plan at its centre.

Anthony Esposito, a signatory to the agreement for the Wilderness Society says it is part of “developing a coherent and strategic



Signing the agreement

approach to Indigenous rights in lands and waters, reflecting the inter-relationship between indigenous environmental, spiritual, cultural and economic values and the new challenges of land and water management in Northern Australia”.

Together, Chuulangun and The Wilderness Society are working towards the protection of the Wenlock and Pascoe rivers, the establishment and substantial resourcing of the Indigenous Protected Area, resolution of tenure and the conservation of homelands currently under native title claim, and knowledge-sharing of the ecological and cultural values of Kaanju homelands.

For more information contact: David Claudie,
Chairperson, Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation
Tel. (07) 4060 3240
Email: <chuula@bigpond.com>

Anthony Esposito, Indigenous Programme
Manager, the Wilderness Society
Tel. 041 815 2743
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Gotta take these kids back!

By Hugh Wallace Smith

A unique, pro-active Aboriginal youth project in the Kimberley is helping young people overcome substance abuse and, through teaching them life skills, leading them towards a healthy lifestyle back on country. Elders believe that the spirit will talk to the young people and make them feel good, thinking of where their old people walked.

The Yiriman Youth Project is a community owned and culturally driven young men's and women's project within the Nyikina, Mangala, Walmajarri and Karajarri language regions. This country extends from Bidyadanga in the west Kimberley to Balgo in the southern Kimberley.

The Yiriman Project was initiated by Aboriginal people and began because elders were concerned that some of their young people had no jobs and no future.

Elders (cultural law bosses) from those four language groups developed ideas, over many years, about ways they could stop substance misuse, self-harm and suicide in their communities.

The Elders praised the project, saying the project had helped young people come good and was supporting young people to become leaders themselves, in their own way.

The project promotes life skills and sustainable livelihoods in youth leadership, land management and community development. The project has been successful in getting youth out of urban areas and away from substance abuse and back onto country.

Nyikina/Mangala Elder and Yiriman Founding Director, John Watson says, "We want to show them their base (homelands),"

"We want to make it known to young people that this is where their family lived and hunted around that country. Show'em where their grandfather and grandmother were born, what they ate and how to look after country and animals." Anthony Watson, Nyikina/Mangala Cultural Advisor and Yiriman Director, said.

For many years, these language groups fought to prove their Native Title claims to the federal government.

"Karajarri people had to show the Federal Court their relationship to country." Said Karajarri Chairperson and Yiriman Cultural Advisor, Mervyn Mulardy "Well...we gotta show *our* young people our connection. Take'm out, show'em country and gett'em to look after country,"

The 'Yiriman' tower (Mesa - a small flattop hill) is one of many very important cultural landmarks in the region.

"A lot of people traveled through this countryside, it was a sign for helping people find Jila (waterholes). Yiriman is a place that a lot of people got taken away from.....we gotta take these kids back" describes John Watson.

KALACC Chairman, Walmajarri Elder and Yiriman Cultural Advisor, Joe Brown reinforces the importance of taking youth back to country, "We would like this organisation (Yiriman Project) to take young people back to country."

"If we don't show'em country and identity...you're nothing!"



Photo: Hugh Wallace Smith

(Right to Left) TJ Butt, Nyaburu Cox, Tyrone Butt, Kimberley Watson and Eugene Brown collecting pig blood samples with AQIS, along the Fitzroy River.

The Yiriman Project Experience

Yiriman activities incorporate ‘back to country’ style trips and walks, in projects that focus on youth at risk. The Yiriman project’s main focus is building confidence through culture, working alongside young men and women between 14 to 30 years old.

“We want to do more of these sorts of walks; looking after country, ‘Jila’ (water) and looking after animals - instead of young people stopping around towns and those places... where suicide, drinking and other bad things happening.” Explains Nyikina Elder and experienced Cameleer, Harry Watson.

Yiriman works in partnership with Indigenous organisations in the Kimberley on joint projects, giving youth the opportunity to participate in a variety of projects, including land and sea management projects with the Kimberley Land Council—Land and Sea Unit, the Kimberley Regional Fire Management Project, Kimberley Language Resource Centre, NAILSMA, Natural Heritage Fund, Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, Macquarie and Murdoch Universities.

Youth have also participated in art and crafts trips/workshops with Mangkaja Arts, community driven programs involving preventative bush medicine trips (with Derby Aboriginal Health Service), diversionary programs (camel walks), case management with the Departments of Justice and Community

Development), cultural youth exchanges (Shire of Derby West Kimberley), cultural land management, video documentaries, performing arts and more.

Yiriman maintains support, creates awareness and builds relationships with young men and women throughout these language regions. It also assists the wider Kimberley community by developing opportunities for community youth with a cultural focus.

The Yiriman project currently has limited resources; hence partnerships and project sharing are vital to the sustainability of remote area work. In the future, Yiriman Cultural Advisors would like to support all our communities with similar youth leadership initiatives.

For more information contact: Hugh Wallace Smith Coordinator, The Yiriman Project, Michelle Coles Women’s Project Officer,

Tel. (08) 9191 2911 Fax. (08) 9191 2922

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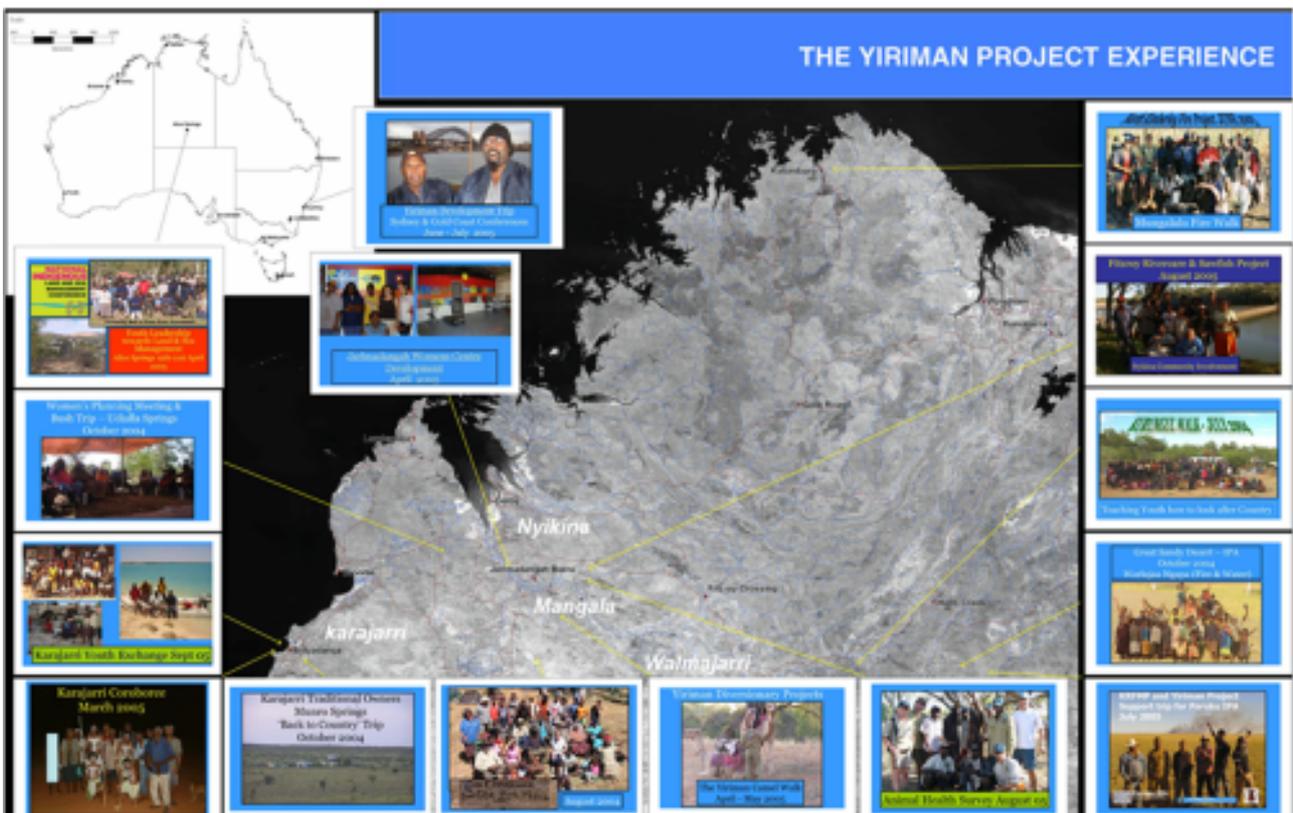


Image: Yiriman Project Map, showing projects Yiriman have been involved in.

Keep Cane Toads out of the Kimberley

Cane Toad



For a free Cane Toad booklet, poster and stickers, contact:
Kimberley Land Council, Derby Office
Tel. (08) 9193 1118

Kimberley Land Council's Land & Sea Unit Staff have developed Cane Toad information for Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley to raise awareness of the threats of the cane toad on bush animals, country and culture.

The project was funded by the Envirofund, the Department of Environment and Heritage with in-kind contributions from Kimberley Land Council, Dept of Agriculture, West Australian Museum and Dept of Environment.

You can get a 20page booklet that shows the difference between Cane Toad eggs and native Kimberley frogs and their eggs. It also includes tips on how to kill Cane Toads, like catching and freezing Cane Toads so they can't harm native bush animals, people or pets when their dead and what your community can do to keep Cane Toads out of the Kimberley.

Researching the Fitzroy

The Barrage at Camballin is the only man-made structure on the main channel of the Fitzroy River and was built about forty years ago to move water into Snake Creek to water crops. The crops failed but the Barrage stayed and has not been working properly since then.

In July of this year Nyikina-Mangala Traditional Owners along with Murdoch University Fish Biologists, Kimberley Land Council (KLC), Land & Sea Unit staff and Yiriman Project staff undertook the last research field trip to look at the effects of the Barrage on the flow of fish up and down the Fitzroy River. This project will help Traditional Owners, Government and Scientists work out if the Barrage needs a fish passage on it to let fish swim over it in the dry season.

The group spent three days at the Camballin Barrage netting with three different size nets above and below the Barrage.



(Left) David Morgan (Murdoch Uni), Kimberley Watson, Hugh Wallace Smith and TJ Butt (Yiriman) netting the river.

The netting showed that there is a big difference in the types of fish found. The research showed that freshwater sawfish and other important fish, including bull sharks and other fish that breed in the sea are often trapped below the Barrage for up to ten months of the year, until the wet comes; it's only in the wet that they can move up or down stream properly, if the wet is a good one.

The Barrage project linked in strongly with another project that Traditional Owners, the Fish Biologists, Kimberley Language Resource Centre (KLRC) and KLC had done on the cultural values and biological importance of the Freshwater Sawfish, which scientists call (*Pristis microdon*) in Latin language.



Group participating in Sawfish research, Fitzroy River Barrage

The Fitzroy River is the last place in the world where you can find good numbers of freshwater sawfish.

The fish biologists were happy to find out different things about the sawfish’s body, what it likes to eat, how old it is, but one of their big findings was that freshwater sawfish give birth to their young at the mouth of the Fitzroy and then the young ones use the Fitzroy to get big in for the next four to five years or until they grow to over 2 meters and become adults and then they head back to the sea where they grow to up to seven meters long. This means that the Sawfish is both a freshwater and saltwater fish and that the ones caught in the Fitzroy are babies or juveniles and that they haven’t had young ones themselves yet.

Nyikina-Mangala, Bunuba, Gooniyandi and Walmajarri Traditional Owners were happy to be involved in the project for recording language names and uses of the sawfish. It was a good opportunity for everyone to get back out on to country so that stories and cultural knowledge could be exchanged and passed down. These projects are good for both scientists and Traditional Owners because very different types of knowledge about the sawfish and country are shared, but all cultural knowledge remains the property of Traditional Owners.

The Barrage Project was funded out of the Land and Water Australia Small Grants project and the



Kyra Edwards and Emma Martin watch on as Nyaburu Watson and David Morgan tag a Sawfish

Sawfish project was funded by WWF with in-kind contributions from KLC, KLRC, Yiriman Youth Project and Murdoch University Fish Group. Thankyou to both of these funding bodies for the support you have provided and a special thanks to the Fish Biologists for your commitment to also meeting the agenda of Traditional Owners in your research. For more information about the Sawfish Project contact: David Morgan, Murdoch Uni Tel. (08) 9360 2813 Or Hugh Wallace-Smith, Yiriman Project Tel. (08) 9191 2911 *Articles by Jean Fenton*

Photo: Helen Dearling, Southern Gulf Catchments



Murrandoo Yanner (CLCAC) Burke Shire Councillor, (back) Jean Fenton NAILSMA Fire Project Officer, Julia Shallow-Bath CEO Southern Gulf Catchments NRM Group, Charles Curry SGC and Tim McGuffog Rural Fire Services at the November meeting.

Gulf gets new Fire Officer

In a November meeting it was agreed that a fire management field officer will be funded to work in Doomadgee, Mornington Island and the surrounding areas in January 2006.

'The Fire and Sustainable Communities in the North West Project' is a collaborative partnership between Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre, Carpentaria Land Council, Southern Gulf Catchments Ltd, the Department of Emergency Services (DES), Burke Shire Council and NAILSMA. The NLC has also provided some advice and expertise in developing broader capacity in the region.

The project will employ a field officer to work with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and pastoralists to prepare for coordinated burns in the 2006 dry season.

Over the next two and a half years the project also aims to foster relationships between traditional owners, NRM bodies and DES, deliver training in fire management, emergency mitigation and natural resource management.

The project will also enhance the sharing of knowledge and working relationships between all partners involved in the project.



ISSUE 3!!

Deadline for stories:

30th May 2006

Articles- 300words

Images - 300dpi

Send to:

Lisa Binge

NAILSMA

Building 42,

Charles Darwin University

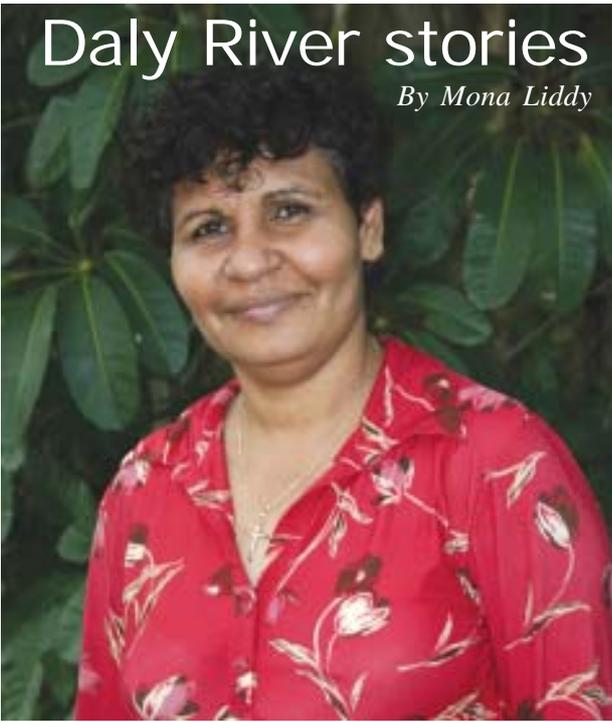
NT 0909

Email: lisa.binge@cdu.edu.au

Photo: Adam Liedloff

Daly River stories

By Mona Liddy



There has been a lot of talk about development in the Daly River region with plans for more farms that will need more water. When the NT Government set up a community planning process there wasn't enough time to properly talk to traditional owners about the importance of the river to their lives. Land and Water Australia has given CSIRO and the Northern Land Council a small grant to work on understanding the cultural values of the river. I am a Wagiman woman who has been employed by CSIRO to collect life histories from all the language groups within the Daly River area facing development pressure. I will be talking to people about river stories, the changes people have seen, the most important places and old people's stories. The groups I will be talking to are: Wadjigan, Malak Malak, Kamu, Wagiman, Wardaman, Dagoman, Murramuninji and Marranungu.

If there are other groups that would like to be involved you can contact me or Sue Jackson at CSIRO on 89448415.



Daly River, Claravale Crossing

Goodbye and Goodluck!



Wagiman Guwardagun women rangers: (Left) Verona Huddleston, Sherrie-Anne Lee, Wendy Huddleston, Melissa Bentivoglio, Brenda Huddleston and Mavis Alangale.

Melissa Bentivoglio was our Land Management Facilitator. She had worked with Wagiman people for 3 years and she had set up a ranger group called Wagiman Guwardagun Rangers. And she was a helping person - she even helped people of Kybrook Farm Community. Her role was helping Wagiman people looking after country and she was a good person to work with. Well done to Melissa and farewell from all the Wagiman Guwardagun Rangers & Senior Rangers.



David Wise and Wagiman Guwardagun rangers at graduation night.

David Wise was a good Lecture trainer and he done a good job with Wagiman Guwardagun Rangers. He came out on his last visit with us at Pine Creek and we took him out with us on his last visit to our Wagiman country on the Land Trust on the 17th Oct to 21st Oct 2005. And he done a good job and he even helped us all the Wagiman Guwardagun Rangers for our graduation day so well done to David from all the Wagiman Guwardagun Rangers & Senior Rangers.

By Brenda Huddleston, Guwardagun Rangers

Photos: Wagiman Guwardagun Rangers

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Cape York

I am a Tableland Yidinji woman from Far North Queensland and come from a family of eight sisters and four brothers. My mother is a Bar Barrum woman and my dad is Tableland Yidinji also. I have a daughter 16 years old and also take care of my nephew Joseph who lives with us. This year on top of my studies, I have consulted and surveyed with land owners in Papua New Guinea on the impacts of mining on women. I have also been involved with an Earthwatch project which consisted of monitoring and tagging Hawksbill Turtles on Millman Island which is in the Great Barrier Reef area.

I am currently employed at Sustainable Solutions Consulting Pty Ltd. dealing in environmental and community issues. My latest project that I have just completed was the Language Retrieval Project for the Bar Barrum Traditional Owners. I am hoping to do the same project with other local and regional traditional owners as well.

By Desley Rosas

Program Sponsor:



For more information about the NAI LSMA Study Assistance Program or Application Package contact:

Lisa Binge
Tel. (08) 8946 6883
Email: lisa.binge@cdu.edu



NT Rangers complete studies

Photos: Lisa Binge



Djelk rangers from Maningrida, NT.

One of the largest graduations of Indigenous rangers took place this year, 32 Northern Territory Indigenous rangers graduated from Charles Darwin University in May.

The rangers successfully completed their studies and received certificates in Resource Management.

The group included 12 Wagiman Guwardagun rangers based in Pine Creek, 17 'Djelk' rangers from Maningrida and three Mimal rangers from the Bulman, Weemol area.

VET resource management lecturer and coordinator David Wise said the course had been developed in conjunction with the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, the NT Primary Industry Training Council and the Northern Land Council.

"It contains many units of particular relevance to remote Indigenous people managing natural and cultural resources," he said. "These units recognise Indigenous knowledge of land management, history culture which are not available in any other course."

"The Wagiman people have lands in the upper Daly River region and want to have an integrated land management program which involves pastoral enterprise such as cattle and ongoing weed and feral animal control."

Central Australia

I originate from South Australia. I belong to the Adnyamanthya people – Flinders Ranges. I worked on stations for many years in Northern Territory, South Australia and Queensland. I have lived in Alice Springs for 2 years and prior to that in the Kimberley.

I have been studying my Bachelor of Applied Science (Natural, Cultural Resource Management) through Batchelor Institute since July 2004. I am enjoying my studies and look forward to working in the area of Land Management. I am also working part time with parks and Wildlife in Alice Springs which helps me put the theory into practice. It has been a juggling game with a young child, fulltime study and work but I believe it will all be worth it when I complete my Degree in 2006!

By Dennis Austin



Top End

My name is Samara Erlandson I was born in Adelaide, South Australia, and grew up in Darwin. I am of Yawuru heritage from my mother's side and Arrente heritage from my father's side.

I enrolled in the Bachelor of Business initially and completed two years of the three year degree. However I deferred for a year when my first son was born. In that time I decided that I wanted my studies to have a more north Australia focus, because I wanted to have a greater understanding of how development and management of land and waters has occurred and is currently occurring in Northern Australia. So I transferred to the Bachelor of Resource Management.

I graduated from the Bachelor of Resource Management in 2005 at Charles Darwin University. After graduating I commenced a graduate traineeship with the Northern Territory Government.

My continuing interest in resource management of Northern Australia has drawn me back to part-time study in 2006 to commence a Graduate Diploma in GIS, which should complement what I have done so far.

By Samara Erlandson



(Above) Bulman graduate and family

(Left) Wagiman Guwardagun graduates

(Bottom) Djelk graduates

David also said the Djelk ranger program at Maningrida was one of the NT's longest running and most successful Indigenous ranger programs and had been associated with the university for a decade.

For more information on courses available contact:

Peter Tremain, Lecturer

Tel: (08) 8946 6482

Email: <peter.tremain@cdu.edu.au>

Or visit: <<http://www.cdu.edu.au/aiks/index.html>>



My job at Garma

All Photos: Courtesy of Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation



Banula guiding at Garma

I went to Garma in August at Gulkula for the Festival. We were having workshops talking about tourism, bungul and making spears.

My job at Garma was talking to a group of about 11 tourists about Yolngu land, the bush medicine, the trees and the bush foods, the animals like bush wallabies, kangaroos and reptiles.

Before we go for the walk, I tell them to bring sunburn cream, mossie cream, a hat and to wear shoes for bush walking. I told them to get water for the walking trail. I waited for them to get water. I was talking to 2 men about bush trail walking. I was telling them I would have to look after them and to beware of buffalo and snakes and I would care for them.

We started walking from the top of Buku mountain and we went down the cliff. I was watching them and waiting for them to get near me. I showed them what we eat from the bush; the bush foods like yam. I showed them milkwood trees (gudarba) for the spears and stingybark trees (garaga) for the yidarki (digeridoo) and ironwood trees (mabin) for the bilma (clapsticks).

We saw pandanas for the women to make the bags, baskets, nets and mats. We saw red, yellow and black rocks we use for painting for ceremony or for painting on bark. We didn't see any animals because it was too hot.

The tourists were asking questions and they were interested and excited about what I told them. They were asking how we dig for the yam ; with a wire or a sharp stick. I told them we use a one metre straight stick made of mabin (iron wood).

From the bottom of the cliffs, we went up through the rainforest. We saw a palm and I showed them how we eat the fresh growing leaf which tastes like potato. The tourists liked it.

Then we went back to Gukala amd they were saying "Thank you Banula for taking us bush walking." They were saying "Well done" and "Thanks for showing us the bush. It was awesome ". Some had never been walking in the bush before because they were from the city. I felt happy and very joyful and proud that they said that to me.

By Banula Marika



Mawalan painting at Garma

All the Dhimurru rangers and Laynha Rangers went to Garma at Gulkula on Thursday 4 August 2005.

On Friday 5 August me and Banula some Laynha rangers we were taking tourists to Cape Arnhem for a whole day. We showed them how we get turtle eggs from the sand so we showed how we get out from the sand we taught them. They did enjoy that day.

Then on Saturday 6 August with the Rangers from Laynha and Dhimurru, we were making spears showing them how we get spears from the bush. Then we showed them how we make fire for the spears to straighten them it took us about one hour or two they did it alright and they did enjoy that day.

On Sunday 7 August we went to Yalangbara with me Mawalan Marika , Mandaka Marika , Banula Marika with the boys from Laynha rangers. We showed them how we got lots fish with the spears. We caught lots of fish, crabs and stingray.

On Monday night on 8 August there were band playing from all over Arnhem Land and from central Australia even the school band was playing from north, west, east, and south. The nights were great.

By Mawalan Marika

Baru (crocodile) at Gaynguru

On Wednesday the 14 of September all the Dhimurru rangers went to Gaynguru to help Parks and Wildlife ranger Phil Wise catch a small crocodile. He said there was a small baru (crocodile) trapped in the cage and had to be transferred to Daliwuy.

So we gathered all the equipment we needed and drove down to the town lagoon where the trap was . First we got all the ropes ready so we could noose the crocodile jaws . Phil was there to supervise and tell us the correct way to capture and noose the baru. Me, Arian and Mawalan were the ones doing the noosing .

First we had a noose and secured the to jaw at the back of its upper last teeth. Then we used a cable tie to secure both jaws so it kept them closed and safe.

We pulled the crocodile up a little bit out of the cage. Then we started to put the special, strong silver tape around its jaws but not across the nose. Then we took it out from the cage.

We checked it to see if it was a female or a male. It was a female. We measured it to see how long it was. It was 1.5 metres long.



Dhuru and Nalkuma croc handling

We checked its scales on its tail and found it was numbered. It had been caught before and was from the croc farm.

Then we put the tape on its back legs so it couldn't run. Then we took it to the Dhimurru vehicle and we covered its eyes with a wet hessian bag so it couldn't see and it was quiet.

It's important to remove the crocodiles from Gaynguru, to the croc farm because they are dangerous for people. Some people visit Gaynguru to watch birds and walk around the area. My work moving crocodiles is important and I'm caring for the area.

By Dhuru Yunupingu

Warning Sign about (Baru) Crocodile

On Friday 23rd of September Parks and Wildlife and Dhimurru Rangers went to Bawaka to put a warning sign about crocodiles.

First Timmy Burarrwanga, land owner for Bawaka went to Dhimurru and Parks and Wildlife office to plan to put a sign onto the beach. The Bawaka community are worried that Yolngu and Balanda kids or friends or visitors might get killed.

So Phil Wise, Parks and Wildlife Ranger ordered signs from Darwin Parks and Wildlife office. We got two signs, one big one and one small one.

On Friday we went to Bawaka with Phil Wise, Banula, and Marcus. First Timmy showed us the spot for the signs. Then we started shovelling the sand to make two holes about a meter deep. Then we put the signs into the holes and put in the concrete.

All signs are important to give us a message about (baru) crocodiles. The attack on Groote Eylandt shows how dangerous crocodiles can be.

Do not spray-paint signs or scratch out the words.
Do not smash them up.
Read them and think and learn.

By Aaron Nalkuma Burarrwanga



Mawalan preparing bark

**For more Information about Dhimurru Rangers
visit: <<http://www.dhimurru.com.au>>**

Kantri Pics

Send your
photos in!





Photos: Tom Vigilante, Lisa Binge, Brenda Huddleston

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1st Prize: \$2,000 2nd Prize: \$750 3rd Prize: \$500

NAILSMA is a growing organisation and requires a logo. Our logo design needs to reflect the work we do in Indigenous land and sea management and developing sustainable futures for Indigenous people across Northern Australia.

It should include:

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- Indigenous land and sea management, looking after country,
- Working together across North Australia, partnerships between communities and organisations,
- And developing future sustainable options for people in the bush.

Conditions:

1. Artist must be Indigenous and must reside in North Australia,
2. The design must include a biography of the artist and story behind the artwork,
3. Artwork must be suitable for reproduction and printing
4. Artwork must have no more than 5 colours and be able to be reproduced in black and white
5. Competition closes **1st March, 2005.**

Please send your entries to:

Executive Officer, NAILSMA
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**For more info
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contact Lisa
(08) 8946 6883**

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