

Cape York Healthy Country newsletter

Cape York NRM Annual General Meeting and Community Forum



Cape York NRM Annual General Meeting and Community Forum will be held from 1pm – 5pm on the 23rd of November and continuing from 9am – 2pm on 24th November 2011 at the Cooktown Events Centre.

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

Dinner will be provided on the evening of the 23rd November accompanied by local Bush Poet and Comedian Marty Pattie (bottom left) and local musicians the Hillbilly Goats (top left).

Contact Janet Greenwood to RSVP at jgreenwood@capeyorknrm.com.au or call 1300 132 262.

<http://www.martinpattie.com.au/> <http://hillbillygoats.com.au/>



Presentations include:

- Attaining Healthy Country on Cape York, Bob Frazer, Cape York NRM
- Indigenous Small Grants Program – where to now, Luke Preece, Cape York NRM
- Navigating Business on Cape York, Bob Frazer, Cape York NRM
- Transformation for resilient landscapes and communities project: an overview & progress, Rod Griffith, Adjunct Research Fellow, Institute for Land Water and Society, Charles Sturt University
- Indigenous Reference Groups, Don Debusch, Cape York NRM
- Cape York NRM's Current Investments, Peta Marie Standley, Cape York NRM
- South Cape York Catchment Initiative, Jason Carroll, South Cape York Catchments
- Managing Cape York's Weeds and Feral Animals, Caleb Zaicz, CYWAFAP
- Fire in Cape York 2011 and Beyond, Peter Thompson, Cape York Sustainable Futures
- Turtle Conservation Issues, Barry Lyons, Cape York NRM
- Cape York and the Coral Sea Marine Park, Steve Ryan, Cairns and Far North Environment Centre
- Incorporating Multi Media and Traditional Knowledge, Victor Steffensen, Mulong Productions
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in Cape York, Matt Wallace, QPWS
- Cape York World Heritage Project, Department of Environment and Resource Management

Cape York Land Managers Forum

Cape York Landcare Inc. and Cape York Sustainable Futures are hosting a Cape York Land Managers Forum. The event will bring together regional organisations of Cape York, Councils, NRM groups, land managers and business enterprises to learn more about initiatives that will affect the sustainable management of properties on the 2nd and 3rd of December at the Laura Rodeo Ground.

Hear guest speakers on Carbon Farming, The Digital Economy, New technology, World Heritage and Wild Rivers.

This is not meant to be a political meeting but one for the politicians and others in decision making roles to hear the views directly from the people of Cape York Peninsula and to get a better understanding of issues of the people who are working to achieve sustainable practices whilst running viable economic business enterprises and achieving quality of life.

For more info Mary Shephard: (07) 40925285 by 24th November.



Carbon Farming Initiative

Queensland farmers and lessees of state land will have the opportunity to earn carbon credits from planting trees or managing regrowth on cleared land.

Parliament will allow Queensland farmers to participate in the Commonwealth's Carbon Farming Initiative due to commence in December.

State Minister for Finance and Natural Resources Rachel Nolan said that amendments passed through State

Visit <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi>

Draft Cook Shire Community Plan

The Draft Cook Shire Community Plan 2011-2021 is available for public comment from now until 5th December 2011.

comments may be made on the website or by email to mail@cook.qld.gov.au or mail PO Box 3 Cooktown.

This is a final opportunity for you to have input into a plan that will set the direction for your community for the next 10 years.

The final Community Plan will be presented to Cook Shire Council December 2011 General Meeting.

The draft plan is available on the Cook Shire Council website www.cook.qld.gov.au and

http://www.cook.qld.gov.au/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=daebf5f3-fc83-4e1a-8e31-5cb402e0c9f9&groupId=12506

The Draft National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plan

Feedback welcomed: The draft National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plan: Indigenous Communities is one of a number of research plans being developed by NCCARF to guide and coordinate climate change adaptation research in Australia. These plans identify critical gaps in the information that is required by governments, industry and the community to address adaptation responses to climate change. They set research priorities based on these gaps. We are consulting widely on this draft plan, and welcome your feedback. Please contact Ann Penny on (07) 5552 7548 or indigenouscomnarp@griffith.edu.au More info: <http://www.nccarf.edu.au/>

In the News

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/editorial/general/indigenous-fire-skills-blaze-an-ecofriendly-trail/2240732.aspx?storypage=0>

Cooktown Food Connect attends ReGenAg Bio Fert Workshop

By Jack Degney, Cooktown Food Connect



Making change: Mexican Eugenio Gras gives farmers fertiliser recipes they can make themselves.

30 people attended the 3-day Bio Fert and Chromatography course held at Skybury Coffee, Mareeba.

Mr Eugenio Gras ran the workshop that included hands on methods on how to make Bio-Fertilisers, and how to monitor soils through the use of Chromatography.

Eugenio is a member of the Council for Sustainable Agriculture and Permaculture, a Mexican organisation devoted to researching and promoting organic farming.

ReGenAg a collective of private farm education providers recently brought him to Australia. Eugenio has been working with poor farmers in Latin America and Brazil, teaching them to make organic fertilisers with readily

available ingredients.

At Skybury he demonstrated to the workshop attendees how to use locally available resources, such as basalt rock, molasses, fresh cow manure, bones, milk and baker's yeast as inputs for the Bio-Ferts, compost, compost teas and other mineral preparations.

The Chromatography was especially enlightening, giving farmers an instant picture of what's happening in their soil pertaining to mineralisation, organic matter and microbes, as well as being very cost-effective, enabling the farmer to make adjustments to their soil profile as required. Giving the farmer the tools to become the soil scientist!!

All in all, very empowering stuff, giving back control of industry processes to farmers, in a totally cost effective and sustainable way. The future does indeed look promising for farmers wanting an easy and accessible solution to the Agrochemical treadmill.

I would like to thank Cooktown Food Connect Inc. and Cape York Natural Resource Management for their support and generous sponsorship for enabling me to attend and special thanks goes to Kym Kruse from ReGenAg who did a fantastic job of organising the workshop.

For more information go to <http://regenag.com> or contact Jack Degney on 0402730814

You-Tube movie www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtzAmpbnbWs

Jack will be presenting the findings from this workshop in the Cooktown area through Cooktown Food Connect Inc, a social enterprise supporting local farmers to supply organic produce to customers in the Cooktown area: <http://207.97.207.224/~cooktown/> as well as the local gardening group "Club Veg".

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.



Stock route network protected

The Stock Route Network Management Bill 2011 will provide for the movement of stock on foot, as well as having secondary uses such as static grazing, and mechanisms for conserving the state's important biodiversity and cultural heritage attributes.

Under the new arrangements, local governments will have

appropriate resources to manage and maintain the network and ancillary facilities.

The Bill will also increase the focus on maintaining and improving land condition and retaining adequate pasture for travelling stock.

Further information is available at <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/>

Partnering for the future of Australia's agrifood industry

The Food Futures Flagship is seeking partners to help realise its goals of annually adding \$3 billion in value to the Australian agrifood sector.

The Flagship has opportunities for research and industry collaboration and co-investment.

These opportunities include projects eligible for the National Research Flagships' Collaboration Fund, which will support selected research partners in specific projects aligned with a Flagship's interests.

The National Research Flagships' Collaboration Fund is available to:

- public research organisations
- universities
- national and international fellowships.

More information:

<http://www.csiro.au/partnerships/AgriFood-Industry-Partnership.html><http://www.csiro.au/org/FoodFuturesFlagship.html>

NAILSMA three year Carbon Project

NAILSMA will be working to establish four new landscape-scale emissions abatement projects in the north Kimberley region of Western Australia, central Arnhem Land in the NT, the Gulf of Carpentaria and Western Cape York Peninsula. (See map). The aim of this initiative is to examine prospective opportunities in the emerging carbon and related markets, including carbon offset arrangements under the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and opportunities on the unregulated or voluntary market.

The Carbon Project has been running small workshops and discussions with land managers, their project partners and other key people over the last couple of years to consider a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework suitable for

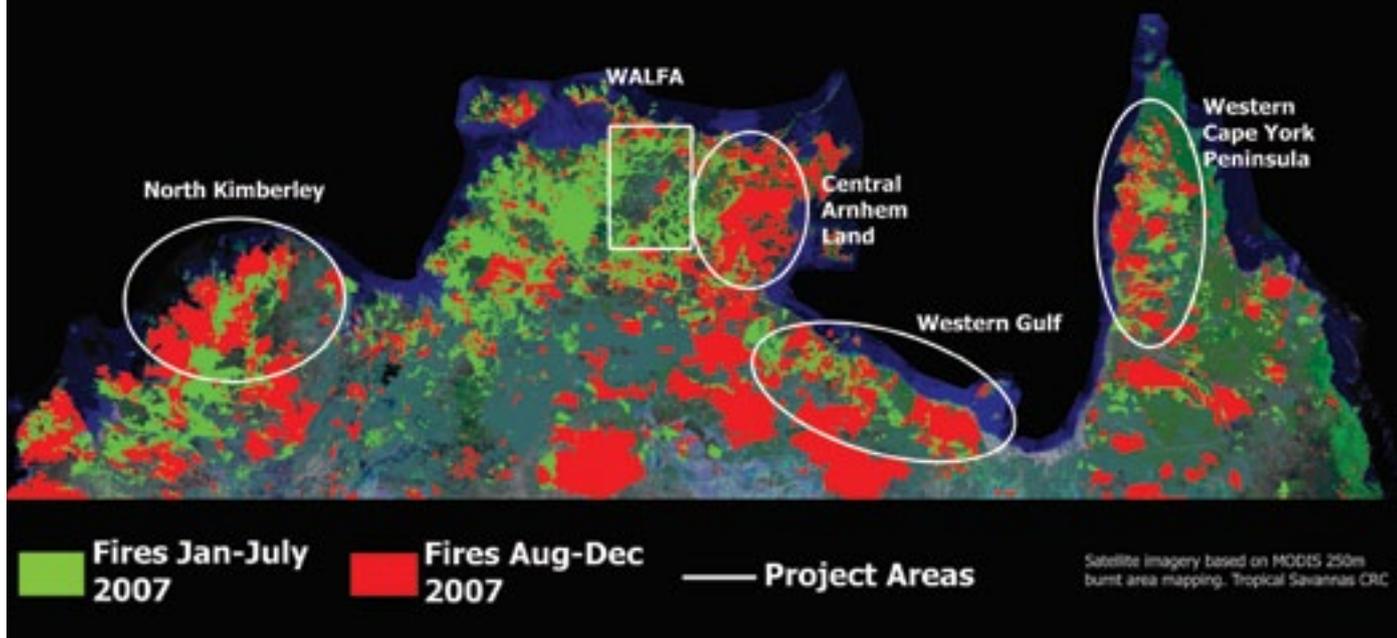
fire and green house gas (GHG) management projects.

The key purposes for an M&E framework are to: Develop complimentary tools for Indigenous land managers to help steer their fire abatement projects to mitigate negative impacts on their values and aspirations and enhance beneficial outcomes; and

Document a range of beneficial outcomes that show the broader holistic value of Indigenous land management and add commercial value to the GHG offset credits generated and to the other ecosystem services provided by Indigenous land managers.

Find out more, visit the Carbon Project page at <http://www.nailsma.org.au/>

Potential Project Areas



Potential location of new savanna burning emissions abatement projects

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.

Departmental Information: Coal Seam Gas

Queenslanders can access State Government information about the environmental management of the coal seam gas industry

through online video broadcasts available on the Department of Environment and Resource Management website, at:

http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/coal-seam-gas/vodcast.html

Cape York NRM Program Managers Review

**By Peta Marie Standley,
Program Manager, Cape
York NRM**

Hi all, just a quick word from me on what has been going on over the last few months.

October was all about getting out on country and visiting people.

I was able to get to Laura, Coen and Lockhart and gain a greater understanding of NRM initiatives people are undertaking.

Seeing the country and meeting people was a wonderful experience as some places I had not been back to for a long time.

I was lucky enough to see old faces and new ones at the opening of the Lama Lama ranger base at Port Stewart.

Congratulations to Lama Lama for all their hard work in getting to this stage.

November meant getting milestones negotiated and contracts completed with project and investment partners.

Paperwork reigned supreme.

I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to present to the Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Advisory committee ACHAC for NSW on fire management in Cape York.

This opportunity came about via support that Cape York Natural Resource Management Board gave to the Traditional Knowledge

Revival Pathways Project to assist with undertaking Indigenous fire workshops in Cape York in 2011.

Through support from the Firesticks project (A NSW initiative to support Indigenous involvement in fire management), Glenda Chalker a traditional owner from Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation came to the fire workshop held in July 2011.

She is also a member of the ACHAC and gave a presentation at their last meeting on her experiences of the Indigenous led fire training program.

It was agreed by the advisory board to enable a presentation about the program for the meeting held on the 27th of October 2011.

The presentation offered many opportunities to share and learn from each other about common issues central to fire management in Australia.

It is anticipated that this will lead to greater outcomes for Indigenous employment in sustainable industries and Natural Resource Management with a focus on fire.

There is a program managers meeting for on-ground projects that Cape York Natural Resource Management Board currently support planned for Tuesday, December 6th at CSIRO in Atherton. This meeting will focus

on program monitoring, evaluation and review, while showcasing project achievements and focusing on strategies to deal with any challenges in improving best practice NRM in the region.

Back row – left to right
Norman Laing, Robin Heath,
Oliver Costello, Ian Woods, Victor Perry, Larry Kelly

Front row – left to right
Kellyanne Stanford, Merle Williams, Viola Brown, Peta Marie Standley, Glenda Chalker, Olivia Williams

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC) was established in 2006, to advise the Minister for the Environment and the Director General of the Department of Premiers and Cabinet (DPC) on any matter relating to identification, assessment and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW.

The Committee provides advice to the Minister for the Environment and the Director General of the Department of Premiers and Cabinet (DPC) on high level Aboriginal cultural heritage issues, including management policies, identification, assessment and protection approaches and legislative reform.



WetlandCare Australia National Art and Photography Competition

International World Wetlands Day falls on February 2 each year. World Wetlands Day is an excellent opportunity to undertake activities focused on raising awareness of the values and environmental benefits of wetlands, both locally and globally. The theme for World Wetlands Day 2011 is Wetlands, Tourism and Recreation.

More information <http://www.ramsar.org/>

To celebrate World Wetlands Day 2012, WetlandCare Australia is hosting their 5th annual Australia wide art and photography competition.

There are categories for young people and adults, and for the first time the competition includes categories specifically for Indigenous artists.

The competition closes on 2.12.2011 Art Competition at: <http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/index.php?cID=334>



Cape York Water Forum and Ranger Conference

The Cape York Water Forum was held in conjunction with the Apudthama Cape York Indigenous Rangers Conference. The aims of the Forum were to:

- Seek input from Traditional Owners into water policy issues, indigenous rights to water, water quality, water allocation and associated land and sea management interests involving research and livelihoods; and
- Give Traditional Owners in the region an opportunity to share their knowledge and identify future directions relating to National Water Reform issues in northern Australia, in particular Cape York

The Forum was hosted jointly by the Apudthama Land Trust, Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation and NAILSMA, and supported by the North Peninsula Agency Regional Council.

Earlier this year the Indigenous Water Policy Group (IWPG) convened a Strategic Indigenous Reserve* (SIR) Steering Group to discuss broad policy development of Indigenous

water allocations (SIR) in north Australian water plans. The Steering Group is made up of prominent Indigenous leaders from north Australia and leading water and legal research advisors.

The development of the SIR Steering Group was a pragmatic response to water reform to consider the economic opportunity of an SIR from developing water plans in north Australia and is in line with the NAILSMA Water Policy Statement that says:

‘Any water plan in tropical Australia must, irrespective of historical allocation, include an equitable Indigenous allocation from the consumptive pool for commercial purposes.’

- NOTE - A Strategic Indigenous Reserve (SIR) provides an amount of water to Indigenous groups in a plan area for economic development on country.

More Information: <http://www.nailsma.org.au>



Bill to protect Strategic Cropping Land

The Strategic Cropping Land Bill 2011 will protect Queensland's very best cropping land from mining and other development, ensuring the competing interests of mining, farming and other developments can be effectively and sustainably balanced

"The restrictions apply to open cut mining, coal seam gas, underground coal gasification, long-wall or underground mining, and urban and industrial development.
More information www.derm.qld.gov.au

Pharmacological investigation of WIK Phytomedicines

Ethnobotany is the scientific study of the relationships that exist between people and plants.

Fieldwork undertaken by WIK and ethnobotanical researchers has identified and documented a number of medicinal plants, their traditional names and uses.

Plant extracts will be prepared for pharmacological testing and the products developed from this research will be high-quality herbal pharmaceutical products with a sound evidence base for their therapeutic effects, based on both traditional and western

scientific investigation.

This project provides a western scientific understanding to the pharmacological and toxicological effects of plants used as traditional medicines by WIK peoples and facilitates the development of a 'hybrid' economy on WIK homelands.

Contact: Gina Castelain T: +61 (7) 4031 6472 E: GCastelain@wikprojects.com.au

Caring for our Country - The Story So Far - a summary of the consultations.

As part of the review process the Australian Government have gathered information from research papers, reports and surveys and a number of new titles have been added to their library.

The information from these papers, in addition to their findings from extensive consultation, will contribute to the review of Caring for our Country.

Check out the papers and discussions at:

<http://www.caringforourcountryreview.com.au/>



The Waste Reduction and Recycling Bill

Queensland generates about 32 million tonnes of waste every year.

The waste reform package includes a landfill levy on commercial waste commences on 1 December. Materials that are recovered, reused or recycled won't attract the levy.

Councils will benefit from the \$100 million Sustainable Futures Fund to help them better manage waste.

Further information: http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/link/2011issue07/new_waste_reforms.html

The Empowering Communities Program

The Empowering Communities Program run by the Malian Foundation, offers products and services such as management and open source software tools focusing on common issues surrounding non-profit organisations covering issues such as volunteer

management, fundraising, strategic planning and donor relations. The program also offers a free web hosting service for small to medium sized organisations. To register your group for access to some of the Foundation's products and services visit <http://www.malianfoundation.org.au/>

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.

The Lost Years: A Sea Turtle Odyssey

This documentary featuring Col Limpus and his study tracking loggerhead turtles, has won international acclaim.

The documentary collected four awards at the annual Baikal International Film Festival.

For further information visit: <http://www.gullivermedia.com.au/productions/productions.php>



CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER:

CAPE York NRM are seeking stories and photos for this Newsletter from organisations and individuals promoting their activities in Cape York. Submit your article to media@capeyorknrm.com.au.

Funding opportunities

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

Funding 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

CAPE York Natural Resource Management now has a Facebook page. Log on to Facebook and search for Cape York Natural Resource Management and 'Like' to receive updates and news from Cape York NRM.



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