

# Cape York

## Healthy Country Newsletter

Issue 31 Winter 2017



### SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

#### Lakeland farms lead water quality monitoring

By Lyndal Scobell and Will Higham

**Agricultural producers on Cape York have embraced technology to track the water run-off from their banana farms.**

Kureen Farming and Swiss Farms are using KP samplers and photometers, to test the levels of nitrogen present in water run-off, and to monitor water quality in the area.

Little is known about nitrogen run-off from banana paddocks in Lakeland so Cape York NRM encouraged the Lakeland farmers to establish a farmer-based water quality monitoring program and they began gathering baseline information during the 2017 wet season.

Cape York NRM staff were inspired by the farmer based programs that BBIFMAC (Burdekin Bowen Integrated Floodplain Management Advisory Committee) and Sugar Research Australia were doing with cane farmers in the Burdekin and Wet Tropics. BBIFMAC developed the KP samplers to make on farm sampling of runoff events cheaper and easier for farmers. Sugar Research Australia is using the same samplers and photometers with cane farmers in the Wet Tropics.

Paul Inderbitzin from Kureen Farming said that the installation of the KP samplers, which automatically

collect water samples during rainfall runoff events, was easy.

"Simplicity is the best attribute of the KP Samplers. They are installed with one star picket so it only took us half an hour to install them" Paul said. "We moved the one sampler to two sites in the wet season."

A photometer (which measures light passing through the sample to detect nutrient concentrations) was used to analyse the water samples.

The photometers, from the United States, use an enzymatic reaction which is more accurate than other field test kits that are available in Australia.

"The photometers took a bit more concentration and time to learn the sampling protocol. You have to follow the method exactly otherwise the data will be unreliable, but once you have the method sorted out you can analyse seven samples in half an hour" Paul said.

Collecting and storing the samples was straightforward. After each rain event the sampler was emptied into two bottles labelled A and B.

article is continued on page 4

# One in a thousand

Western Cape Turtle  
Threat Abatement  
Alliance documentary  
coming soon

Contact 1300 132 262 for more info



# Update from the Directors

Last quarter we talked water, this quarter let's talk land.

As an organisation we appreciate the balance between water, land and life. All three are equally important to sustain the planet, but to sustain the planet we need to have sustainable practices.

It's exciting to see the development of management practice frameworks for water quality and agriculture, including herbicides, nutrients and soil. Last newsletter featured the ABCD Management Practice Framework for Grazing, which has encouraged numerous land managers across the region to reflect on their individual practices. Further frameworks will give land and sea managers consistency amongst industry that allows for benchmarking, and that will also assist with future research.

The 2017 dry season has sprung upon Cape York with a rapid end to the wet season. Tourists are arriving, fishermen are hitting rivers and coasts, and land managers are working hard to do what they do best - manage the land, their animals and their crops. Businesses are ready for the year.

The people in this region have a special passion for the area and for all the outcomes it provides. It is encouraging for all Cape York NRM Directors to hear the on-ground stories of groups working together, projects being delivered across the whole of Cape York, and the positive results on the land.

Our goals are for natural resource management services to build on healthy eco systems, and to build on landscape resilience and on people's livelihoods. Without the people, we do not get to build on the health and resilience of our beautiful region.

Make sure you renew your Cape York NRM membership at the end of June, and if you are not already a member, email us at [admin@capeyorknrm.com.au](mailto:admin@capeyorknrm.com.au).

Check out our projects on [capeyorknrm.com.au](http://capeyorknrm.com.au), and if you missed them you can listen to the wonderfully inspiring 'My Cape York Life' podcasts on our land manager website [landmanager.capeyorknrm.com.au](http://landmanager.capeyorknrm.com.au) and follow our updates on Facebook and Twitter @capeyorknrm

**Emma Jackson**  
Chairperson  
Sector Director - Primary Industries



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## Renewal of your Cape York NRM Membership is due now

Renewal forms have been sent to all members

Please *sign and return* the form to our office as soon as possible

Reminder – to vote or nominate in the upcoming Director elections you need to be a current (renewed) general member

Within this newsletter Cape York Natural Resource Management is shortened to Cape York NRM

# Breeder workshop success

**Mt Isa vet Ian Braithwaite returned to Cape York in April to deliver the popular breeder cattle pregnancy testing and foetal ageing workshop to Cape York's beef cattle producers.**

The workshop, held at Fairview Station on 7 and 8 April, was attended by thirteen Cape York graziers.

The aim of the workshop was to help graziers to implement more profitable breeder management systems and enable them to measure breeder performance.

The workshop provided strategies to reduce costs and increase income for northern beef production businesses.

Providing graziers with the ability to carry out pregnancy testing on their cattle removes the expense of engaging a vet. It also allows the graziers to draft cattle so that they can manage calving to occur at the break of the wet season when good feed will maintain superior body score and achieve best possible rebreed rates in their herd.

The workshop was supported by Cape York NRM through the Reef Trust: Reef Alliance - Growing a Great Barrier Reef program.

*The Reef Alliance Program is a partnership between agricultural industry, regional NRM bodies, and facilitated by the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF), with a common goal of securing the future health of the Great Barrier Reef. The Reef Alliance Program is funded by the Australian Government and delivered through the Reef Trust.*



**Above:** Vet Ian Braithwaite (centre) demonstrating how to undertake pregnancy testing in cows **Below:** Participants learning to identify reproductive organs  
Photos taken by Michael Goddard, Cape York NRM





# Lakeland farms lead water quality monitoring

continued from front page



Above from left to right: Leon Collins, Paul Inderbitzin, Peter Inderbitzin Jr, and Bill Collett Photos provided by Michael Goddard - Cape York NRM

These were placed in the freezer. Once there were enough samples, the A sample was defrosted and tested using the photometer. Sample B was left in the freezer in case secondary testing was required to confirm results.

Paul said that he hoped the water quality data would assist with future farm management, but that more data was needed before it could be used to inform on-farm decisions.

"At the moment we just want to get some more samples so that we have a library of results from different rainfall events at different times of the year" he said.

"We need to get more than one season's worth of data to understand how consistent the results are. Then we can compare to results in other studies - for example comparing Lakeland Dry Tropics banana system to Wet Tropics banana system" he said.

The installation of the equipment has opened the doors to other monitoring possibilities on the farm.

"In this last wet season we sampled two sites draining from banana paddocks on our farm. In future it would be good to sample water entering and leaving our on-farm water storages. That would help us to understand whether our on-farm water storages are helping to reduce nutrient runoff" Paul said.

Cape York NRM will work with farms to interpret the results of the water quality monitoring, and to learn how water quality is impacted by differing rain events in Lakeland.

For more information about this project, contact Michael Goddard on 0498 760 022;

For more information about the KP Event Samplers please contact BBIFMAC on P: 07 4783 4344, M: 0429 834 344 or E: [secretary@bbifmac.org.au](mailto:secretary@bbifmac.org.au)



Above: Paul Inderbitzin analyzing data

This project is supported by the Queensland Government Department of Natural Resources and Mines through the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program.

# Amrun Project Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR) trucking movements

Rio Tinto's Amrun Project has commenced trucking material from Archer River Quarry via the Peninsula Development Road and Aurukun Road to support the construction of key mine infrastructure, including a water supply dam and tailings storage facility.

Until the end of December, a number of road trains will travel from the quarry to the project site during daylight hours, and some at night.

## What are we doing to make it safe for road users?

A range of practical measures are in place including:

- Trucks are being dispatched in a staged way to allow space between trucks.
- Trucks are scheduled to be off the PDR and Aurukun roads at certain times in the day to allow for less traffic in these times
- A Logistics Supervisor will be out on the roads to monitor the trucking routes
- A safety information hub, managed by local business Swift FNQ, will be open seven days a week at the Archer River Roadhouse
- A Facebook page will update the public on truck movements (search PDR Amrun Trucking Movements)

## What can you do to stay safe while travelling along the PDR?

To ensure the safety of all road users, please take the following precautions when travelling:

- Maintain a safe distance from trucks and ensure headlights are on
- Maintain communication with truck drivers via ultra-high frequency (UHF) Channel 40
- Wait for the next sealed section of the road before attempting to pass
- Remain aware of nearby vehicles in both directions
- Drive to conditions
- Plan your journey to manage the potential for increased travel times.

## Questions and concerns

For more information, visit the Amrun Project road safety information hub at the Archer River Roadhouse to speak with a project representative in person, or contact the Rio Tinto Weipa Freecall Community Hotline on 1800 707 633.

If you're travelling through Weipa, you could go into the draw to win a new Apple iPad 9.7 2017 32GB

Steps to enter

1. Call into the Amrun Project Road Safety Information Hub opposite the Archer River Roadhouse
2. Grab your raffle ticket from the Community Liaison Officer and fill out your details
3. Take your raffle ticket to the drop point located at the Weipa Caravan Park and Camping Ground
4. Grab a raffle ticket every time you call in!

Rio Tinto



## WIN ME IN WEIPA!



## TRAVELLING NORTH?

Take home more than a Cape York experience!  
Win a new Apple iPad 9.7 2017 32GB

Rio Tinto is working with Western Cape Tourism to give you the opportunity to take home more than a trip of a lifetime. Take perfect photos, experience the views and use social media to help you discover and make the most of the region!

Call into the Archer River Road Safety Information Hub at the Archer River Roadhouse for more details.

## Steps to enter

Call into the Amrun Project Road Safety Information Hub opposite the Archer River Roadhouse.  
Grab your raffle ticket from the Community Liaison Officer and fill out your details.  
Take your raffle ticket to the drop point located at the Weipa Caravan Park and Camping Ground.  
Grab a raffle ticket every time you call in!

## Crossword Answers

Across  
1. sediment  
2. fence  
3. erosion  
4. root  
5. water  
Down  
1. tree  
2. soil  
3. erosion  
4. root  
5. water



# Soil scans improve farming profitability in Lakeland

by Lyndal Scobell and Will Higham

**An ATV is pulling a small trailer through the inter-rows of bananas at Red Valley in Lakeland. While this may not be an unusual site on a Lakeland banana farm, it is what's happening under the soil that the trailer travels over, which is a new technology to the area.**

Tony Crowley is the Director/Owner of Farmacist, a company that specialises in EC and EM mapping. EC, (electro-conductivity) mapping identifies the different soil zones in a paddock which enables farmers to identify specific sites for soil samples, and helps to produce a more productive farm design.

Tony is a leader in EC mapping in Australia, and introduced the technology to central and northern Queensland around 17 years ago.

The first machines were imported in 2000, and the company has since covered over 50,000 hectares in Queensland and northern New South Wales.

"I am an agronomist by trade, and needed an accurate GPS for mapping. So I worked with leading engineers to set up my first machine in 2000. I have maintained close relationships with those engineers and we are regularly updating the machines as new technology becomes available" Tony said.

The mapping already underway at Red Valley is an example of the new technology.

The machine being used is the EM38-MK2 which uses Electro Magnetic Induction (EMI) to measure conductivity by shooting an electro-magnetic impulse into the soil.

"It's an electric impulse which recognises the difference between sand and clay to give you a different soil zone" Tony said.

Tony started mapping Cape York farms last year at Kureen Farming and at Olive Vale and Fairview stations.

"The current scale of soil mapping for Cape York is too broad to represent soil variation on an individual farm. EC Mapping provides much finer detail.

"This time we are mapping five farms in Lakeland. We are doing 12 metre swaths in the banana paddocks, which will allow us to cover more area.

"The more area you cover with each pass, the cheaper it is. On average if you do a six metre swath you will cover 40 hectares per day, 12 metres covers between 80 to 100 hectares and a 20 metre swath might cover between 300 to 500 hectares a day.

"Swath size is relative to what kind of country you are on and how you travel. We are travelling over the country with a side-by-side ATV towing a small trailer, so rougher ground limits what you can do in a day" Tony said.

Once the on-farm mapping is complete the maps will be supplied to the farmers through Google Earth and as a physical map. Farmers can then put the GPS ready maps on their phones and walk out in the field to find that zone themselves. The maps show a different colour scheme for the different soil type that is identified.

"They get two layers, a deep and shallow layer. If they have been farming for a long time the 0-500 mm layer is the layer that the farmer has had some inputs to - some sort of cultural practice that can disrupt that layer" Tony said.

"The 0-900 mm or 0-1 metre is a composite layer and not many farmers get down to that depth. That layer is a look at the natural terrain and the natural soil types across the farms. It's the one we use the most - the deeper layer - which is an average of 0-1 m. It gives a snapshot of the whole profile" he explained.

Tony said that the base layer that EM Mapping provided was one of the major building blocks for any farm enterprise.

"EM Mapping provides a quick snapshot of possible profiles of soil and possible types of soil to give you an understanding of how you design a farm or how you can make an old farm more productive in the long term" Tony said.

"It shows you where you can build your farming enterprise no matter what it is" he said.

"Where the farmer is setting up high value irrigation crop like bananas - they can find out what the potential (better or worse) water holding capacity of the soil is. For example, well-drained soil is needed for bananas, so the EM map could be used to identify the most suitable soils for that crop.

"Farm management decisions can be improved by understanding the range of soil types of that farm. It can be a minimalistic approach where you are saving money on fertilizer through targeted soils tests, or identifying variable rates of lime, or where you locate your packing sheds.

"Farmers can vary their water rates and water regimes, or set sprinkler systems and underground watering systems by understanding the different soil types on their farm.



Paul Inderbitzin at Red Valley in Lakeland

Photo: Tony Crowley, Farmacist

So what do the farmers think?

Peter Inderbitzin Jr from Red Valley and Swiss Farms said that while it was the first time for trialling EM Mapping, he was having both family farms mapped during Tony's visit.

"I heard about it from others, and we are looking forward to knowing exactly what soils we have, where they are, and how deep they go" Peter Junior said.

"We will use the mapping to inform our variable rate spreading, and to adjust our fertiliser inputs to suit soil types.

"We hope it will help us to refine what we do, and give us more efficient fertilising. We can give the trees exactly what they need. We are grateful to Cape York NRM for funding this work across Lakeland" Peter said.

For more information about EC and EM Mapping, contact Michael Goddard on 0498 760 022, or visit <http://www.farmacist.com.au/soil-mapping>.

*This project is supported by Cape York NRM through funding through Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.*



The EM38-MK2 set-up

Photo: Photo: Tony Crowley, Farmacist



## Changing littering behaviour through arts program

**‘Make a difference, make a start, transform your trash in to art with the Cape Create Crew at the Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival’.**

Transforming Trash LitterED Environmental Arts Project has entered its third year of operations with gusto, once again delivering the LitterEd program at schools and events across Cape York.

The program, which is delivered by the Cape Create Crew, promotes environmental awareness, educating people about the effects of rubbish, particularly plastics, in our environment.

The program has been delivered in May to Lakeland and Laura State Schools, and the Lama Lama Junior Rangers at Port Stewart.

Melanie Cranney, Principal Lakeland State School said the program provided a wonderful opportunity to explore recycling in a fun and creative way.

“The students thoroughly enjoyed the program and we will all be rethinking the plastic in our lives” Ms Cranney said.

The Cape Create Crew travelled to Port Stewart in early May to work with the Lama Lama Junior Rangers.

Cape Create Crew’s Waratah Nicholls said the young rangers had lots of fun making things out of rubbish and painting T-Shirts.

“We talked up caring for our environment through disposing of rubbish responsibly and shared ideas about recycling and reducing plastics in our lives. We also created a public art sculpture out of rubbish, of

the endangered Little Tern to raise awareness of its plight” Ms Nicholls said.

The sculpture is now installed at the Community Centre at Port Stewart.

Cape Create Crew also enjoyed a big show at Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival.

Cape Create Crew’s Andrea Gower said festival goers are invited to come along and have some creative fun with the Cape Create Crew.

“We will be teaching some valuable but simple things you can do to help our environment. All are welcome to join in to make something out of recycled rubbish or help with the making of an innovative recycled art sculpture” Andrea said.

“Our vision is to improve social, emotional and environmental wellbeing across Cape York, through environmental awareness, education, promotion and collaboration, by linking environment, arts and culture - and we are doing just that” she said.

The Cape Create Crew held a Transforming Trash LitterED Creative Stall at Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival on 30 June, 1-2 July.

*The Cape Create Crew is supported by Cape York Natural Resource Management, in partnership with Umi Arts, for creative environmental education and engagement. The Cape Create Transforming Trash LitterED Environmental Arts Project was supported by Queensland Government’s Litter and Illegal Dumping Community and Industry Partnerships Program, Cape York NRM and UMI Arts.*



Photo provided by Cape Create

## Big data helps graziers to manage rangeland areas

**The NRM Spatial Hub is a web-based tool that helps rangeland graziers decide how to optimise their grazing land management by bringing together map, satellite and grazer knowledge.**

### Highlights

- Graziers who use the NRM Spatial Hub see potential for it to help raise their annual revenue by 35%.
- 700+ land managers use the award winning Hub and users are increasing.
- Support and involvement from many NRM partners led to the Hub’s success.

The NRM Spatial Hub brings together the worlds latest mapping and imagery technology to provide a simple web-based tool to allow Australia’s rangelands to be managed more profitably and sustainably. The Hub combines the latest geospatial mapping technologies with time series satellite remote sensing of ground cover, in a way that’s never been available before.

For the first time, the sheep and beef industries will be able to use and compare their own data paddock data with government data in a consistent and interactive way.

The initiative demonstrates how world leading remote sensing of ground cover through an online website can optimise grazing pressure and land condition, and allow land managers to make better, more informed decisions.

### Landholder survey

A landholder survey showed:

- 90% found the Hub easy to use.
- 95% said the Hub has the potential to measurably improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of their property.
- More than 50% felt the Hub would save them between 10 and 30 labour days a year.
- 75% said it would measurably increase safe carrying capacity through better pasture utilisation.
- 72% rated this type of technology as important to making their business viable and sustainable in the future.

The survey revealed that half of the respondents considered their properties to be around 50% developed. Using the Hub technology to guide future investment in infrastructure development, could conservatively increase annual revenue by more

than 35%, through improved pasture utilisation and increased stocking rates. This increase does not include the improvements in property value, risk management and labour savings that would also result.

### Commercial development.

The Hub’s success due to collaboration with end users has resulted in an innovative, practical tool that is now being commercialised. The services of the Hub will be delivered via Meat and Livestock Australia and NRM Regional Bodies.

Website: <http://www.nrmhub.com.au/>



Above: Alliance workshop in Alice Springs

Photo provided by Kate Forrest, Rangeland NRM Alliance Coordinator

**The Board of the organisation previously trading as ‘Queensland Regional NRM Groups Collective’ has announced its new trading name as ‘NRM Regions Queensland’ (NRMQR).**



When informing members of the change, NRMQR CEO Andrew Drysdale said that the name reflects that of its national body – NRM Regions Australia (NRMRA), and that “just as importantly, it highlights the core reason for the existence of NRMQR, to support and serve Queensland’s Regional Bodies and the regional delivery model that serves our country and our communities so well”.



# Our Cape Kids

## It's crossword time this month!

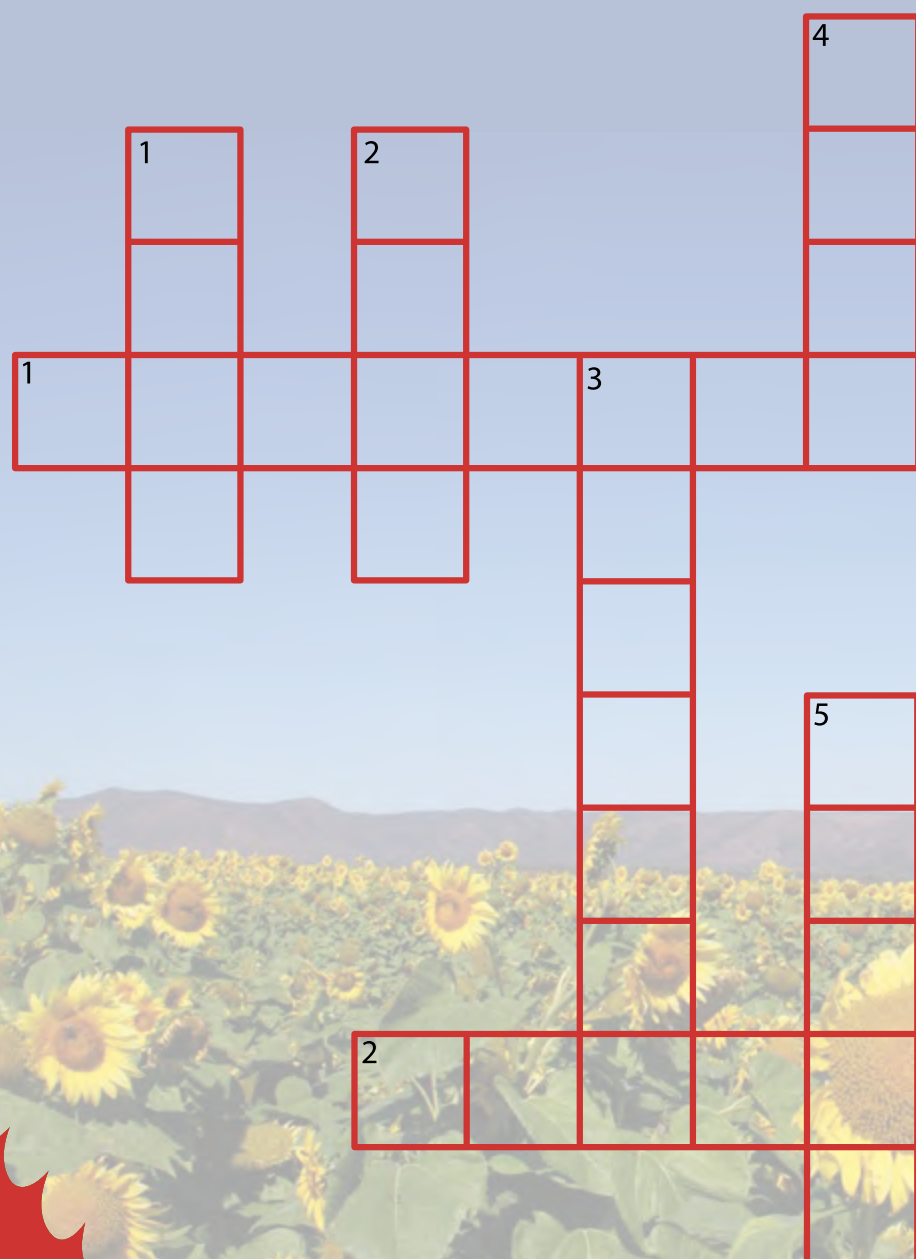
The answers are all everyday words that you might use when talking and writing about land and sea management - and water quality.

Have fun with this crossword, and let us know what other fun things you'd like us to put on this page.

It would be great to hear your stories about your favourite Cape York place, animal or plant. We can put your stories on our website if you like; or you might like to send us photos you've taken or pictures you've drawn.

You can send them to us at: [capekids@capeyorknrm.com.au](mailto:capekids@capeyorknrm.com.au). Don't forget to include contact details.

## Sustainable agriculture crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid, and is the basis of the fluids of living organisms
- 2 A barrier to prevent or control stock access or escape

### DOWN

- 1 Has a trunk and branches
- 2 the upper layer of earth in which plants grow
- 3 wearing away; weathering
- 4 the part of a plant that attaches it to the ground
- 5 Liquid which forms the seas, lakes, rivers, and rain

Answers are hiding in this issue of the Healthy Country Newsletter ... can you find them?

## Australian Not-For-Profit Technology Awards 2017



Receiving the finalist certificate were Peta Standley, Ben Lister and Leo Goddard

Cape York NRM is thrilled to have been named as a finalist in the 'Connecting Up' Australian Not-For-Profit Technology Awards 2017. The award is for outstanding contributions to the Australian not-for-profit sector through innovative technology solutions and service excellence, and was presented on Thursday 4 May at Hawthorn Arts Centre in Melbourne.

Connecting Up, Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation that works to unleash the power of other not-for-profit organisations through technology, and by providing

a variety of information, products, resources and programs, to connect the not-for-profit sector to the right tools and capabilities they need to fulfil their mission.

Cape York NRM's submission was for the Cape York Atlas, and also the implementation of a variety of the latest business tools which create efficient and streamlined results.

The Cape York Atlas consists of nine independent websites that work together to collect and share information about land and sea management on Cape York. It provides tools to land and sea managers to plan across scales, improve and target on-ground management, and inform management actions.

To learn more about its nine sites, visit the Atlas by going to [www.capeyorknrm.com.au](http://www.capeyorknrm.com.au) and clicking on the Atlas link on the top right hand corner of the page.

If you would like to discuss other tools or resources that might be (or could be) included on the Atlas, please phone us on 1300 132 262 and ask for Ben.



## No service? No worries!

If you're in an area without mobile network, **Wi-Fi Calling** could help.

With Telstra **Wi-Fi Calling** you can make calls to landlines and mobiles over an available Wi-Fi network.

### How does this help you?

Voice services can be connected over compatible smartphones where previously no service was possible. It's simple to use.

### Does Telstra Wi-Fi Calling cost extra, or use my data allowance?

There are no additional monthly fees for Telstra **Wi-Fi Calling**, however data consumed over *non*-Telstra Broadband will be charged (or consume data allowance) based on your current provider's plan.

Data is only consumed over non-Telstra Broadband and will be charged (or consume data allowance) based on your current provider's plan.

Visit the Telstra **Wi-Fi Calling** page at [telstra.com/wificalling](http://telstra.com/wificalling) for the list of compatible devices, set up instructions and full details.

*Note: All customers with a compatible mobile on a plan have access to Wi-Fi Calling straight away, while Pre-Paid customers are being progressively activated.*





## Event snapshots



### Western Cape College Leads to Careers Expo 2017

This was a great opportunity to explore employment opportunities with students from the Western Cape College and promote the amazing things the local land and sea rangers have been achieving. Many students were interested in becoming rangers and had already commenced their Cert II in Conservation and Land Management. The expo was a terrific place for students to get some useful information, ideas for careers, and a range of other options for the bright futures ahead of them. Photo: Caleb Zaicz, Cape York NRM

### Weipa Fishing Classic



Above photos: Kerri Woodcock, WCTTAA

### Cairns Home Show and Caravan, Camping and Boating Expo

Cape York NRM shared a stall at the Cairns Home Show and Caravan, Camping and Boating Expo with other environmental groups - Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Wet Tropics Management Authority and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

This large space drew in the crowds and

many people were interested in the campaigns and information provided.

National Parks staff assisted with camp bookings and enquiries for Cape York which enabled Thoughtful Travelling and respecting Country messaging to be promoted, while discussing camping options and things to do before travelling remote. The three-day event attracted over 2000 patrons to come in to have a chat, discuss camping, travelling and things to do while visiting Cape York.

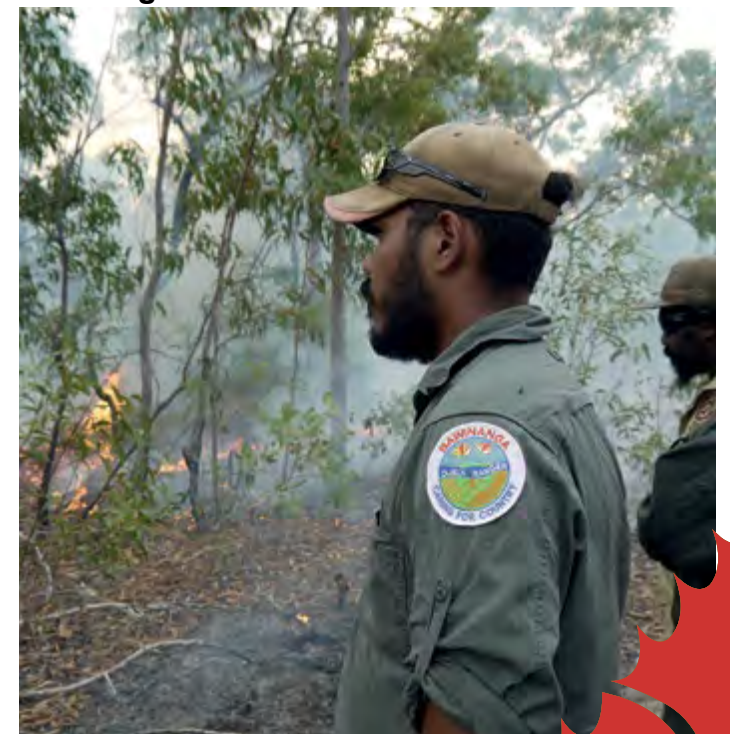
## 2017 National Indigenous Fire Workshop



Monitoring and burning



Sharing and learning



Above photos: Robyn May, Cape York NRM



# Cape York Calendar

## Events significant to your life on Cape York

~ more information on [www.capeyorknrm.com.au/news/cape-community-calendar](http://www.capeyorknrm.com.au/news/cape-community-calendar) ~

### JULY

- 3-7 National Indigenous Fire Workshop
- 8 Mapoon Beach Clean-up, Tangaroa Blue
- 14-16 CIAF - Cairns Indigenous Art Fair
- 16 Gimuy Fish Festival - CIAF
- 15-18 Getting to the Heart of Permaculture - Hilltop Farmstay Cooktown
- 30 Cape Kimberley Beach Clean-up, Tangaroa Blue

### AUGUST

- 9 Chilli Beach, Beach Clean-up, Tangaroa Blue



## Springvale Station Erosion Management Plan



Photo: Lyndal Scobell, Cape York NRM

Above: The Springvale Erosion Management Plan (EMP) project team inspect gullies on Springvale. The Queensland Government has contracted Cape York Natural Resource Management to work with Griffith University; Indigenous partners through the Yalanji Joint Venture; Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation; and erosion, water quality and vegetation scientists, to develop the Springvale EMP. It will provide recommendations to guide future erosion control activities for priority gully areas on Springvale Station. For more information go to: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/coasts-waterways/catchment-management/springvale-station/>

## Northern biodiversity to benefit from MOU signing



Photo: Tristan Simpson

**Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and Cape York Natural Resource Management (Cape York NRM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to secure a strategic partnership for sustainable management of land and sea country.**

TSRA and Cape York NRM are neighbouring natural resource management bodies who work with Traditional Owner groups such as Native Title Prescribed Body Corporates

(PBCs), land managers, community groups and individuals to look after land and sea country.

Both regions have incredibly high biodiversity and cultural values, and strong partnerships with Traditional Owners to support them in looking after these unique parts of northern Australia.

The MOU, signed in February, outlines ways TSRA and Cape York NRM can work together to protect their respective regions' unique values, including through working collaboratively on issues like feral pig predation and other impacts on turtle rookeries.

Cape York NRM Chairperson, Mrs Emma Jackson, said the regions are home to many of Australia's endemic and endangered species such as dugong, sea turtles and palm cockatoos.

"Cape York and the Torres Strait share similar values when it comes to natural resource management. We have strong social and cultural connections to the land and sea," Mrs Jackson said.

"These connections provide lots of opportunities to work on shared projects – and support the long term sustainability of our natural resources."

The regions hope to work together on projects including supporting ranger exchanges, information sharing and capacity building activities, and assisting each other to develop strong bids for future funding to address regional priorities in cultural and natural resource management across Cape York and Torres Strait.

The regions will also share tools that support the delivery of best practice natural resource management.

Chair of the TSRA, Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, said that the MOU signalled an important way forward for Queensland's remote northern regions.

"Our people rely heavily on our land and sea resources, so ensuring we take care of our natural environment is a key priority for the TSRA," Mr Stephen said.

"For the past 12 years the TSRA's Land and Sea Management Unit (LSMU) has coordinated the delivery of natural resource management programs across the region.

"Moving forward under the MOU, the LSMU program will continue their work in the region, in collaboration with the Cape York NRM, for the betterment of our environment and our people."

An implementation plan for the MOU is now being developed.

For more information, contact Cape York NRM on 1300 132 262 or TSRA on 07 4069 0700.



# Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd

## Board of Directors



**Emma Jackson**  
Chairperson  
Primary Industries Sector



**Sally Gray**  
Conservation Sector



**Pauline Smith**  
Vice Chairperson  
Indigenous Sector, Zone 2



**Mikayla Down**  
Indigenous Sector, Zone 3



**Shane Gibson**  
Indigenous Sector, Zone 4



**Sandra Woosup**  
Indigenous Sector, Zone 1



**John Charlton**  
Tourism, Small Business,  
Mining and Other Industry  
Sector



**Trevor Meldrum**  
Community Sector



**Joseph Elu**  
Indigenous Sector, Zone 1



**Desmond Tayley**  
Local Government Sector

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