

# Cape York

## Healthy Country Newsletter

Issue 12 - March 2013

### This issue: Fire and Rain

As this newsletter goes to print the wet season is still yet to kick in properly. But as we know the weather can change quickly in our part of the world - it will be interesting to see the difference a week makes.

You'll notice we've changed things a bit with this edition - both with the look of the newsletter and also with the introduction of a theme. As two of the key influences to life on the Cape over summer are **fire and rain**, they'll be our focus for this edition. *And we'll have other stuff too!* Please let us know what you think. Send your feedback (and your stories) to [media@capeyorknrm.com.au](mailto:media@capeyorknrm.com.au).

**Forgive us our acronyms!** There's one regular shortening you'll find in this newsletter - NRM which stands for Natural Resource Management.

### Fire Workshop on Film

A short film about Cape York Natural Resource Management's (Cape York NRM) successful fire workshop hosted last year at Kings Plains is now on our web-site.

The hugely successful workshop has become an annual event. It commenced in 2008, and is designed to bring people together from different locations and communities, to share and learn about Indigenous fire practices and their application to contemporary land management.

The program is held in different areas each year and brings land users and managers together to develop a greater understanding of fire practices from Indigenous, historic and scientific knowledge perspectives.

Teams of experienced Indigenous fire practitioners deliver the program, supported by western management experts, using methodology which



Elders show rangers traditional burning techniques

applies traditional fire practices in contemporary management settings.

Rangers completing the training were accredited for units towards their Conservation and Land Management certificates.

Cape York NRM plan another workshop later this year. **For more information, contact Peta-Marie Standley on 1300 132 262.**  
[www.capeyorknrm.com.au](http://www.capeyorknrm.com.au)

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*Back cover: Events, Funding, Cape York NRM updates*



# Talking turtles

## Hope continues for turtle species survival

Two endangered turtle species that nest on the Western Cape continue to be under threat because of predatory raids on the nests of turtle eggs. Feral pigs are the main predators, with close to 100% predation on some nests of Olive Ridley and Flatback turtles in recent years.



Olive Ridley laying Image: Ben Jones

Cape York Sustainable Futures (CYSF) have run the Cape York Sea Turtle Project for the past six years and have worked with Western Cape communities and ranger groups to reduce the impact of predators on the turtles, and increase their chance of survival.

Ben Jones is CYSF's turtle project officer and has been involved with the project since it began in 2006. Ben said the main aim of the program is to get turtle hatchlings from their nests to the water.

"We've worked with six key ranger groups over the past six years." Ben said. "This has involved turtle nest monitoring and identifying nesting hot spots, and looking at the key threats faced by turtles on the Western Cape.

"It's now well documented that predation is by far the biggest threat to both Olive Ridley and Flatback turtles, and feral pigs are the biggest problem" he said.

Feral pig control is an important component of the Cape York Sea Turtle Project and is supported, and locally managed by ranger groups and the Cape York Weeds and

Feral Animal Program. The reduction of pig numbers has led to improved survival rates for hatchlings.

The project has also contributed to up-skilling of local rangers, providing training and mentoring in monitoring, species identification, GPS use and more.

"For example, we started working with the Apudthama Rangers in 2007 when there were only two Rangers employed. The group has rapidly grown to a full scale ranger program and this year, the group has managed its own pig control and turtle monitoring program. (**Ed- see story p. 7.**)

"This means we are able to work more closely with other groups which have required more assistance with ranger activities, such as APN Cape York (Aak Puul Ngantam) and Aurukun Aboriginal Shire Council to continue this important work" Ben said.

"I love being involved in conservation work on Cape York, especially seeing projects grow from a seed to a healthy tree. Working with the Indigenous people of the land, in conservation and land management is priceless and key to the long term success of natural resource management in Cape York. It's the two rivers joining - a meeting place, where traditional knowledge and western science flow into each other".

**For more information call Ben Jones, Cape York Sustainable Futures on (07) 4053 2856.**

[www.cypda.com.au/programs](http://www.cypda.com.au/programs)



Flatback turtle Image: Ben Jones

# Oswell Deluge Monitored

with Jason Carroll, South Cape York Catchments

Recent torrential rain has provided scientists and rangers with the perfect conditions to study sediment in floodwaters from Lakeland to Princess Charlotte Bay.

Cooktown scientists Christina Howley, Jeff Shellberg and the Laura Land and Sea Rangers sampled sediment-laden floodwaters which resulted from ex-Cyclone Oswell's drenching.

The flood plume extended from waterways within the Laura and Normanby catchments out to the Coral Sea. The floodwaters were primarily from the Laura, East and West Normanby rivers and travelled over 30 kilometres to the reef.

Floods have the potential to impact on fish stocks, seagrass beds and coral of Great Barrier Reef, by delivering sediment and nutrients from the river and coast to the marine environment.

The monitoring being conducted aims to identify how much sediment and nutrients are being delivered out to the reef and what parts of the catchment it comes from. This data will contribute to the understanding of how land use practices might impact on the Great Barrier Reef.

Jason Carroll, coordinator of South Cape York Catchments, said looking after the reef will mean a healthy reef, and in turn, better fishing.

"If sediments kill a seagrass bed, or a coral reef, the fish, turtle and dugongs that feed on that reef or seagrass either move on or die" said Mr Carroll.

"We rely on our reef and fish for recreation and tourism in this part of the world, so it's important we keep the reef and waterways healthy" he said.

Four-wheel drive vehicles and a helicopter were used to collect water samples over a 10 day period from the Mulligan highway near Lakeland, all the way to Corbett reef in Princess Charlotte Bay.



Image: South Cape York Catchments

Laura rangers testing flood waters

Over 360 water samples were collected in bottles and put on ice, then shipped off to four separate labs for analyses.

Scientist Christina Howley said this latest study was highly significant for the region and is the most extensive sampling event conducted during a flood event in a Cape York river or coastal area.

The project was thanks to a collaboration between Ms. Howley and Dr Shellberg from Griffith University, South Cape York Catchments, Laura and Lama Lama Rangers, JCU, the Qld government and Cape York NRM.

**For more information contact Jason Carroll, Coordinator South Cape York Catchments, (07) 4069 6890 or [catchment@cooktowns.com](mailto:catchment@cooktowns.com)**

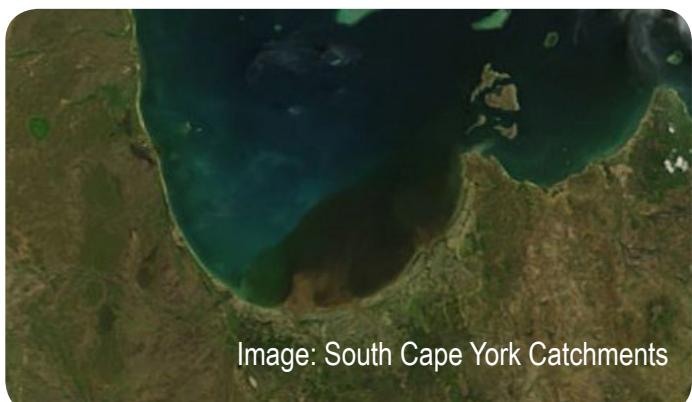


Image: South Cape York Catchments

Satellite image of flood plume, Princess Charlotte Bay

# Finding Frogs

Image: Keith MacDonald

**with Keith MacDonald**

Frogs are a part of our culture with stories handed down through generations, poems, fables and they are found in our immediate living environment – gardens, letter boxes, toilets, and wash rooms even behind art hanging on the house walls. At this time of the year, during the Cape York wet season, frogs are especially obvious with the males forming their large, loud, noisy breeding aggregations around seasonal swamps and waterholes. Females do not call.

Cape York along with the Wet Tropics is unique within Australia's NRM regions in having all five Australian native families of frog as well as the introduced Cane Toad (*Rhinella marinus*). With 51 native species (39%) of Queensland frogs it does not have the species diversity of frog fauna as the Wet Tropics and SEQ (50% of Qld frogs).

Most species are common and widespread although we do have nine (17.5% of CY NRM frogs) endemic species focused on the rainforest and boulderfields of the McIlwraith Range, the Cape Melville N.P., Iron Range area, Black Mountain near Cooktown and the rainforest area of the Annan drainage. Cape York is unique in Australia as it is the meeting point of frog faunas - New Guinea and the Australia - with 23% of CY native frog species shared.

There are 14 species in the wet tropics section of the NRM region,

many of which are found further south in the rainforests of the wet tropics.

Frogs range in size from the smallest such as the Javelin Frog 15mm (see main title picture), Chirping Froglet 18mm

and rainforest inhabiting narrow mouth frogs 15-20mm to the largest (other than cane toad) - the Cape Melville Treefrog and the White

Image: Keith MacDonald



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lipped Treefrog (see left), the largest tree frog in World. Females of the white-lipped Treefrog can reach 140 mm but are generally around 110-115 mm. Colours and shapes are highly variable with varying greens, mottled browns, reds, yellows, orange and greys with body shapes varying from short limbed, blunt snouted burrowing frogs to the long limb, sharp-snouted rocket frogs (see right).



Image: Queensland Museum  
<http://goo.gl/hHoJk>

Frog habitats in Cape York can be broadly classified into six types each with a unique combination of species some of which are only found in the particular habitat especially the rainforests and boulderfields with their restricted species.

- Rainforest
- River or creeks in woodland
- Tropical Eucalypt woodlands with pools and puddles
- Ti tree seasonal swamps
- Granite boulderfields
- Man made impoundments

*Are our frogs disappearing in the Cape York area?*

Frogs have evolved with drought, flood, fire, cyclones and other natural events. They can cope quite well with these natural disturbances and taken advantage of man-made structures such as dams. It is only in the rainforests of the wet tropics we have seen declines within populations from the chytrid fungus disease. This disease has yet to be found outside the wet tropics area in the Cape York NRM region. All threatened species (endangered and vulnerable) are found in rainforest and boulderfield habitat with only a small number of localised, vulnerable species outside the wet tropics section of the NRM region.

# Mon Repos Turtle Camp Update

**Dr Col Limpus, Chief Scientist,  
Threatened Species Branch. DEHP**

Volunteers and Indigenous rangers have been engaged in hands-on learning with Environment and Heritage Protection scientists, monitoring sea turtles at an annual summer turtle and dugong training camp, during December, January and February, at Mon Repos near Bundaberg.

The training camp, which has been run for volunteers each summer since the late 1960s, gives participants the opportunity to learn about marine turtle biology and conservation and to take part in monitoring the annual nesting of predominately loggerhead turtles along the Bundaberg coast.

This year, 33 Indigenous rangers from around Queensland participated as part of a joint state and Commonwealth project to develop greater Indigenous involvement in sustainable management of turtles and dugongs.

Indigenous rangers came from south, central and north Queensland communities and attended for a week at a time in groups of six.

The seven-day training workshops included nightly turtle biology lectures, nightly hands-on experience with nesting turtles, eggs or hatchlings, turtle species and track identification, monitoring and tagging, nest protect and relocation, data recording, research standards, discussion of sustainable hunting and compliance issues identified by traditional owners and planning for future training on-country.

Cape York Land and Sea Rangers attend Queensland Government meeting in Cairns recently.

Image: Queensland Government.



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When they complete the course, interested rangers are certified to conduct turtle research and monitoring.

They worked with the scientists and volunteers in tagging, measuring and recording the turtles that come to lay eggs at Mon Repos, the most important loggerhead turtle rookery in eastern Australia.

This year, following late January's massive storms and flooding, volunteers and Indigenous rangers had extra duties to perform, assisting in clean-up operations, rescuing eggs being eroded from the dunes and monitoring the turtles that continued to come to lay eggs even though the beach had been eroded.

Overall, the camp improves indigenous rangers' skills and ability to conduct turtle monitoring on their land and sea country, and strengthens the collaboration between EHP and indigenous communities.



Image courtesy of Queensland Government

Rescuing damaged turtles eggs, following the ex-tropical cyclone Oswald at Mon Repos.

Cape York NRM recently convened a meeting of 15 agencies and rangers groups involved in turtle conservation on Cape York, to continue planning and coordination efforts this year. Western Cape groups will meet again at Napranum in April, while a larger forum is planned for Cairns later in the year.

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Meanwhile, Land and Sea senior rangers and coordinators from across Cape York joined others from across the state at a state government convened meeting in Cairns in February to share knowledge and information across a range of issues (see image, left). **Full story in the next newsletter.**

# Old Ways Bring New Learnings in Fire Management

Background Image: CYSF

A Cape York fire management program which has been running for 12 years has created change in fire management practices on the ground.

Cape York Sustainable Future's (CYSF) Fire and Biodiversity program has been instrumental in fire planning and coordination and on ground implementation of fire management practices, particularly in the Mitchell-Coleman sub-regions.

Aaron Crosbie, CYSF Operations Manager, has taken a hands-on approach to fire management.

"We've been working locally with Traditional Owners, pastoralists, and the Kowanyama Aboriginal Land and Natural Resource Management Office (KALNRMO), and have noticed significant change in how land is being managed using fire, during this time" he said.

"Local engagement is key to a regional approach to land management, and working locally feeds directly into our regional planning" he said.

Traditional owners and CYSF staff have noticed increased biodiversity at Oriners and Sefton in southern Cape York, since traditional burning practices have been re-introduced on the country.

The properties, which cover around 3000 square kilometres, were purchased by the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, allowing Traditional Owners to return to country and re-instate traditional burning practices.

"The Traditional Owners have directed the burns. They tell where and when to burn" said Daniel Maddalena, who volunteers with KALBRMO, and works with CYSF during the fire season.

"This year, I have noticed a big increase in biodiversity. There are definitely more birds since the burns started" he said.

Fire is part of life on Cape York, and strong evidence suggests that changed burning regimes have contributed to loss of biodiversity and wildfire.

Peter Thompson, who has long been involved with CYSF's fire project, said late dry season burns can change the landscape.

"When grasslands burn in the late dry, they are unable to regenerate until the rain comes.

Trees, on the other hand have deep root systems which seek out water underground. Melaleucas

love fire, and will spread into areas which were previously grasslands" Peter said.

An important tool to the Cape York Fire and Biodiversity Program and to the on-ground work and planning is the Northern Australia Fire Information (NAFI) website. Established in 2003 by CYSF, Tropical Savannas Management CRC, and Charles Darwin University, it records fires as they happen through the regular interpretation and mapping of satellite imagery data.

Landholders now rely on the site to monitor fires in the fire season.

"This saves time and resources, as in the past landholders had to physically drive over their properties to monitor fires. The web site saves days of their time" Peter said.

The fire project has also made some significant in-roads in building relationships across the region.

"People have been working together, sharing their knowledge, resources and time. This is fundamental to the continuation of good practice in fire management and is one of the best outcomes of the project" Aaron said.

Daniel agreed. "Because of this project and the support of the traditional knowledge of Phillip Yam and Louie Native, the KALNRMO, surrounding property owners and CYSF, people have been able to get back out onto country – which is essential for ongoing fire management. People need to be there to look after Country, it can't be done from afar" he said.

The combination of real time data from the NAFI site and improved fire regimes with people who are on country has led to improved biodiversity, better grazing land, improved relationships and better information.

"This shows how important it is that this works continues in the long-term" the team from CYSF concur.

The finalised Cape York Fire Management Plan is due for release soon.

**For more information contact Aaron Crosbie at CYSF on (07) 4053 2856.**

[www.cypda.com.au/programs](http://www.cypda.com.au/programs)  
[www.firenorth.org.au/nafi2](http://www.firenorth.org.au/nafi2)

# Successful Pig Cull Increase Flatback Survival Chances

Flatback turtle eggs on the west coast of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council have a better chance of hatching following an intense abatement program which resulted in the removal of 337 pigs from the area.

Apudthama Land and Sea Rangers managed the cull which took place in the remote coastal area north-west of the Jardine Swamps.

"We targeted the swamp country in the immediate vicinity of Flatback turtle nesting area first and then start to head out further when pigs were harder to locate" ranger coordinator Warren Strevens told Cape York NRM.

"This was important so that we could directly target the boars predating on turtle nests" he said.

"We were keen to show if there was a reduction in pig damage to the nests when we removed these pigs which were known to be responsible for predation. So we did nightly patrols of the turtle nesting area while we were there, with no predation of nests and no pig activity evident" he said.

Six rangers were involved in the cull which had the added benefit of further developing the skills of the rangers.

"It's really important for us to be able to manage these activities locally, as we know the country well and can access areas when others can't. The rangers were responsible for data recording, and planning the cull. Local management also enabled us to direct other

funds towards the program, making the chance of success much greater" Warren said.

Specialist skills were gleaned from professional shooter and Normanton ranger coordinator Mark Hogno, who provided his time and monitoring expertise. Cape York Weeds and Feral Animal Program provided some logistics and coordinated with Mapoon Land and Sea Rangers to align a cull at Mapoon with the Apudthama cull, reducing overall pig numbers across the landscape.

"Our rangers are highly skilled and learning more every day. Local management is logically more effective, reducing costs and providing the opportunity for year-round natural resource activities. We are also able to directly provide Traditional Owners with fresh pigs from the cull, an important source of meat locally" Warren said.

Image: Apudthama Land and Sea Rangers



Rangers remove a fish hook from this booby during patrols.

***Programs such as this can result in positive unintended consequences. As the pigs became harder to find, the rangers knew that some mobs had moved into cover. The country had not been burnt for some time, and so the rangers were able to use fire to push the pigs back to the coast. Aerial shoots and fire can help the rangers manage pigs into the future. The Apudthama rangers hope that this can lead into developing and using traditional fire management practices.***

Images: Apudthama Land and Sea Rangers



Data monitoring



Feral pigs collected for autopsy by rangers

# Lama Lama Rangers Update

with Gavin Bassani, Operations Manager

## Vandalised Signage a Disgrace

A number of years ago, our old people worked with State Development at the time and local CDEP teams to install some Welcome to Country signage at the bottom of the range on the road to Port Stewart, marking the start of Lama Lama Country. After many years of working for ownership and regaining access to our lands, our old people chose the location for these signs and the wording - with the sentiment welcoming people to our country and asking visitors to respect our land and connections.

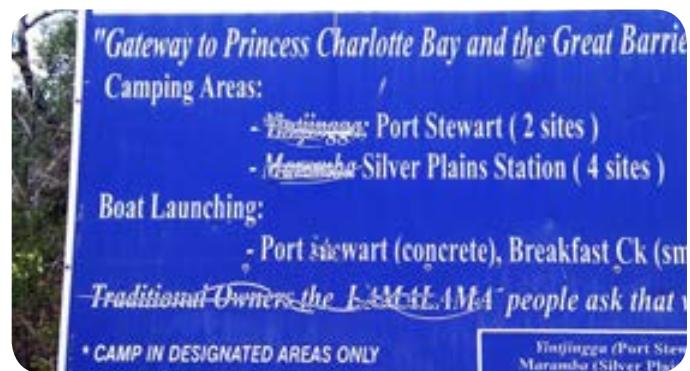
It is disappointing that in 2012, these signs were severely defaced, offending our Elders and community and disrespecting the many years work of our old people, regaining access to our country and legal recognition of our connections.



Lama Lama elder Paddy Bassani with the damaged Welcome to Country signs.

The Lama Lama Rangers work on a number of cultural and natural resource management projects and activities across our traditional lands. And 2013 will also see the introduction of Sea Country Patrols and Scientific Research Programs. We will be patrolling our lands and sea waters regularly. Anyone who is found to be damaging our resources and land will be prosecuted.

People wishing to visit Lama Lama country should visit the Coen or Port Stewart Ranger offices to ask for permission. We welcome people who do the right thing.



Vandalised Welcome to Country signs

## Thank You Australian Maritime Safety Authority

The Lama Lama Community and the Lama Lama ranger team would like to acknowledge the recent donation from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority of critical safety equipment to support our ranger program. A special thank-you also goes to Adrian Dividson of the Torres Strait Office for assisting. Your support is helping us get out on the water safely and manage approximately 65kms of coastline which provides food source and habitat for turtles and dugongs, for the critically endangered Snub-Fin dolphin and sawfish, for many seabirds and an abundant array of sea life including crayfish, inshore reefs, oysters and fish; and holds many important sites and cultural places. We would also like to congratulate you on the great work you do keeping people safe on the water.



The Lama Lama Ranger team and Andrew Denzin from GBRMPA, with donated safety equipment.

# Partnerships in the Cape

Cape York Natural Resource Management recently hosted some communications workshops in Cooktown and Laura. Here's some of the gems of the workshops.

## Landcare partners with CYWAFAP for Holroyd Plain Project

with Andrew Hartwig, Landcare

Cape York Peninsula Landcare Inc. through Caring for our Country funding, was able to assist landholders of the Holroyd Plain High Value Aquatic Ecosystem to help protect wetlands through implementing on-ground management actions. This was achieved by landholders fencing wetlands and riparian vegetation to exclude stock, provide off site watering points and effectively reduce disturbance of these critical aquatic ecosystems.

An aerial shooting program, partnering with Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Program, (CYWAFAP) completed the project in December 2012, with over 4,000 feral animals removed across a broad range of land tenures to achieve landscape scale conservation. Partners included Watson River, Wolverton, Srathhaven, Astrea and Glengarland Stations, Australian Wildlife Conservancy – Picaninny Plains, Indigenous Land Council – Merepah Station, Holroyd River and Harkness Nature Refuges and Strathmay and Crosby Stations – (State Government and Olkola Aboriginal Corporation).

The program followed on from previous CYWAFAP, Cape York Sustainable Futures and Cape York NRM control programs along the west coast to reduce feral pig numbers and preserve turtles and native wildlife. By working in partnership and through continued control programs by Queensland Parks and Wildlife on neighbouring Oyala Thumotang National Park (formerly Rokeby Station), there has been a noticeable reduction in brumby numbers over the Holroyd Plain since the programs began; however a continued and sustained effort is required to bring feral pig numbers to a manageable level to reduce impacts on native wildlife and improve water quality.

## A crafty Burl

by Brian Ross, Laura Land and Sea Rangers

The bloodwood tree burl is very common throughout the Cape York Peninsula. It is cut off the bloodwood tree by timber cutters and wood turners when it is big enough to turn into a bowl or to get a table top out of.

A bloodwood tree burl is caused by humans or environmental impacts making twigs or branches not grow properly. They form as a result of damage from fire or flood, but the most common cause is by insects and moulds.

The burl is very beautiful and highly figured – it has very pretty patterns and swirls through the timber, they can form on tree roots, trunks or branches. The burl is known to be cut straight off the bloodwood tree and then taken back to the work shop and dried. When dried it is put onto a wood lathe and turned. If this process does not work first up it is then put out to dry again otherwise it can shatter to pieces because of the weakness in its grain.

The burl is a big round bowl like shape attached to three kinds of tree that I know of the bloodwood, gumtree, and the redwood.



(Left) Pig cull map - dots show cull extent. Courtesy: CYWAFAP



Image: Brian Ross

Bloodwood tree burl

# *Wet Season Weed Control*

## *Managing Gamba Grass on Cape York*

Rangers and land managers across Cape York are in the midst of their annual attack on gamba grass.

Gamba grass, a Class 2 declared pest plant in Queensland, grows prolifically with rain. Introduced as improved pasture grass in 1942, gamba grass thrived in Australian conditions.

The grass has adapted successfully, particularly in savanna country like Cape York. It can produce up to 244 000 seeds annually, and while seeds are light and easily dispersed by wind, 90% fall within five metres of the parent plant (source: DAFF, <http://goo.gl/vKhJF>).

Rain followed by sun and heat provide the perfect environment for gamba grass growth and it is during this period of high growth, and before seeding, that pest management experts target their efforts.



Image: CYWAFAP

Rangers learn weed control skills: Leon Bond mixes while Leon Jawai, Bronwyn Hall and Nagai Bosun look on.

Cape York Weeds and Feral Animal Program (CYWAFAP) have been undertaking roadside gamba grass control for years.

“Spraying occurs to kill the plant before it seeds, as it can easily become a mono-culture” said CYWAFAP’s Shane Forester. “We wait for the wet season to kick in, then we spray. However, because of the wet, our access to areas that need control can be limited.



Image: CYWAFAP

Nagai Bosun spraying sicklepod

“The best control scenario is where the weed is controlled locally, as is happening in Northern Peninsula Area with the Apudthama rangers.

“Now we are working with rangers in Napranum to teach them how best to tackle gamba grass in the wet season” Shane said.

“At the moment, while waiting for the gamba grass growth spurt, we’re showing the rangers how to control sicklepod. The control methods are the same, so it’s a great use of time and resources” he said.

## *Inaugural Joint Meeting Pest Forum Planned On Cape York*

Cape York Peninsula Pest Management Advisory Group (CYPPMAG) resolved at their last meeting held in Coen to hold joint meetings with the Far North Queensland Pest Advisory Forum (FNQPAF) and the Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC) at least once a year. The first joint forum is on 23 and 24 May 2013 in Mareeba at a venue to be advised.

CYPPMAG, FNQPAF and NAMAC will work collaboratively by organising task forces to undertake natural resource management activities involving weeds and feral animals.

There will be an opportunity for attendees to present updates on work being undertaken or planned within their work environments.

The forum is open to interested members of the public, representatives from shire councils, landholders, government, traditional owners, ranger groups, community and conservation groups and others involved or wanting to become involved in the wellbeing of Cape York Peninsula.

**To RSVP or for further information contact Joan Royal, Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Program, (07) 4069 5020 or mail@cywafap.org.au.**

# Cape York NRM Small Grants Awarded

The small grants program is part of Cape York NRM's Indigenous Engagement Initiative, jointly funded by Queensland Government and the Australian Government.

Cape York NRM's small grants program, with support from the Business Navigator Initiative, has funded three projects for Lockhart River.

*Chili Beach* - weeds infestation control, esplanade revegetation, beach dune restoration

*Portland Roads* - road verge weed management.

Almost \$15000 was provided for the above community projects which are supported by Queensland parks local rangers, Kuuku Ya'u rangers, John Pritchard, Neal Dahl, Cook Shire Council, and Greg Westcott (project manager).

In addition, Kuuku Ya'u rangers received \$15000 toward a bush tucker nursery and cultural knowledge recording.



High tide encroaching on foreshore dunes



Weeds on Chili Beach foreshore

**More information from Cape York NRM on 1300 132 262.**



Image: Luke Preece

Right:  
Palinjii Country



Image: Luke Preece

Right:  
Nesbit River

**Wunta Aboriginal Corporation** was recently granted almost \$15000 to develop a fire management plan and for cultural knowledge exchange. Around 30 Palinjii (Nesbit River) Traditional Owners of all ages travelled to country late last year, some for the first time.

Supported by Cape York NRM and Mulong Productions, a film has been produced for the Traditional Owners, which has recorded important traditional ecological and cultural knowledge. A fire management plan is underway for Palinjii.

The project has been led by Wunta Aboriginal Corporation's Sam Zaro.

## Cape York Natural Resource Management Website

Have you seen the Cape York NRM website lately? Take the time to have a look, and a play with the interactive features. Eye for Country allows you to input sightings of fire, weeds, animals etc., while the Cape York calendar promises to keep you up to date with our regions major events, and allows you to submit your own. NRM projects from organisations across the Cape will also be highlighted. [www.capecayorknrm.com.au](http://www.capecayorknrm.com.au)

# Available NRM Funding

**Community Landcare Grants** between \$5000 - \$50000 available to local community-based groups and professional farming systems groups, actively involved in NRM or sustainable agriculture activities. **More info:** [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au) or 1800 552 008.

**Cape York NRM and Cape York Weeds and Feral Animal Program** funds of up to \$15000 to land managers for on-ground projects that provide improved land management or cultural outcomes. **CYWAFAP** Incentives for Cape York landholders NRM region for up \$1000 reimbursement to control declared weeds and feral animals on their property. **More info:** 1300 132 262 or (07) 4069 5020.

**Caring for our Country** Target area grants for Cape York, Reef Rescue, Biodiversity fund Round II. **More info:** [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au) or 1800 552 008.

**Birdlife Australia** Research and Indigenous knowledge grants available. Closing 31 March. **More info:** [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au) or (03) 9347 0757

**Tim Fairfax Family Foundation** Grants to rural and remote communities up to \$10000. **More info:** <http://tfff.org.au/images/stories/guidelines.pdf>

## Coming up on the Cape Enter your event: [www.capeyorknrm.com.au/calendar.html](http://www.capeyorknrm.com.au/calendar.html)

**March** Submissions close: Landcare, Caring for our Country.

**6** Rio Tinto Alcan Weipa community forum from 6pm: 1800 707 633

**8** International Women's Day - check with Councils for events

**2nd Friday** TSRA Emerging Leader applications (07) 4069 0700

**29** National NAIDOC poster comp closes [www.naidoc.org.au](http://www.naidoc.org.au)



'One Jump Ahead' Broad-palmed Rocket frog - Early Start to the New Season Photo: Veronica Coleman

## Cape York NRM Updates

### Regional Investment Strategy (RIS)

We are in the process of preparing an Investment Strategy for future Commonwealth and State regional and base Level funding. At this stage we understand that the Caring for our Country proposal will be due around the end of March.

To do this we are reviewing available planning, aspirational and reporting documents produced over the past few years by us, our partners, scientists and others. We will then seek input into our strategy through targeted and public consultations. Contact us for more information.

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### To contribute or subscribe:

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Deadline 4 April  
2013



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



Queensland  
Government

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