

Cape York Healthy Country newsletter

Cape York NRM Annual General Meeting

Members of Cape York Natural Resource Management are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting from 1pm Wednesday November 23 to 1pm Thursday November 24 at the Cooktown Events Centre.

The AGM will provide an opportunity to give your input into the organisation, provide feedback to the Board members and hear presentations on work undertaken by Cape York NRM.

Dinner will be provided accompanied by local Bush Poet and Comedian Marty Pattie and country music. Contact Janet Greenwood to RSVP at jgreenwood@capeyorknrm.com.au or call 1300 132 262.

Community shares their important issues

Cape York NRM recently undertook a road trip to meet with our members to find out what their issues are as we move out of the Governments transition year and start planning for future investment driven by community.

The feedback given from our members and other community members is invaluable as we work towards a healthy and resilient Cape York and enables us to understand what is important to the people that live here.

We had an outstanding response from members and non-members, including graziers, traditional owners, small business owners including tourism operators, council members, miners and others. We heard consistent messages all the way up the Cape.



The issues caused by pests and weeds and the challenges associated with land tenure and land acquisitions by Government are having on the viability of business in Cape York are two we heard clearly.

We were on the road for ten days and visited the communities of Lakeland, Coen, Port Stewart, Lockhart River, Weipa, Umagico, Bamaga, Injinoo and Cooktown and other stakeholders and organisations on the way.

Our Mission: Helping people to work together to care for the natural environment and to promote the sustainable use of Cape York's natural resources.

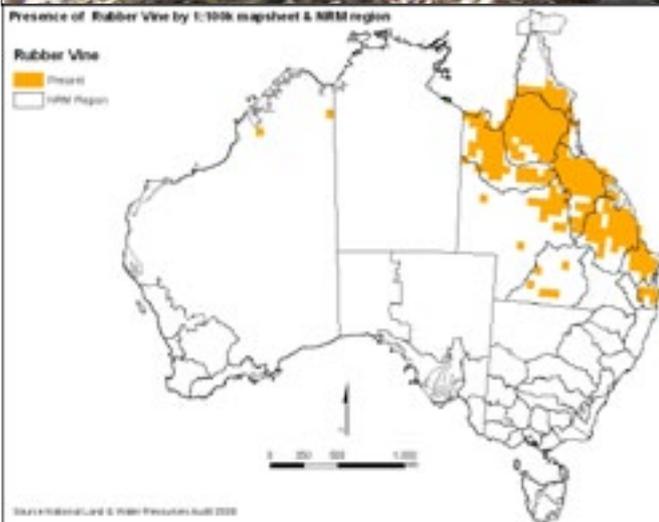
Weeds crew tackles Rubber Vine

Trent Cini, Manager, Cape York Weeds and Feral animals Program

THE Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Program weeds crew have been busy tackling Rubber Vine north of the containment line for the past month, with over 90 hectares already receiving control. The national containment line follows the Musgrave to Pormpuraaw road to the west and the Lillyvale road to the east with any Rubber Vine located to the north classed as a high priority regionally and nationally.

The weeds crews have been doing an exceptional job in the often hot and difficult terrain of the upper reaches of the Lukin River gaining some good results. It is hoped that this vital work can help curb the northern spread of this invasive vine. The work in this area is coming to an end for this season and the team will be moving on to Pond apple control along the east coast during October.

This project is funded by Cape York NRM



The Bi annual Cape York Peninsula Pest Management Advisory Group meeting

THE meeting to be held in the NPA during the 9th and 10th of November is fast approaching. This is an opportunity to find out what's been happening with pest management within the region and have your say towards future management.

The general meeting held on the 9th is open to the public and a pest forum showcasing some of the works that the NPA rangers have achieved during the year will follow.

This is a good opportunity to coordinate control works with neighbouring NRM groups and let everyone know how your work is contributing to achieving regional outcomes.

For further information contact the Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Office on 40695 020 or send an email to mail@cywafap.org.au



This project is supported by Cape York NRM through funding from the Queensland Government's Q2 Coasts and Country and the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Programs.

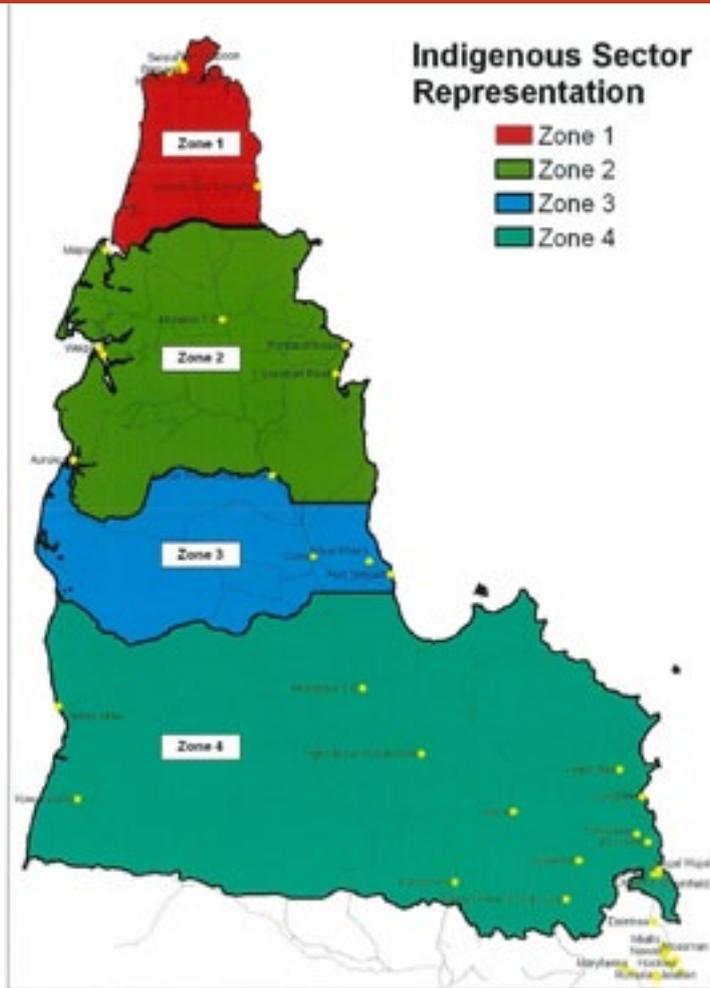


CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



Q2 Coasts and Country

Call for Cape York NRM Board Member



The position of Indigenous Sector for Zone 3 is vacant as a result of the resignation of Don De Busch who has been employed by the Company as a member of staff. The Board of Directors is seeking expressions of interest from eligible persons who would like to be considered for the vacant position. Directorship is only open to Indigenous people who reside in Zone 3.

Anyone who is eligible and interested in the position is asked to submit a completed Expression of Interest form. This form and further information can be obtained by e-mailing Janet Greenwood, Executive Assistant at jgreenwood@capeyorknrm.com.au or by phoning her on 1300 132 262. Expressions of Interests and other relevant material should be received no later than 3:00 pm on Friday 11th November, 2011.

Current Board Members

Joseph Elu - Local Government Sector and Chairman
Dick Foster - Tourism, Other Industries & Small Business Sector
John Giese - Community Sector
Peter Inderbitzin - Primary Industry Sector
Barry Lyon - Conservation Sector
Richard Tamwoy - Indigenous Sector Zone 1
Reg Williams - Indigenous Sector Zone 1
Blade Omeenyo - Indigenous Sector Zone 2
Desmond Tayley - Indigenous Sector Zone 4



Holistic Management Course- 7th-9th November

This course will provide graziers with the knowledge to utilise techniques that regenerative grazing offers.

Graziers will learn how to break the worm cycle in herbivores, how to use herbivores to regenerate land, how to create resilient, diverse pastures and how to transition from conventional grazing to Holistic Management.

All course information is on website www.RegenAG.com

Sediment Research in the Normanby Catchment

The Griffith University, Reef Rescue funded, study into the causes, sources and management of sediment input to the northern Great Barrier Reef (GBR) enters into its third year of four years total.

Researchers from Griffith University's Australian Rivers Institute have been redressing a huge gap in our knowledge of erosion sources and the causes of erosion in the Normanby basin – the catchment area for Princess Charlotte Bay (PCB).

Previous modelling has indicated that this basin is the third highest contributor of sediment to the GBR, after the Burdekin and Fitzroy basins.

However with the exception of two years of sediment monitoring data at DERM's Kalpower gauge, no measured

data had been available to set up or test the modelling that underpins the Reef Plan north of the Daintree River.

It was due to this glaring data gap that the Normanby sediment study was established in 2009.

As project leader Andrew Brooks explains "if the modelling is inaccurate and this is what the management decisions to reduce sediment pollution are being based on – then the wrong management decisions are likely to be made – and money will be inefficiently utilized. It was for this reason that the Federal Government held off embarking on a major program of on-ground works a few years back, when it was obvious that not enough evidence was available to back up such management decisions".

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Landholder support to manage gullys on its way

“A key aspect of this project has been testing many of the assumptions that are built into the modelling framework – many of which have been extrapolated from theory and data derived outside the tropical savannah, which dominates Cape York”, explains Dr Brooks.

New results from the Normanby are indicating that a number of assumptions that underpinned earlier modelling studies need to be turned on their head.

Previous models assumed that the dominant sediment source in this region was from hillslope sheet erosion, and that this dominated other sources such as gully erosion and river bank erosion by more than double over large areas of the basin.

Hillslope erosion rates were predicted to be more than 1000 kg/ha/yr over large parts of the catchment.

The results from the study, while still preliminary, paint a seemingly very different story.

Sediment tracing using samples collected from flood waters during the 2009-10 wet season indicate that at many sites 90% or more of the sediment is derived from river bank or gully erosion sources – a complete reversal of the modelling results.

These findings are backed up with data from 11 hillslope sediment traps established on each of the main soil types within the catchment, which have yielded hillslope erosion rates in the range 1 – 10 kg/ha/yr over 2 wet seasons -or 100 – 1000 times less than the modelling predicted.

The finding regarding the dominance of gully erosion in the basin is backed up by detailed mapping of all active gullies throughout the basin.

In an extremely painstaking process completed by Griffith researcher Dr. Leila Eslami-Endargoli, 6540 gullies were mapped, with a total area of 1360 ha.

Sediment yield from these gullies is still being determined from repeat LiDAR topographic surveys and historical air photo analysis – but similar gullies in the adjacent Mitchell catchment typically yielded 10 – 300 t/ha/yr (or around 100000 times more than hillslope erosion rates per unit area).

Another gap that is being filled by this study is the

collection of data on sediment runoff from the unsealed road network, not addressed or parameterized by previous models.

Honours student Angela Gleeson is highlighting the potential significance of roads as a sediment source.

In the Normanby catchment alone Ms Gleeson has mapped three classes of dirt road covering 3060 km with a total surface area of 52.7 km² (5270ha), and around 1180 stream crossings.

Preliminary data from the 2010-11 wet season showed that sediment concentrations downstream of stream crossings can be elevated by as much as 200 times compared with the concentration upstream of the road crossing.

On these figures, roads could be as significant as gullies as a sediment source.

All of these field data will be incorporated into a new sediment budget and improved modelling framework by mid-2012.

Concurrently, a new phase of the project is just beginning to bring, what some regard as esoteric science, back down to the grass roots level and translate it into ‘real world’ management actions at the scale of individual properties.

To do this the team will be contacting individual land holders and providing them with maps of erosion hotspots and assisting them in the process of developing property management plans aimed at reducing sediment input into the stream network, and ultimately the Reef.

Furthermore, since gully erosion is a major sediment source and there are no agreed “best management practices” to address the types of gullies found in the Cape, Dr Jeff Shellberg is initiating some experimental trials using an array of gully erosion mitigation measures at several properties in the Normanby.

These trials will serve as demonstration sites for others to come and learn which management actions are likely to work in slowing down major gully ‘breakaways’.

For more information contact Dr Andrew Brooks, Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University, Nathan Qld 4111. Mob 0427 232709; email; Andrew.brooks@griffith.edu.au.



Sediment runoff from an unsealed road Normanby catchment – Nov 2010.



Example of an alluvial gully in the Normanby catchment

Young Scientists Inspired

South Cape York Catchments (SCYC) and Cooktown State School have had a Scientist's in Schools partnership since 2007. SCYC Coordinator Jason Carroll is partnered with Cooktown State School's science teacher Julie Kereszteny (Julie recently won the 2010 Peter Doherty award for outstanding Teachers of Science). Over the last 4 years Julie and Jason have worked together to take many secondary students out into the field to undertake science based studies.

Studies have included, pest fish surveys, wetland ecosystem function, weed mapping, riverine health assessments, water quality monitoring, tree planting and wildlife surveys.

These excursions provide opportunities for students to participate in real science. Some of the information that students have collected over the years has been used to monitor the success of SCYC projects.

An example of this was when students helped measure the improvement in the health of Keating's lagoon after the feral pig exclusion fence was constructed. Thanks to funding from Caring for Our Country there are now more opportunities for students to develop their science skills by working on natural resource management projects around the region.

Scientists in Schools, is a national program that creates and supports long-term partnerships between teachers and scientists.

The program began in July 2007. Currently there are 2394 partnerships that have been established across Australia.

Many types of scientists are involved in the program including research scientists and engineers, post-graduate science and engineering students and people involved in applied sciences, such as doctors, vets and natural resource managers.

South Cape York Catchments (SCYC) was recently recognised for their contribution in inspiring young Australians in science as part of the Scientists in Schools program.

Queensland's Chief Scientist Dr Geoff Garrett AO presented the award to SCYC's Coordinator Jason Carroll in Townsville recently.

Dr Garrett spoke of the importance of science and science education to the future of Australia.

If you would like to be part of the Scientists in Schools program go to <http://www.scientistsinschools.edu.au/>

Just click on the get involved tab for registration.

Below: Julie Kereszteny and Cooktown School Marine studies class undertaking rocky shore studies.

Insert: Jason Carroll SCYC and Dr Geoff Garrett at the awards ceremony in Townsville.



SCYC is funded by
Cape York NRM
2011/2013

Weed Busters Week

Samantha Hobbs Project officer, South Cape York Catchments

As part of 'Weed Buster Week' South Cape York Catchments (SCYC) joined with Cape York Weeds and Feral Animal Program (CYWAFAP) staff to assist 10 Indigenous Conservation Land Management Students with their 'remote area weed management' practical course component. The focus weed was Lantana (*Lantana camera*). Not only did the students learn weed control techniques but they also controlled over half a hectare of Lantana at the Scrubby creek wildlife corridor site.

The students learnt the basal bark method of Lantana control where a small amount of the chemical is applied to the first 30cm of each of the lower stems. Basal barking has a number of benefits compared to sprays that cover the leaves like roundup, including using less chemical and not killing native species growing underneath or around the weed. This is particularly important in environmentally sensitive areas. While SCYC and the Nyungkal Rangers have removed over

12 ha of Lantana from the Wildlife Corridor site at Scrubby creek. It is important to conduct follow up inspections after control works have been completed to ensure that no plants have been missed. With the help of the students we were able to conduct a thorough search and ensure Lantana had been fully controlled along the wildlife corridor site.

Lantana is one of twenty Weeds of National Significance, listed due to its high level of invasiveness and severe impacts across the pastoral, agricultural, tourist, and natural environments.

If left unchecked Lantana has the potential to invade over 35million Ha of Australia's environment. If you would like to stop the spread of Lantana (or any other weed) on your property, or learn about the latest control techniques; weed control Fact Sheets are available from the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries by ph (132523) or web site www.dpi.qld.gov.au or call into the CYWFAP, Landcare & SCYC office at the council depot on Charlotte St and pick up a brochure.

This project is funded by Cape York NRM



A Great show set for the Barra, Beef and Bulldust Expo

Karumba will be the centre stage of the inaugural Barra, Beef and Bulldust Expo, held 4 - 6 November 2011 in Karumba and other locations across the region. Starring Troy Cassar-Daley, Mary G, David Hudson and Shane Howard, this is one event not to be missed. Locals and visitors will experience the best of the Gulf region with tours, forums, stalls, art, beef'n'barra cook-offs and more. The Expo will promote sustainability of the Gulf region's community, environment, culture and economy by showcasing projects, services, tourism, partnerships and businesses. <http://www.barrabeefandbulldust.com.au/>



Leadership Award for empowering women

The Australian Centre for Leadership for Women has launched a leadership award to honour males and females who have developed a sustainable initiative to empower women in a community or organisation. Nominations close 22 November 2011 and further information is available at www.leadershipforwomen.com.au.

Australian Government seeks applications for community assessors

Assessors play a crucial role in sustainable natural resource management by representing community perspectives on a range of funding decisions. Assessors are involved in assessing funding applications for initiatives including Caring for our Country and the Action on the Ground element of the Securing a Clean Energy Future plan. Assessors are people with:

- broad community knowledge and experience in managing natural resources
- knowledge of natural resource management issues and opportunities
- knowledge of sustainable farming practices, commercial fishing or aquaculture
- knowledge and experience in practices and technologies that can reduce the emission of greenhouse

gas from the agricultural sector or increase carbon stored in soil.

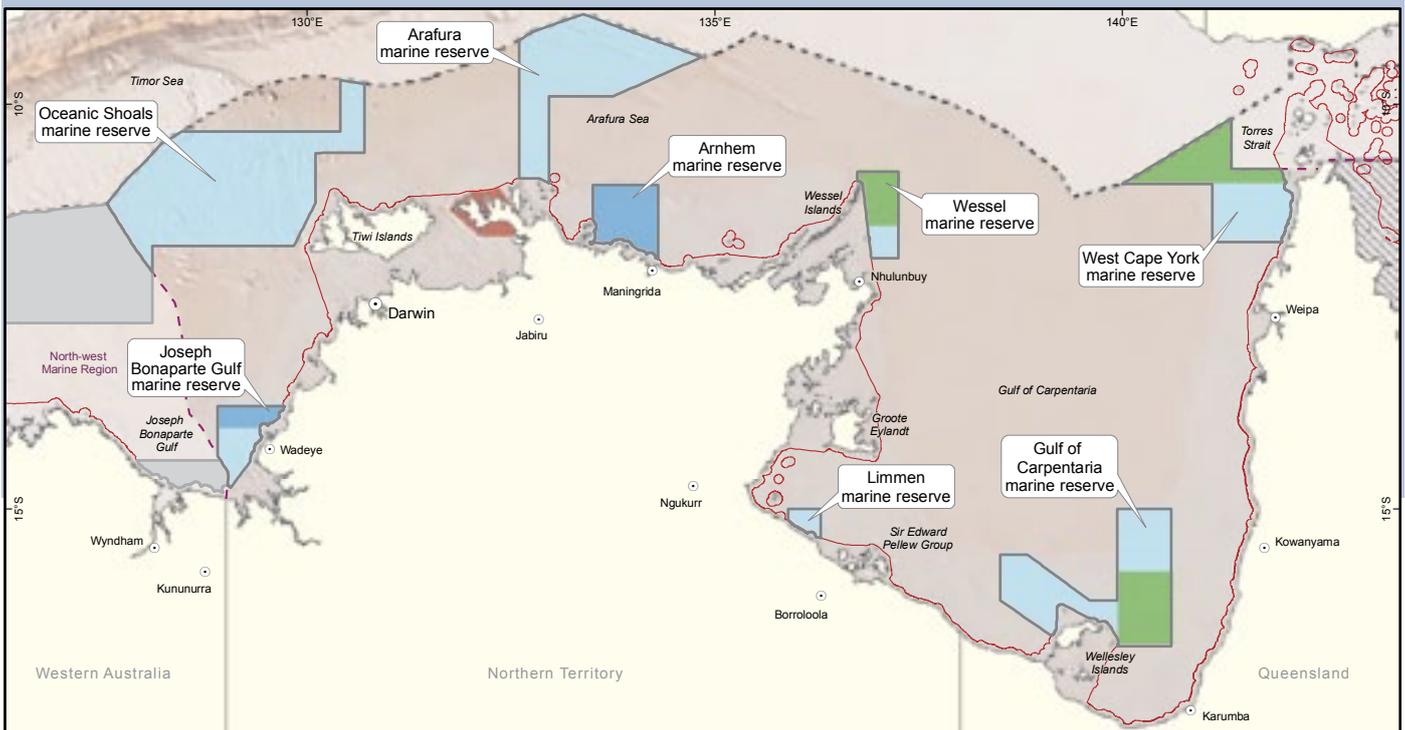
Applications are welcome from Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians across a broad age range and from all regions of Australia. Applications should be submitted online.

Community assessors are paid for their time and travel according to rates set by the Remuneration Tribunal. You can be a community assessor, even if you're already in other employment, but will need to have some flexibility when taking part in a funding assessment process.

Applications close at 8.00 on 26 October 2011 (AEDST) Qld 2011. [http://www.daff.gov.au/about/jobs/community_ assessors](http://www.daff.gov.au/about/jobs/community_assessors)

A draft Marine Bioregional Plan and a Commonwealth marine reserve network proposal for the North Marine Region have been released for public consultation. Submissions are invited.

These drafts will be available for public comment for 90 days during which everyone is encouraged to make a formal submission. The consultation period will conclude on Monday 28th November 2011. For more information on the consultation process please contact: Email: North.MarinePlan@environment.gov.au or call 1800 069 352.



Proposed Commonwealth marine reserve network

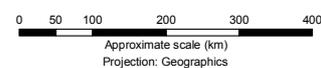
- Outer boundaries
- Internal zoning:
 - Marine National Park (IUCN II)
 - Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)
 - Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)

Other marine protected areas

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Cwth)
- Garig Gunak Barlu Marine Park (NT)
- North-west proposed marine reserves

Maritime boundaries

- Marine planning region boundaries
- Limit of Australian exclusive economic zone
- Limit of coastal waters



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Cape York Natural Resource Management is a community owned organisation helping the people of Cape York to build resilient communities and healthy country by supporting natural and cultural resource management and economic development such as sustainable agriculture.

Funding opportunities

Weed and Feral Animal Management

Cape York Weeds and Feral Animal Program are making available incentives for landholders located in the Cape York Peninsula Natural Resource Management Region to claim reimbursement for approved expenditure outlaid for control of State or locally declared weeds and feral animals on their property.

The purpose of the CYP Pest Management Incentive Scheme is to provide assistance to landholders to combat weeds and feral animals on their property as well as to fulfil an objective of the CYP Pest Management Strategy, "To promote and implement a pest management planning framework with objectives to develop and implement property pest management plans, monitor pest management plan progress and ensure reviews are undertaken as per legislative and policy requirements." To be eligible for the incentive scheme the following is required.

- A completed application on the approved form.
- A current approved Property Pest Management Plan (PPMP) developed or reviewed within the past 12 months
- A property pest assessment (current within the last 12 months), completed by a CYWAFAP officer.
- An agreed and approved treatment process (by CYWAFAP and the landholders).

Contact CYWAFAP on 40695020 or visit www.cywafap.org.au

Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Program is funded by Cape York NRM

Reef Rescue

Landholders can apply for grants up to \$40,000. Larger grants will be considered for exceptional projects, or just exceptionally large projects that implement practices aimed at improving the quality of water draining into the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon. Contact Isha Segboer of Cape York Sustainable Futures on 40532865, 0447747687 and isha.segboer@cysf.com.au

BK Dahl Trust small grants

Grants of up to \$15,000 support communities undertaking eucalyptus education, promotion, cultivation, establishment and conservation. Applications close 4 November 2011 and further information is available at www.dahltrust.org.au or by phoning 03 8648 6510.

Optus Regional Grants

Grants between \$1,000 and \$10,000 will be awarded to support regional communities to engage in activities that protect the environment and build social inclusion. Applications close 31 October and further information is available on optuscountr@optus.com.au or <http://tinyurl.com/wombat92>.

Natural Resource Awareness Grants

Grants of up to \$5000 are available to help groups promote the importance of natural resources in our lives, while encouraging Queensland's volunteers to become involved in looking after these resources. Applications close 18 November. Further information is available from nrawarenessgrants@derm.qld.gov.au or visit http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/funding/nr_awareness_grants/index.html

ACEAS Funding

The Australian Centre for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis has funding available to provide scientists and managers with the opportunity to assemble and analyse ecosystem data and information that otherwise they could not.

Three sorts of funding are available: (i) for Working Groups of up to 15 people, (ii) Workshops of up to 15 people, and (iii) sabbatical fellows. Closes November 17th, more info at: <http://www.aceas.org.au/> e:aceas.tern@uq.edu.au

Grants to realise big ideas from young rural innovators

Applications are now open for the 2012 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. If you're 18-35, this is your chance to apply for up to \$22,000 to fund your project on an innovative or emerging scientific issue to benefit Australia's primary industries. Visit <http://www.abares.gov.au/conferences-events/scienceawards> Applications close Friday 18 November 2011.

A chance to Plan for Country

Funding is available to assist Traditional Owners with the resources; tools and information they need to do a plan for their country and make a decision about whether they want to explore World Heritage as an option.

Agreement to participate in this funding arrangement does not indicate consent for World Heritage listing. Traditional Owners can keep their country plan, even if they decide that they do not want to go ahead with World Heritage. Contact the Cape York Peninsula World Heritage team at DERM on 07 4222 5239 or consultation.cypwh@derm.qld.gov.au