

Cape York Healthy Country Newsletter



Photo: Kerry Trapnell

Issue 34 Autumn 2018

Take part in the International Year of the Reef 2018

There are many reasons to get involved in the Year of the Reef and help protect the world's vital coral reefs.

They cover less than 1% of the world's ocean floors, but they support 25% of all marine life – over one million diverse aquatic species, including over 4000 species of fish and hundreds of species of coral. The global value of reefs is \$2.7 trillion per year, including the tourism and food industries. Reefs provide coastal protection with a global net benefit of \$9 million per year – reefs protect coastal housing, agricultural lands and beaches.

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef ecosystem, including more than 2900 separate coral reefs. The GBR has 70 bioregions (broad-scale habitats), 2000 square kilometres of mangroves (54% of world mangrove diversity), 6000 square kilometres of seagrass beds and 1050 islands. There are 1625 fish species, 450 species of coral, six of the world's seven sea turtle species, and one of the world's most important dugong populations.

Across the world coral reefs are in crisis. In Australia the Great Barrier Reef has been impacted by multiple bleaching events, tropical cyclones and crown of thorns starfish. Internationally, other coral reefs are suffering similar impacts.

2018 is the International Year of the Reef, and people across the world are working together to look after these vital ecosystems. Everyone can have a role in caring for our reefs. To find out what you can do visit the websites of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority or Citizens of the Reef.

(Source: GBRMPA <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au>; IYOR <https://www.iyor2018.org>; accessed April 2018).



 My Cape York Life Series Two

Available on your favourite podcast app and landmanager.capeyorknrm.com.au

Update from the Directors

The wet season is approaching an end and this year it has been far superior than last year's for many across our region. It has also been much hotter, so what that means for the dry season ahead we will have to wait and see.

The rainy days didn't prevent your Board from travelling. Directors attended governance training in February with Northern Gulf RMG and Terrain NRM. We can apply this training to other committees, Land Trusts, Local Government or not-for-profit community groups we sit on - another example of how Cape York NRM builds the capacity of people for the broader needs of Cape York.

Corporate Nature was officially launched in February with a celebration that coincided with the Cairns office opening and the governance training. Corporate Nature is a joint venture established to carry out corporate services for Cape York NRM, Terrain NRM and Northern Gulf RMG. In our first three months we have already saved \$7000 which can be redirected to project delivery in each of our regions.

Our CEO, Bob Frazer, is retiring in April after almost eight years. The Directors feel privileged to have held onto Bob for this long and no doubt we will be practising a little lassoing on Bob in the future. We are sad to see Bob go, but also very pleased for him. While the new CEO will have big shoes to fill, an exciting time lies ahead for Cape York NRM and our partners - with submissions underway for the next four-five years of State and Federal funding programs.

The Board of Directors will next meet in June in beautiful Mapoon – hosted by Director Pauline Smith. We look forward to meeting the Mapoon community, and seeing the great work being carried out by the Rangers and the community.

2018 is the International Year of the Reef. There are many projects being delivered on Cape York which help improve the condition of the reef and water quality on Cape York. We all have a responsibility to the environment, including the coast and ocean. This issue highlights some of this work – ENJOY!

Emma Jackson
Chairperson
Primary Industries
Director

Newsletter contents

What's featuring in this issue

| Story | Page |
|--|-------|
| Front cover | 1 |
| Update from the Directors | 2 |
| Bonny Glen land management & planning | 3 |
| A fond farewell for Cape York NRM CEO | 4-5 |
| Stop the spread of spotted tilapia | 6 |
| ACDC training course for land managers | 7 |
| Speartooth shark - Wenlock River | 8-9 |
| Our Cape Kids | 10 |
| Ranger Youth Forum | 11 |
| Water quality and gully remediation | 12 |
| The threat from gamba grass | 13 |
| Securing the future - threatened sea turtles | 14 |
| How to write a funding proposal | 15 |
| My Cape York Life - podcast Series two | 16-17 |
| Cape York calendar | 18 |
| Corporate Nature launched | 18 |
| Regional Investment Strategy | 19 |
| Board of Directors | 20 |

2018
National
Indigenous
Fire Workshop
12 - 15 July 2018

"Bringing the good fire to the South Coast"

Hosted by Mudjingaalbaraga Firesticks
and Bundanon Trust

Register now at
capeyorkfire.com.au



Bonny Glen land management and planning

by Andrew Hartwig



Eric Rosendale studying fire plans Photo: Andrew Hartwig

Bonny Glen Station is a 146,000-hectare pastoral grazing lease on Cape York held by Traditional Owners, Gummi Junga Aboriginal Corporation.

The Regional Landcare Facilitator assisted Gummi Junga and Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc. with a successful Indigenous Land and Sea Grant project.

The project has included fire plans, ground and aerial burning over two seasons, a Property Pest Management Plan including weed surveys, weed control work and feral animal management, identifying threats and areas prone to soil erosion, threatened species, and fencing and protection of cultural sites.

Mining leases also occur across the landscape and it is hoped to improve communication and cooperative management between grazing, cultural

and mining interests.

The project has incorporated traditional knowledge in the planning process to help with succession planning for the next generation of land managers. This project has increased Indigenous participation in natural resource management and sustainable agriculture, and increased skills and capacity of Indigenous land managers.

Gummi Junga has also formed valuable partnerships with other organisations including Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc, Cape York NRM, Cook Shire Council and neighbouring stations.

Gummi Junga and Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc. would like to acknowledge and thank Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) for the grant funds and assistance, and the knowledge gained from the project to continue looking after their Country.

"Caring for Country is an important job. Bonny Glen is our Traditional Country and looking after it means a lot to us. Working with all the different groups has been great to form and strengthen networks so we can learn new things and work better together. Putting together plans for the country are good to do because we can prioritise areas of cultural significance and places we want to look after in the future." Barb Rosendale-Collie

A fond farewell for



The Directors and staff of Cape York Natural Resource Management will say goodbye to the organisation's Chief Executive Officer Bob Frazer this month.

After almost eight years in the role, Bob will put down his pen and take up his fishing rod as he commences a well-earned retirement.

Bob has spent 13 years working in Australia's natural resource management leadership.

He spent five years with NQ Dry Tropics before becoming the first employee with a fledgling Cape York NRM in 2010.

Cape York was the last region in Australia to form a natural resource management regional body, a process driven by Cape York's passionate land and sea managers.

Chairperson Emma Jackson was on the original steering committee and said that she could not have imagined a more suitable person to establish and grow the organisation.

"Bob has put his heart and soul into Cape York NRM over the years. He has been our CEO and the Company Secretary, our friend and our mentor, ensuring the organisation remains structurally and operationally strong, transparent, and true to the company mission" Mrs Jackson said.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff, and our members, we wish Bob the very best for his retirement. He has been an incredible leader and he will be sadly missed by all who have worked with him" she said.

A farewell lunch will be held on Friday 27 April. For more information contact Lyndal Scobell on 0488 656 690 or lsobell@capeyorknrm.com.au



Cape York NRM CEO



Clockwise from top left: Bob facilitating at the Wujal Wujal Board Meeting in May 2017; launching the Cape York NRM Plan; taking a break at Umagico; exploring Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve.



Below: Directors, members and staff at the 2016 AGM held at Laura Rodeo Grounds.





Stop the spread **Spotted tilapia**

Spotted tilapia were recently found in the Walsh River, part of the Mitchell River catchment.

Tilapia are one of the world's worst invasive species and one of the greatest threats to Queensland's native aquatic biodiversity.

We need your help to stop the spread!

Report all sightings of spotted tilapia in the area to Biosecurity Queensland.

Photograph the fish, record your location and submit your report online.

biosecurity.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23

ACDC training course for land managers |



Course participants focusing on the theory side to the ACDC course Photo: Robyn May

Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc. (CYWAFA) is working with Cape York land managers to reduce the economic and environmental impacts of high priority weeds.

In early February this year, CYWAFA conducted an Agricultural Chemical Distribution Control (ACDC) course in the Cooktown region. These first eight participants now have the knowledge and skills to do battle with invasive weeds, and have learned the theory behind the use of weed control chemicals that is needed before they head out to the field and put their theory into practice.

This project is supported by Cape York NRM through funding from the Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Feral Pest Initiative.

Photos provided by Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc.



Collecting samples: Horticulturists - Councillor John Giese, Charlie Lamb, Martin Pattie, Rick Reid, Cassandra Sorensen, Dale and Leslie Burke, and Grazier - Ron Tiemstra



Basal-barking lantana

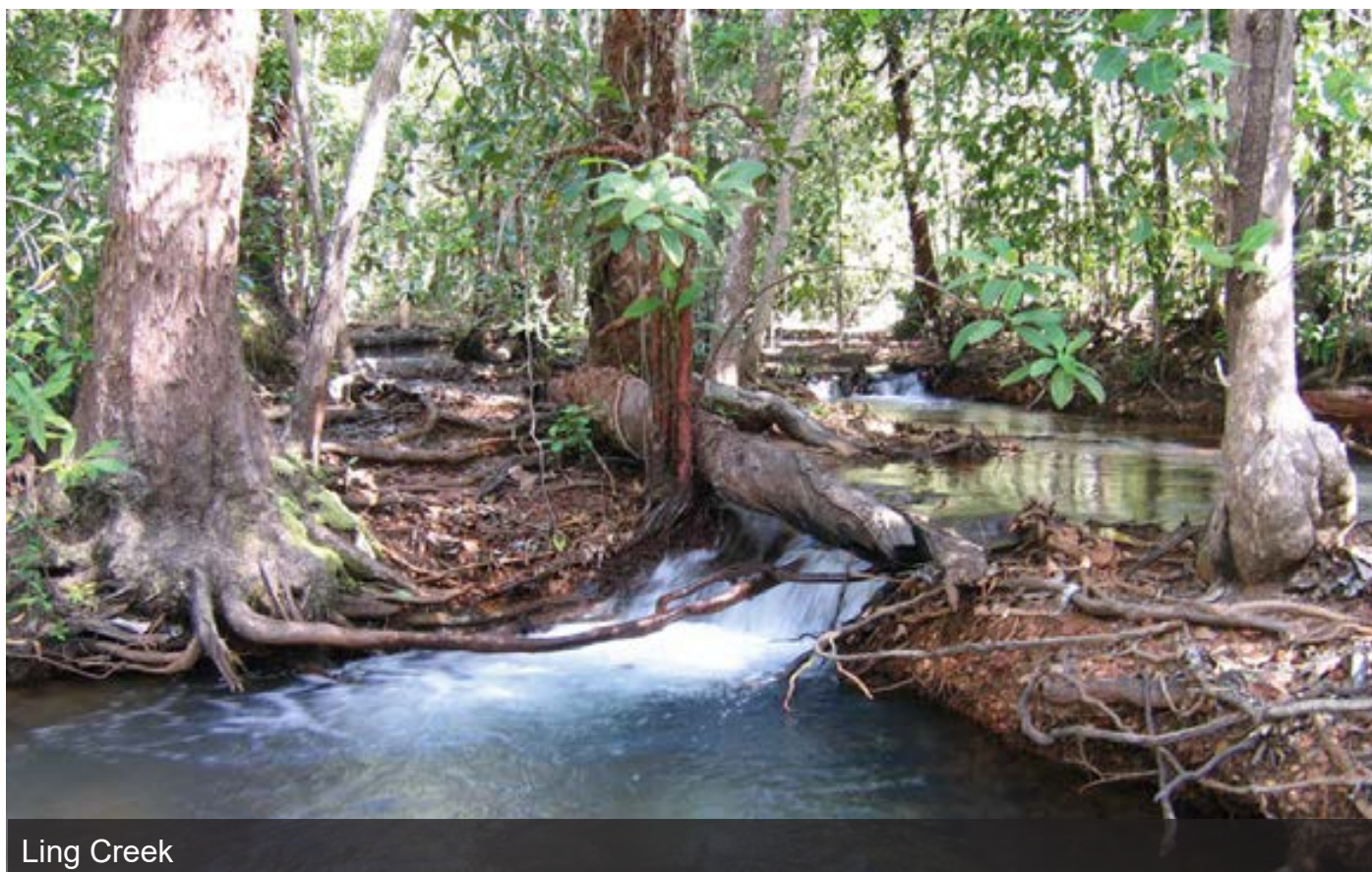


Foliar-spraying herbicide on sicklepod



Foliar-spraying herbicide on sicklepod

How spring inflow enables



Ling Creek

Recent studies have shown how spring inflow into the Wenlock River provides vital nursery habitat for one of the world's rarest sharks.

The speartooth shark *Glyphis glyphis*, was named from a single, stuffed museum specimen way back in 1839. The place of capture was not known, so this shark was a real scientific mystery. It remained so until eventually discovered in southern New Guinea in the 1960s, and in Australia in the Bizant River on eastern Cape York in 1982. It has not been seen there since.

Later surveys established that the speartooth shark occurs in just a handful of rivers in northern Australia.

Until 2015, all records of speartooth sharks were of immature sharks living in highly

turbid, fast flowing estuaries. In Queensland, the critically endangered speartooth shark is currently known only from the Wenlock and Ducie Rivers on north west Cape York.

This shark looks superficially similar to the bull shark. Two distinguishing features are the spearhead shaped teeth in the lower jaw (hence its name), and more than twice the number of electro-receptors around the head.

These electro-receptors enable sharks to detect the electrical currents of nearby animals, helping them to locate prey in dark or murky water.

The movements of 40 acoustically tagged speartooth sharks were researched in a collaborative study between the University of Queensland, CSIRO, and Australia Zoo in the Wenlock and Ducie Rivers.

the existence of a rare shark

by Barry Lyon



Speartooth shark

In a nutshell, the sharks were found to occupy brackish, highly turbid (murky) estuarine and inshore coastal habitats, with salinity levels between one and 18 parts per thousand.

However, they moved seasonally in response to sustained changes in freshwater inflow. During the dry season, 'spearies' inhabited the upper estuary, then migrated to the lower estuary and adjacent coastal waters during the wet season when strong freshwater inflow occurred. As the new dry season developed, the sharks moved back upstream. All these movements allowed them to follow their preferred brackish water zone.

The Wenlock River features perennial dry season freshwater flow. As rainfall run off is extremely rare during the dry, it is a combination of sandstone and bauxite springs running into the river that provides that flow. The freshwater mixing with marine water in the estuary provides the particular brackish dry season habitats that speartooth sharks so vitally rely on.

This remarkable story of natural connections between land, water and rare river wildlife goes even wider. The spring water has to come from somewhere. In this case the sandstone and bauxite plateaus act as catchments for the

spring aquifers, in the manner of a roof for a rainwater tank.

However, in these cases, the sandstone and bauxite layers are very porous – like huge geological sponges. So, much of the rain, instead of running off, seeps deep down into the ground, eventually reaching and topping up the spring aquifer.

Disturbing or removing the geological sponges on a large scale would readily upset the spring hydrology and thus the critical dry season habitats that the threatened speartooth sharks occupy. This would be like taking away the roof.

The spring inflow into the Wenlock River may also benefit the breeding activities of barramundi, allowing them to move downstream to breed when conditions are right, while land locked barra in other rivers have to wait for wet season floods.

There is still much to learn, however these examples highlight the need to care for catchments and eco-hydrological processes for the health and diversity of our valuable river systems.

Photos provided by Barry Lyon.

Our Cape Kids

Be a positive celebrator – think about the journey of balloons

Communities are becoming more aware of problems caused by littering, and about the release of balloons at events and celebrations. Balloons have a harmful effect on wildlife and the environment.

In Queensland, the release of balloons into the environment is considered littering under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011—whether released deliberately or by accident.

Look for alternatives like:

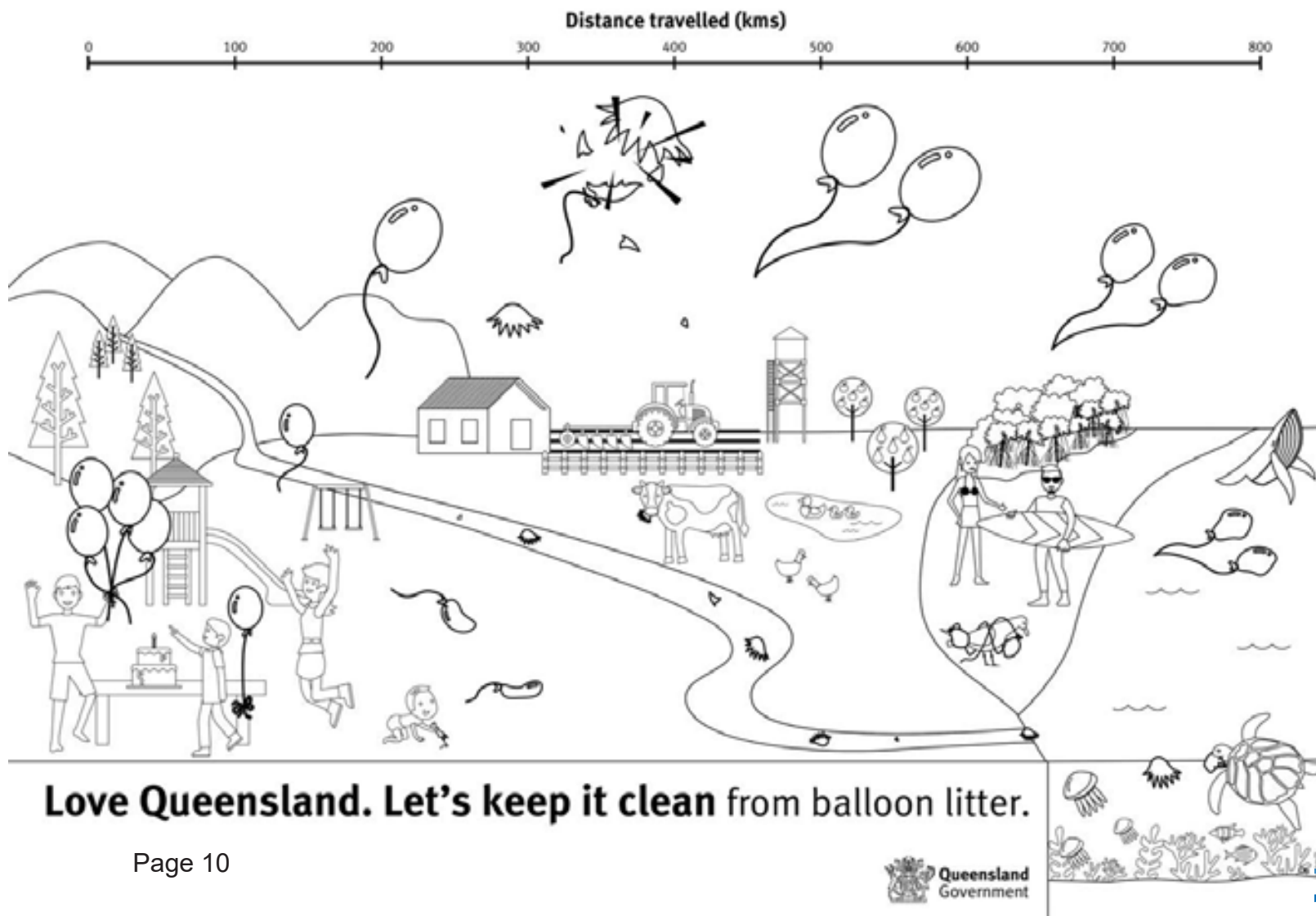
- bubbles
- paper tissue pom poms
- candles, kites or pinwheels
- flags, banners, streamers or dancing inflatables
- flowers or planting a tree in memorial.

This information has been accessed from the Queensland Government <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/pollution/management/waste/balloons>.

The Queensland Government has created a short video to help you explain to others what happens when balloons become litter - <https://youtu.be/15WHomMBW9M>



Have fun with colouring in this picture as you follow the travels and impacts of released balloons.





Participants of the Ranger Youth Forum Photo provided by Jason Carroll

Set in the hills of beautiful Kuku Yalanji country at the Jabalbina Ranger base, almost thirty participants explored the rugged, unforgiving terrain of young minds. The one-day forum held in December 2017 was facilitated by David and Emily Kamoltz. Its purpose was to raise the capacity of how people engage children and adolescents in Landcare and Ranger programs.

Participants, including youth workers, Rangers and project managers, were put through their paces in this very non-traditional style workshop. Through storytelling, hands-on activities, discussion, team work and challenges, each participant walked away with tools and techniques on how to engage young people.

“Working with kids and teenagers can be extremely powerful and rewarding but it can be quite challenging. When people who work with youth utilise their own strengths - knowing how to challenge students in a safe setting - then everyone is more likely to be effectively engaged,” said David Kamoltz, who is the School Chaplain for the South Cape York School Cluster.

Throughout the day participants compiled the following information:

- their personal strengths as facilitators
- what resources each Ranger or Youth Worker had available

- the obstacles to meaningful engagement, and
- resources needed to create meaningful experiences.

This information has been documented to create a resource for use by all those who work with young people and the environment.

The Forum energised and inspired all participants on how they can work with young people.

“I have worked with young people on and off throughout my NRM career, but Chappy (David Kamoltz) really opened my eyes to new ways to really make it a lot more meaningful. It was one of those amazing days where you really get something valuable that you can put into use straight away” said Jason Carroll of South Cape York Catchments.

Thank you to all who participated - it was a highly successful day. Thanks to Queensland Land and Water Carers for funding the event and to the Jabalbina Rangers for hosting. Many thanks go to David and Emily Kamoltz, who developed and facilitated the forum.

Please email jason@scyc.com.au if you would like more information about this forum or resources that were created from it.

Impacts on water quality from gully remediation works: an update on Crocodile Station

by Will Higham, Principal Program Manager - Planning and Implementation, Cape York NRM



Michael Goddard and Will Higham - Cape York NRM - another hard day's work complete

Cape York NRM is continuing to monitor the water quality benefits of gully remediation at Crocodile Station.

In late 2016 two High Lift KP event samplers (water quality monitoring equipment - see pictures) were installed at Crocodile Station; one situated downstream from gully remediation works, the other situated downstream of an untreated gully.

The aim of this monitoring is to demonstrate benefits of the project by detecting the difference in sediment concentrations between treated and untreated gullies. Some monitoring data was gathered in the 2016/17 wet season, however the results were hampered as a result of the sampler switches being buried in mobile sediment and debris.

Below: High Lift KP event sampler control box (foreground) and sample bottle (background) contained within protective poly pipe. The control box is located on top of the bank above typical flood water level. The grass was raked to reduce the risk of fire damage. (Photo: Will Higham)



In preparation for the 2017/18 wet season the two High Lift KP event samplers were cleaned, serviced, recharged and repositioned to better locations. These samplers will collect a composite sample during long rainfall events.

During a runoff event, 25ml of water is pumped from the stream channel into the sample bottle every 30 minutes. The sample bottles can hold about 1.5 litres which allows for 24 hours of continuous sampling during heavy rainfall. Several samples have been collected throughout the wet season in early 2018. The results of these samples will be presented in the coming months.

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

Below: High Lift KP sampler pump (left) and float switch (right) that is secured to a star picket in the stream channel. There is 6m of pipe and electrical cable between the pump/float switch and the control box/sample bottle. (Photo: Will Higham)



The threat from gamba grass |

by Barry Lyon, Cape York Natural Resource Management, and Trevor Meldrum, Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Incorporated



Above: Gamba grass during herbicide treatment.

Below: Gamba grass after herbicide treatment. All photos provided by Trevor Meldrum.



Gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*), an introduced plant from Africa, is one of the biggest threats to the natural health of Cape York.

Growing to four metres in height, gamba grass carries four to five times the fuel load of native grasses and burns very fiercely – over 1000 degrees compared to round 350 degrees for spear grass. Gamba grass fires readily kill native vegetation, tall trees included, turning woodlands into grasslands and causing local extinctions of both plant and animal species.

This pest also uses far greater quantities of nutrients and water than native grasses do, significantly impacting on both local and linked landscapes, including wetlands.

Gamba grass fires pose a significant risk to nearby infrastructure and people trying to control such blazes. Fire benefits the plant, helping to disperse the abundant seeds it

produces. It is no wonder that gamba grass has been declared a weed of national significance!

RIGHT NOW, is the time to spray or pull gamba grass infestations, before it sets seed and spreads further. Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Incorporated Environmental Operations Manager, Trevor Meldrum advises that glyphosate is suitable for chemical control. Trevor can help with identification of gamba grass and recommended chemical application rates (phone: 0400 368 834). CYWAFA Inc. has a spray unit available at no charge to the community.

Cook Shire also has two Quick Spray Units available for loan in Cooktown (subject to a \$250 security deposit). Contact Cook Shire Biosecurity Services on 4069 5444 to book a unit.



Photo: Kerry Trapnell

Securing the future of threatened sea turtles

In early March a delegation from Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA) travelled to Canberra to present the highlights of the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program (NTOTPP), in a meeting to review the success of the program.

The WCTTAA delegation included Coordinator Kerri Woodcock, Pormpuraaw Senior Ranger Clinton Williams (Holroyd), and Cape York NRM Operations Manager Peta-Marie Standley.

The group reported on the positive impact that the delivery of the NTOTPP is having on western Cape York - showing the dramatic reduction of predated turtle nests which has resulted from coordinated pig culls, and the use of nest protection devices.

Through the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program, rangers have been able to monitor the impact of their work to show these results.

Cape York NRM Operations Manager Peta Standley said that Clinton and Kerri did a fantastic job representing WCTTAA and Cape York.

“Clinton showed the positive impacts that Pormpuraaw is having on-ground through their NTOTPP delivery, while Kerri presented the overarching results achieved by the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance with the support of the NTOTPP” Ms Standley said.

Queensland Government’s Geoff Lundie-Jenkins and Mike Gregory played a key role in facilitating WCTTAA’s presence at the meeting, and provided an overview of the NTO Program that has been delivered in priority locations across Queensland.

Cape York was also represented by Aak Puul Ngantam (APN) General Manager Sandy Whyte and CSIRO’s Dr Justin Perry, who presented the innovative approaches to turtle conservation in the Southern Wik homelands, and the outcomes from their Nest to Ocean investment.

Funding announcements about the future of the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program are expected soon.

WCTTAA is supported by Cape York NRM and is funded by the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program, a joint initiative of the Australian and Queensland Governments.

How to write a funding proposal

by Vicki Wundersitz

So you have a natural resource management project in mind and you have found an opportunity to apply for funding - how exciting!

Before you start, carefully read the guidelines which outline exactly what will (and won't) be funded. The format of funding applications can vary - but there are some basic guiding principles that should be considered when developing your proposal. The following tips will help to pull together a concise and compelling application for funding your project.

Why do you want to do this project?

Outline why your project is needed. Describe why the area/plant/animal is important, and if there are particular threats to the area/species. Include any relevant background information which helps to explain how the proposal came about. Identify the project's alignment to community, NRM or regional plans, and outline how the project will provide other cultural, social or environmental outcomes.

What do you want to do?

Clearly describe what you are planning to achieve. Note measures such as hectares of weed control, kilometres of fencing, or number of people engaged or trained in the project activities – and include the location of activities by address, GPS points or a map with the work area highlighted.

Consultation - are there partners in your project?

It is important that all stakeholders impacted by your project activities are consulted in your project planning process. You should also consider any relevant approvals or permits that may be needed for your project, if you need to gather specialist information from others, and if the people involved are qualified to do the work. Compile a list of people and/or organisations that you have contacted and how they will be involved.

How much will it cost, how long will it take and what are the risks?

Prepare a budget for the entire project with a breakdown of costs for materials, equipment, labour etc., and including your in-kind and cash contributions. State when the project will start, break down your work activities and outline what you expect to achieve by certain dates. Consider how the wet season might impact your project, and include that in the project plan. Think about the risks to the project and what controls can be put in place to reduce these risks, including workplace health and safety considerations.

How will you measure the success of your project?

It is important to show the impact of your project. Consider how you will promote your project and how the benefits from the project will be maintained into the future. Project activities can be measured in many ways, including surveys, photos, GPS or fulcrum data, maps and reports, to show the impact that the project has had.

Once complete, well done!

Allow time to comfortably hit the send or submit button before the closing date and time. Keep a copy of the application and of the confirmation of submission so that you have evidence that your hard work in developing an application has been received successfully. By following these simple guidelines your funding application will be clear, concise and well thought out.



My Cape York Life

Welcome to series two of My Cape York Life. In this second podcast series we travel the diverse landscapes of the centre of Cape York, and the south-east coast.



We begin the second series of My Cape York Life on Artemis Station, a cattle property in the heart of Cape York. Artemis is a 125-thousand hectare property midway between Coen and Laura. The property has been in the Shephard family for about 100 years and is run by Tom and Sue Shephard.

In episode one we meet Tom Shephard who has lived in central Cape York for all of his 70 years. In his lifetime he has seen many changes in the way cattle are raised, and also to life on Cape York. But he says new techniques and technologies have made the cattle business much easier than it used to be.



Sue Shephard moved to Cape York in 1970 to work at Musgrave Station for the Shephard family. She met the youngest Shephard son, Tom, got married, and together they raised four children on Artemis Station.

Sue tells some amazing stories of raising kids and cattle, caring for country, and researching the endangered golden shouldered parrot. Sue says life on Artemis is never lonely - she hosts visitors from all over the world, and world-renowned scientists researching the golden-shouldered parrot.



Billy Harrigan is the Cultural Officer with Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council and is a Traditional Owner from the area.

In this episode Billy reflects on life in Wujal Wujal and Cape York, the importance of culture and tradition, on life under the Aboriginal Protectorate and the long road to getting Country back. He has always lived in the south-east of Cape York and has worked hard throughout his life. Now, he is a few years from retirement. He has seen a lot of change in community, technology, environmental management and government policy. Billy's respectful and knowledgeable story-telling paints a vivid picture of life on Cape York.



Waratah Nicholls arrived in far north Queensland in the early 80s for a Bungle in the Jungle at Bloomfield and fell in love. Her piece of paradise is in Mungumby Valley - a stone's throw from the famous Lions Den Hotel.

Waratah is an artist, teacher and community worker. Through her work, her passion and her kindness, Waratah has left her mark in art galleries, communities and hearts across Cape York Peninsula. She's currently coordinating the 'Gateway to the Cape' - a concept to develop a visitor stop in Lakeland, promoting environmental awareness for travellers.

Stories from the Cape

You will be enthralled with the stories shared by graziers, conservationists, Traditional Owners, an artist, and a local government councillor. Find us at landmanager.capeyorknrm.com.au, or listen on your favourite podcast app.



Marie Shipton lives in Wujal Wujal and is a Traditional Owner from the area.

This interview is recorded on Country at the mouth of the beautiful Bloomfield River, in the company of a patrolling crocodile. Marie talks about growing up on the river, before being moved to Wujal Wujal by the Lutheran Church. She shares stories about her family, culture and life in the place where the rainforest meets the reef.

These days Marie works to preserve and share the stories and culture of her country, as a Cultural Officer at Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Council.



Alan Wilson has seen and done just about everything in his almost 40 years on the Cape.

He is a Cook Shire Councillor, and he's run cattle stations, the Laura pub and the town's roadhouse. He has led many campaigns to improve life on the Cape. He pushed for the new bridge over the Laura River south of town, and continues to campaign for one at north Laura – where wet season floods isolate the town and can be a real danger to people. Alan has spent years campaigning for a container deposit scheme for Queensland - which has finally been taken on by the Queensland Government.



Vince Harrigan is a Traditional Owner and Ranger from Normanby Station in southern Cape York.

The 31,400 acre property was returned to his family in the 1990s. The Harrigan brothers are caring for country and Vince says he can see Country becoming healthy again. The Normanby River runs through the property into Princess Charlotte Bay – and Vince knows that work being undertaken is having a positive impact the health of the reef. Vince and his brothers are part of the nationally acclaimed Black Image Band - who feature on this series on My Cape York Life. The songs produced by the band speak of culture, country and connection.



Jessie Price is a young mum, an environmental scientist, and the Grazing Engagement Officer with South Cape York Catchments - a community-based natural resource management organisation based in Cooktown.

Jessie began her Cape York working life as a trainee with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, a spectacular introduction to the region she loves living in and working for. Jessie is passionate about conservation on Cape York, and understands first-hand the challenges of having a career and raising a family in one of Australia's remote regions.

Cape York Calendar

Events significant to your life on Cape York

APRIL

25 ANZAC Day public holiday



MAY

1-3 Reef-wide Traditional Owner Workshop, Cairns

6 Beef Australia: Rockhampton

7 Labour Day public holiday

15-16 Cape York Grazing Roundtable

29-31 Cape York Gully Forum - Cairns, Crocodile Station, Cooktown

JUNE

5 World Environment Day

8-10 Weipa Fishing Classic

15 Cooktown Careers Day

16 World Sea Turtle Day



Corporate Nature launched

Corporate Nature, the NGO established by Cape York NRM, Terrain NRM and Northern Gulf RMG to deliver corporate support to the three regions, held its first board meeting on 2 January 2018.

Corporate Nature's General Manager, Michelle Nusse said that the three regions have worked tirelessly to pull together this new entity so that each NRM regional group can focus on on-ground project delivery, whilst centralising back-room services.

"The collaboration demonstrates consistency, effectiveness and efficiencies across the north. Through drive and determination between three very different cultural, environmental and industry-specific regions - we have been able to harmonise policies and shared services.

"All three regions have amazing teams of staff, directors and other partnerships. On the ground in each region, partners should notice very little change" Michelle said.

"We are all looking forward to the future" she said.

Carlie Irons and Michelle Hamilton continue to be the admin and finance contacts for Cape York NRM.

Review and Development of Cape York NRM's Regional Investment Strategy

Cape York NRM conducted several community consultation workshops with NRM partners and stakeholders to review Cape York NRM's Regional Investment Strategy 2013 – 2018, and to solicit input on a review and update of regional NRM Plan target priorities for the future in order to develop Cape York NRM's Regional Investment Strategy 2018-2022.

The Cape York NRM Regional Investment Strategy 2013-2018 contains the priorities for investment as identified through consultation with the people and communities of Cape York in 2011-2013. These priorities for investment are also delivering on the new community-developed NRM plan targets in the Cape York 'Living' NRM plan. The workshops sought community feedback on the success of NRM investment on Cape York in the past four years, and explored community views, needs and priorities for NRM investment in the next four years. The workshops also helped refine project development for Regional Land Partnership priorities.

Consultation workshops enabled two-way exchange of information and were facilitated by Cape York NRM in late 2017.

The following community events were held:

- Cooktown - 26 October
- Bamaga - 16 November
- Weipa - 21 November
- Coen - 23 November
- West Coast Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance meeting - 29 November
- Grazing Industry Round table, Violet Vale Station - 9 December

A community survey was conducted to seek further input from the community. Hard copies were provided in person at workshops and an online survey via Cape York NRM's website was open from 19 December 2017 to 31 January 2018.

A report is being prepared to provide information on the results from the consultation. The results will reference community NRM priorities for the Cape York region and provide guidance to Cape York NRM, particularly when developing NRM programs for funding through the Australian Government, Queensland Government, philanthropic and private investors. Regional investment will help Landcare, Indigenous and community groups to continue their valuable work of delivering biodiversity and sustainable agriculture outcomes that benefit our communities and the environment of Cape York.



Photos of participants in: Above - Weipa, Bottom left - Coen, Bottom right - Bamaga



Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd

Board of Directors



Emma Jackson
Chairperson
Primary Industries Sector



Trevor Meldrum
Vice Chairperson
Community Sector



Margaret Gebadi
Indigenous Sector, Zone 1



Pauline Smith
Indigenous Sector, Zone 2



Joseph Elu
Indigenous Sector, Zone 1



Currently vacant
Indigenous Sector, Zone 3



Eric Rosendale
Indigenous Sector, Zone 4



Desmond Tayley
Local Government Sector



John Charlton
Tourism, Small Business,
Mining and Other Industry
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