

Cape York

Healthy Country Newsletter

Our Aquatic Ecosystems

Sunset at Pennefather Beach
Photo: Johanna Karam

Linking Land and Sea

Issue 27 Winter 2016



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Water is the hot topic on Cape York at the moment.

The final Eastern Cape York Water Quality Improvement Plan will soon be available. Led by Cape York NRM, it is the result of 18 months engagement between land managers, Traditional Owners, scientists, local government, community and natural resource management professionals. The draft version is currently available <http://waterquality.capeyorknrm.com.au/water-quality/eastern-cape>

Submissions to the Queensland Government for the commencement of a Cape York water resource planning process closed on 29 July 2016. For more information go to <https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning>

State and federal governments have committed funds to improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef. We are pleased to have received funding for gully remediation programs in the Laura and Normanby catchments. Funds will support best practice land management aimed at reducing sediment and nutrient impact on the reef.

Cape York NRM recently brought Queensland's chief scientist Geoff Garrett to the region to see the work that land managers are undertaking, and to meet with Traditional Owners, growers and land managers in the Laura-Normanby catchments.

It's turtle nesting season on the western Cape where rangers are working hard to monitor nests, and control predators. The Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance commenced filming in July for a documentary on turtle programs in western Cape York with thanks to support from the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program.

These are just some of the stories which are covered in this issue. Enjoy!

Emma Jackson Chairperson, Sector Director - Primary Industries

Are you a member?

As a member of Cape York NRM you can help shape the future of natural resource management on Cape York. Contact us on 1300 132 262 for more information. Visit our website to find out more about our organisation.

www.capeyorknrm.com.au

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

Surveying freshwater mussels in the Annan River: Yuku Baja Muliku Country

Case study

A decline in freshwater mussel abundance and increased dead mussel shells on the banks of the Annan River was the catalyst for a new partnership between Yuku Baja Muliku (YBM) and James Cook University (JCU).

The partnership formed following the reports by YBM elders about changes to the important mussel fisheries in the Annan River.

An exploratory field trip was held in April 2016 to survey and map the YBM mussel beds on the river and its tributaries. The survey team included the YBM Rangers, a fisheries specialist (Andrew Chin JCU), a social scientist (Karin Gerhardt JCU), and a freshwater mussel expert (Michael Klunzinger – BWG Environmental, adjunct Murdoch University).

YBM Ranger Coordinator and mussel project leader, Larissa Hale, said four species of mussel were found over the ten day trip.

“We surveyed several mussel beds and tributaries, and conducted interviews with community members which documented the traditional value and use of the mussel beds, and identified changing conditions in the Annan River and of its mussels” Ms Hale said.

Project co-leader Dr Andrew Chin from James Cook University said that the knowledge of the Elders and the Rangers was invaluable for locating the mussel beds.

“Four species of mussel were found. While species identification is pending verification from DNA analysis, the main harvested species appears to be *Batissa* sp, with tributaries holding populations of *Corbicula* sp. and *Velesunio angasi*.

“There were clear differences in size structure and abundance between sites, and one species of mussel reported by the Elders could not be found” said Dr Chin.

The cause of the declines is presently unknown, but preliminary assessment suggests a mix of factors including declining water quality and sedimentation, physical disturbance of the river bed from sand mining, and over-harvesting by surrounding communities.

The Rangers were also trained in mussel survey techniques, and ongoing monitoring is being built into the Ranger’s work program. YBM Rangers are using electronic tablet-based monitoring tools that automatically synch data to a centralised database back at the Archer Point Ranger Base. This project and future monitoring will tap into this data system.

Future works being explored include life history studies of the key fished species, identification of spawning seasons and locations, population genetics to identify stock structure, as well as fishery and water quality monitoring (in conjunction with Eastern Cape York Water Quality Improvement Plan).

It is hoped that surveying and mapping the resource will form a reference point for continued monitoring and future research that:

- identifies factors driving declines
- identifies remediation and restocking options
- identifies potential harvest management strategies.

“The use of both Traditional Knowledge and western science has been integral to the success of this project so far” Ms Hale said.

This is a collaborative project between Yuku Baja Muliku and James Cook University. For more information contact Dr Andrew Chin: andrew.chin@jcu.edu.au or Larissa Hale larissa.hale@archerpoint.com.au

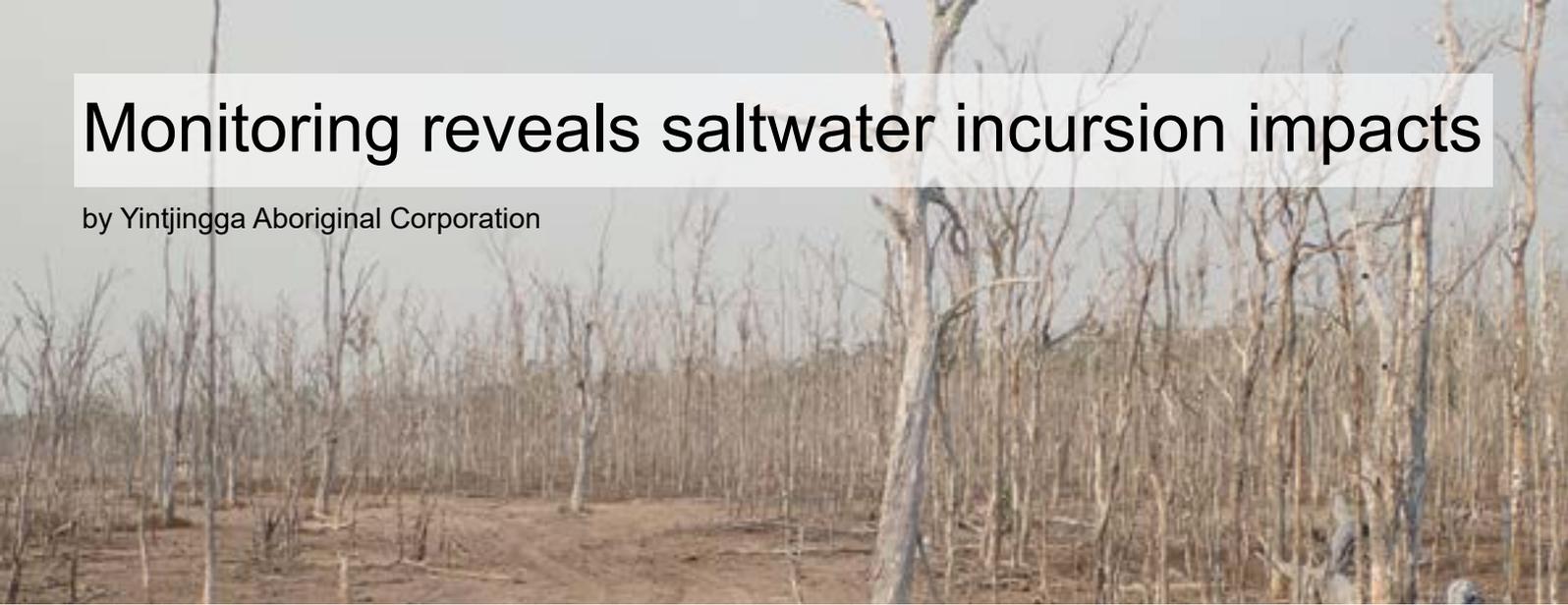
This project is funded by Cape York NRM through the Australian Government National Landcare Programme.



Mussells samples sent for DNA testing. Photo: Andrew Chin

Monitoring reveals saltwater incursion impacts

by Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation



The Lama Lama Rangers have been monitoring coastal country in Princess Charlotte Bay to observe and document any changes. These photo monitoring points show what has happened from our 2012 visits to our 2016 observations in the low lying flat country. You can easily see the impacts of just four years of sea level rise and saltwater incursion within the Princess Charlotte Bay area.

Lama Lama have been recording the transition of healthy coastal woodlands to a graveyard of dead trees from salt incursion. This all comes after a terrible summer of unprecedented and widespread coral bleaching in our sea country and other areas of The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Mikayla Down, a young Lama Lama Traditional Owner and Ranger is concerned. "At the rate we have observed changes, in a matter of 10 years most of our low lying coastal area could be nothing but wasteland if we, that is the global community and our Governments, continue to sit back and 'monitor' instead of acting now to reduce fossil fuel carbon emissions" she said.

The Lama Lama Rangers encourage other Traditional Owners of Northern Australia to share their observations of the changes occurring to their country.

"It's important we join together to share the story of how climate change is impacting us. Australia needs to hear this story and see what is happening right now in remote coastal places. We need greater attention given to the impacts. Climate change is real and is affecting our land and sea country now. These photos clearly show the changes to country in just the last four years. This is a global problem but our governments need to set the example of best practice by implementing policy to rapidly reduce fossil fuel emissions. Our low lying coastal areas and reefs depend on it" said Gavin Bassani, Lama Lama Traditional Owner and Operations Manager for Lama Lama Rangers, Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation.

If your group has a story to share about the impacts of climate change please email Cape York NRM: media@capeyorknrm.com.au. To view more about the changes that some of Cape York's Traditional Owners are seeing go to the Cape York Atlas Your Climate site <http://climate.capeyorknrm.com.au/weather-stories/films>



2012



2016

Left:
Dinner Hole
Monitoring
point 5 3

All photos: Yintjingga
Aboriginal Corporation



2012



2016

Right:
Dinner Hole
Monitoring
point 6 3

Cape York's Atlas: launched and living

The Cape York Atlas, an interactive suite of websites which will also serve as the regional natural resource management (NRM) plan for Cape York, was launched in Cairns on Wednesday 27 April 2016.

Funded by the Australian Government, Cape York NRM has developed an adaptive and climate ready natural resource management plan that considers the distinctive cultural landscapes of Cape York.

Cape York NRM's Chairperson, Emma Jackson, said this would not be a plan that sits on a shelf. "It is a series of nine connected websites that will provide tools for Cape York's land and sea managers to plan sustainably. It is a plan that supports the work that happens in the paddock, on the beaches and on Country" she said.

The Cape York Atlas was well received by the guests who attended its launch. Cape York NRM staff and Directors will be working with Cape York land and sea managers over the coming months to further develop the Atlas, with a public presentation planned for the Annual General Meeting in Laura in October this year.

Below: Highlights from the April launch Photos: Robyn May, Jessie Price, Luke Preece



A dry Wet and a wet Dry for southern Cape York

by Jessie Price, South Cape York Catchments

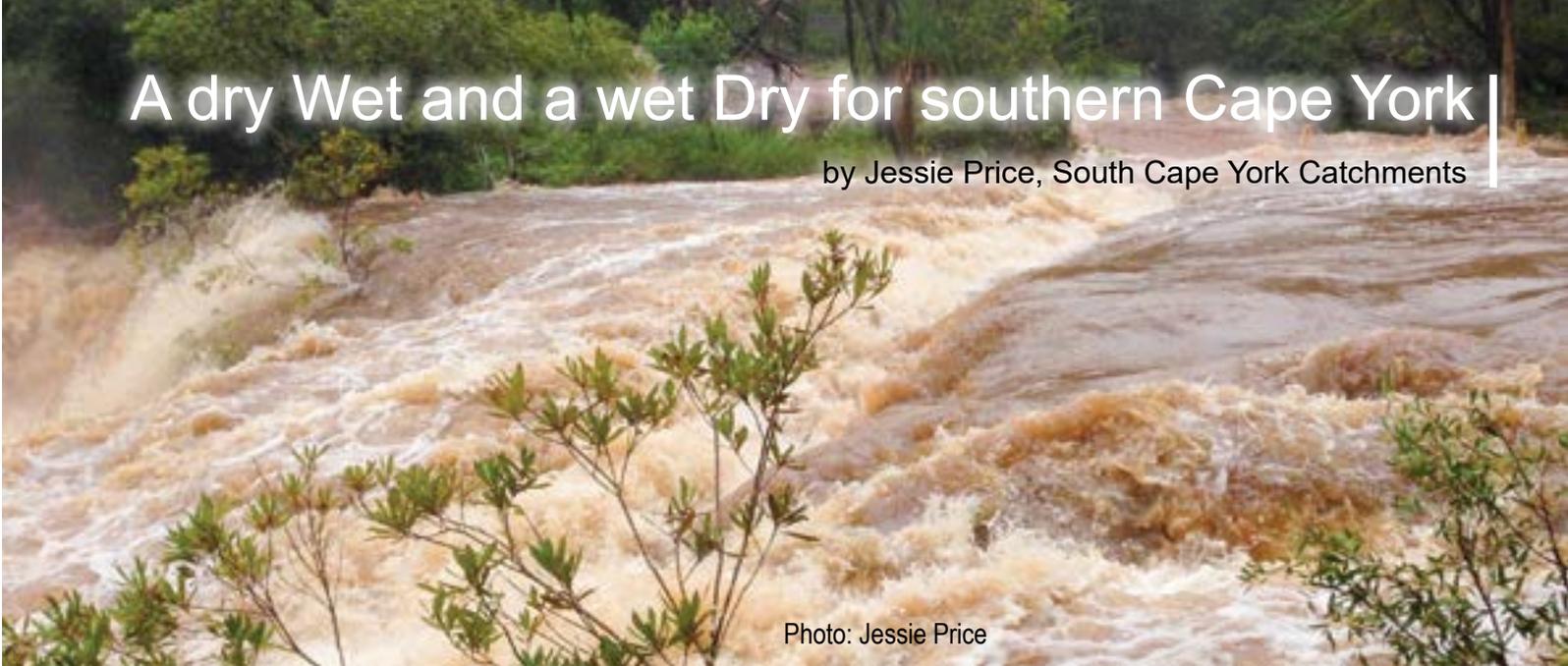


Photo: Jessie Price

After what was a mostly mediocre wet season, southern Cape York has had a very damp start to its dry season. Cooktown saw its highest ever May rainfall total this year– and most of it fell in one night!

The record-breaking event of Saturday 21 May, which flooded homes and closed roads across Far North Queensland, was caused by a deep tropical air mass which formed over the Gulf of Carpentaria and extended east across Cape York Peninsula into the Coral Sea. This system dumped massive amounts of rain all over north Queensland – from Townsville to Cooktown and west towards Georgetown.



The Little Annan Photo: Mary Brook

Rainfall in some parts of the Cooktown area exceeded 300mm over the 24 hours from 9am Saturday to 9am Sunday, and good falls were recorded inland as well – over 70mm at Bonnie Glen Station near Lakeland. The Endeavour River rose quickly yet quietly overnight, and some people woke on the Sunday morning to find their houses had been inundated while they slept. My own rain gauge at home in the Endeavour Valley was holding 280mm on Sunday morning - and was overflowing! The Annan River catchment to the south of Cooktown also saw impressive falls. The Mulligan Highway from Cooktown to Cairns was cut at the Little Annan

Bridge by roaring water, and many people were stuck waiting most of the day for the water to drop beneath the bridge again. South Cape York Catchments and the Laura Rangers had packed their water monitoring tools away for the year, but reacted quickly and managed to capture samples across the catchment on the Sunday morning thanks to the efforts of some dedicated, keen staff!

In the days following, the Cooktown community was abuzz with stories, theories and questions. There was lots of talk of climate change. It does seem the seasons are changing – along with floods in May and continued rain throughout June, I've been told of trees



Fishing on Poison Creek Road Photo: Jacyntha Hunt Photography that are flowering months later than they generally do, barramundi running at the wrong time, and we all know we haven't seen consistent, big monsoonal wet seasons in many years. It looks like the people of Cape York may need to adjust to a much different rainfall pattern than the wet season/dry season we are used to. Water is the 'elixir of life' and is critical for farming and grazing as well as environmental conservation, so adaption to these changing seasons will be essential to protect both industry and our country.

Coral bleaching and the Great Barrier Reef



Osterland Reef following bleaching, March 2016 Photo: Jeff Shellberg

Recent reports of unprecedented coral bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef are of major concern to many people living on Cape York. But what does it all actually mean?

What is coral bleaching?

Coral has a mutually beneficial relationship with an algae called zooxanthellae. The algae provide food for the coral, and the coral provides essential products for the algae's survival. Under stressful conditions like higher ocean temperatures, pollution, or increased exposure to sunlight, the algae leaves the coral. The coral loses its source of food and turns white. This is known as coral bleaching.

What happens next?

Coral can recover from bleaching in the right conditions, and particularly if water temperatures cool soon after. However it will often become less healthy, and can have reduced reproductive capacity. This can lead to coral death and long-term damage of a reef system.

What can we do?

Global warming has caused increases in sea temperatures, and is the major cause of coral bleaching. For a reef to recover it needs minimal additional stressors. This means that while the global community is working to reduce emissions (and therefore minimise future global temperatures rises), locally we need to reduce other factors that impact on the reef.

What does that mean for Cape York?

Over 60% of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Marine Park lies off Cape York, and it includes some of the healthiest reefs on the GBR. As the reef has previously been in such good health, it is hoped that despite the recent mass bleaching event, with right conditions and with reduced additional stressors, it could bounce back.

Through the Eastern Cape York Water Quality Improvement Plan, the Cape York community and leading reef scientists have identified lots of ways we can improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

The Australian and Queensland governments have also introduced a number of programs to minimise stressors to the reef. Many of the current initiatives are aimed at improving water quality by reducing sedimentation and nutrient run-off. This can be done by rehabilitating gully erosion hotspots, keeping cattle and feral pigs out of waterways, and implementing best practice farming.

Increased support for Cape farmers

by Lyndal Scobell

Increased support and on-ground resources will be available to Cape York land managers over the next year through Cape York Natural Resource Management's sustainable agriculture and Great Barrier Reef programs.

Support will include extension services for land managers in Great Barrier Reef catchments, targeting gully erosion, innovation and promotion of best practice land management.

Through the Queensland Government Regional Investment Program Cape York NRM will assist with wetlands monitoring in the Reef catchments, work with Indigenous land managers to improve fire management practices, and share new technologies and best management practice with farmers.

Cape York NRM's Primary Industries Sector Director and Chairperson, Emma Jackson, said that Cape York NRM will work with land managers on the Cape to help improve water quality through improved management and to share sustainable farming knowledge.

"There is a lot of experience and knowledge already on the Cape" Mrs Jackson said. "Land managers have been working together for generations already. And there is also a new generation of farmers on the Cape with new ideas and innovative ways of getting the most out of farming while looking after the environment.

"Kureen Farming in Lakeland is a great example. The Inderbitzin's have invested heavily in sustainable farming practices using bio-fertiliser and compost to improve the soil, closely monitoring water inputs with technology, and using solar power to reduce the farm's packing shed power bill.

"There are many other farmers and graziers across the Cape with great insights to share. We will do this through continued industry roundtables and field days" Mrs Jackson said.

The sector will also benefit from the production of a Cape York grasses book which will detail grasses on Cape York and from the continuation of targeted small grants supported through the National Landcare Programme.

"The grasses book will look at native and introduced species, which grasses are best suited to different uses, such as controlling gully erosion, grazing, or revegetation and how grasses respond to grazing and fire. It will be presented on the Cape York Atlas Land Manager site landmanager.capeyorknrm.com.au and we are working to generate partnerships to assist in publication" Mrs Jackson said.

Other initiatives that Cape York NRM will start to roll out this year include an innovation small grants round for farmers in Great Barrier Reef catchments and the \$780,248 Australian Government gully remediation program. They will also look to secure further resources for implementation of the Eastern Cape York Water Quality Improvement Plan. The programs are supported by the Australian Government, the Queensland Government and the Australian Government Reef Trust Phase 3, and the delivery of some programs is supported through the Reef Alliance.

More information on these initiatives can be found at www.capeyorknrm.com.au



Fencing of wetlands and waterways to exclude cattle and feral pigs can reduce the impacts of sedimentation to the Great Barrier Reef. The Collins family at Violet Vale have fenced 39.7 km of wetlands through a National Landcare Programme grant. Photo: Niki Collins.

Nesting time in the west

by Johanna Karam



Photo: Kerry Trapnell

It's turtle nesting season on western Cape York so visitors to the beaches from Pajinka to Kowanyama are asked to take extra care.

The beaches of western Cape York are important nesting sites for marine turtles, particularly the flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*).

Peak nesting time on west coast beaches of Cape York is from July to October each year – though turtles can nest at any time.

Threats to nesting turtles

The greatest danger to turtle nests along western Cape York beaches are feral pigs, wild dogs and goannas, who dig up and eat eggs.

Humans can also cause problems for nesting turtles. During the nesting process, turtles are easily disturbed by light, noise and movement of people and vehicles - particularly when coming out of the water, crossing the beach and digging the nest - and may go back to sea without laying eggs.

Lights from night time driving or campfires can disorient emerging hatchlings, and vehicles can crush them as they attempt to reach the ocean. Driving at any time can compact sand above nests. Even if eggs withstand the crush, hatchlings may be buried alive, unable to dig their way to the surface because of the compacted sand.

Tyre ruts left by vehicles can confuse hatchlings so that it takes them longer to get to the water and increase their chance of being eaten by a predator.

Some Indigenous people harvest turtle eggs as a traditional food source but it is generally only small numbers and most communities have agreed rules about the number that can be taken.

What are Rangers doing to protect nesting turtles?

Almost all major flatback rookeries in Queensland are within land that is owned or controlled by Indigenous communities. Rangers work hard to protect turtle nests and control the number of feral pigs in the region. They also remove lost and discarded fishing nets (ghost nets) from beaches to reduce the risk to nesting turtles and their hatchlings.

From June to September each year, the rangers conduct regular patrols of western Cape York's nesting beaches. During these patrols, rangers monitor and protect turtle nests and deter predators. Nests are given special protection against predation with plastic or aluminium mesh. The data collected by Cape York rangers contributes to the global understanding of sea turtle population trends.



Top tips for turtle care

- **If you have a vehicle on the beach, drive slowly and avoid nests**
- **Wherever possible, only drive on the beach at low tide and stick to the wet sand below the high tide mark**
- **At night, do not have excessive lights on the beach as this can confuse nesting turtles and their hatchlings - this includes campfires**
- **If you see a nesting turtle on the beach at night, use minimal torch light and avoid sudden movements which may scare the turtle**
- **Do not allow your dogs to disturb nesting turtles or their eggs**

Our Unique Flatback Turtle

Flatback turtles spend their whole life on the continental shelf between Australia, southern Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea and nest only in Northern Australia including several important flatback rookeries (nesting beaches) in western Cape York. Peak nesting season is June to September.

Adult flatback turtles have a low-domed carapace (shell), with upturned edges, which is approximately 85-95 cm long. Flatback hatchlings are easy to recognise with grey carapaces that have distinct black outlines around each scute (scale).

A flatback nest usually has 50-70 eggs and takes around 60 days to hatch. Their eggs and hatchlings are the largest of all the turtle species.

This species is listed as Vulnerable in Queensland (Nature Conservation Act 1992) and nationally (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999).

Western Cape York is home to the worlds largest rookeries for flatback turtles.

Turtle Tagging

The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) have been leading flipper tagging activities for several decades to study the migration and life cycle of marine turtles. You can contribute to this important research!

IF YOU FIND A TAGGED TURTLE, WRITE DOWN

- The number stamped on the tag
- When, how and where the turtle was caught or seen
- What happened to the turtle
- A GPS point of where you found the turtle (if you have a GPS)
- Your name and contact details (optional)

Don't remove the tag from the turtle unless it has died!

Send this information to: Dr. Col Limpus (col.limpus@ehp.qld.gov.au) Dr. Ian Bell (ian.bell@ehp.qld.gov.au) or phone 07 3170 5617.

If you want to remain anonymous, you can pass this information on to the closest Rangers and they will forward it to EHP. Please report any sick, injured or dead turtles to local rangers. You can also report any nests that have been dug up by pigs, goannas or dogs.

Olive Ridley Turtles

The olive ridley turtle is the smallest of the Australian sea turtles with an average carapace length of approximately 70 cm. They are characterised by more than five pairs of costal scales – that's the scales between the centre row and the outer edge of the carapace. Females lay around 109 eggs in a nest and may lay 2 or 3 nests in a single season.

Olive Ridley Turtles are listed as Endangered under both the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act, 1999) and the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NC Act, 1992)



Photo: Johanna Karam



Photo: Kerry Trapnell



Turtles nest on Western Cape beaches

Don't squash the turtles!

Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance is supported by Cape York Natural Resource Management



Our Cape Kids

Here's a special treat for our Cape York Kids.

In each issue of Healthy Country newsletter we will have a special section for kids.

Let us know what you want to see, or send us a short story about your favourite Cape York place, animal or plant. We will also put your stories on our website.

Contact us at: capekids@capeyorknrm.com.au



Photo: Johanna Karam

Can you find the EXTRA word?

Find the words from the list on the right in the find-a-word below. Can you find the extra word in the puzzle which is not on the list? Hint: It is what the puzzle is about.

Send your answer to capekids@capeyorknrm.com.au by 31 August 2016. All correct entries will go into the draw for two beautiful Cape York kids books by turtle scientist Mariana Fuentes.

Conditions of entry Entries must include name, age, location (town or area), and parent/guardian phone number. Entrants must be primary school age or younger. The winner's name will be published in each newsletter (with consent from parent/guardian). There will be a new competition for each newsletter.



Carapace

Carnivore

Eggs

Flatback

Flipper

Ghostnet

Green

Hatchling

Hawksbill

Herbivore

Monitoring

Nest

Reptile

Stranding

Tagging

'Make a difference, make a start, transform your trash into art'

by Andrea Gower and Waratah Nicholls

The Cape Create Crew and partnering organisation UMI Arts visited Mapoon and Weipa in June to deliver their LitterED transforming trash recycled art program. Over 200 participants ranging from students to locals and even travelers learnt about the environmental effects of littering and illegal dumping and ideas on how to reduce rubbish in their lives. The key message was about respecting the environment and rethinking the impact we make. Thank you to the Weipa Fishing Classic, Western Cape College and Mapoon campus for a very warm welcome.

The Cape Create Crew joined Cape York NRM, UMI Arts and Western Cape Landcare in a shared stall space at the Weipa Fishing Classic all working together to raise awareness of environmental issues on Cape York. The Transforming Trash recycled art activity attracted lots of children to reuse rubbish in a creative way. Local business Capeacinno donated hundreds of plastic milk bottles and lids that were reused to make art at the event. Children also worked with the Cape Create Crew making a mosaic mural with the words 'transform your trash into art' made from recycled rubbish items such as thongs found on Mapoon beaches and different kinds of plastic. This mosaic mural was donated to the Weipa Community Care Association/Western Cape Landcare.



Mapoon campus was a pleasure to visit for the first time. Students from prep to grade six loved their time with the Cape Create Crew learning how to care for the environment and reduce rubbish in their community. They let their imaginations run wild creating amazing art from recycled rubbish and Principal Jo and her teachers also embraced the program. The pre-preps and prep class thoroughly enjoyed making crazy crocodiles from egg cartons

and other recycled objects. The students asked Cape Create to come back soon!

Western Cape College was very pleased to see the return of the Cape Create Crew. Last years LitterEd presentation inspired art teachers Angela and Mary and the students to create bottle top art. In preparation for Cape Create's visit, the school collected around 1500 coloured bottle tops. An art brief was given to all students to create a design for a bottle top mosaic mural. Senior student Diana from Aurukun was selected for her design of all the different totems that make up Western Cape College. It included a crocodile, rainbow serpent, turtle, dugong, barramundi, crab with a Western Cape sunset in the middle. The residential school will display the mosaic mural in the boarding area. Another mural was created for the main school area depicting the local Weipa Bridge, river, sky and sunset. Bottle top art resembles the dot painting techniques used by the Aboriginal people.



The Cape Create Crew will be part of the UMI Arts 'Small Brother Small Sister' event, to showcase some of the recycled artworks created by school students from Cape York communities. The event is held in Cairns this September. The Cape Create Crew look forward to visiting the Bamaga region later in the year to continue educating schools, locals and travellers of the effects that litter and illegal dumping are having on our environment and waterways.

The Combating Litter and Illegal Dumping Creatively on Cape York project is supported by the Queensland Government's Litter and Illegal Dumping Community and Industry Partnerships Program.

This project is an initiative of Cape York NRM and UMI Arts.

Mangrove dieback in the Gulf of Carpentaria

by Lyndal Scobell



Over 7,000 hectares of coastal mangroves have died along 1000 km of coastline in the Gulf of Carpentaria. James Cook University's Dr Norman Duke said the dieback was unprecedented, and followed a prolonged period of high temperatures and unseasonably dry conditions in the region.

Dr Duke, a world expert on mangroves, said the dieback was severe and widespread, affecting 9% of mangrove vegetation from just south of the Roper River in the Northern Territory to near Karumba in Queensland.

"In the southern Gulf, some shoreline areas were observed to have lost complete seaward fringing mangroves stands of 100-300 metres wide. In most places, however, the most notable pattern had surviving narrow fringes with large areas of dieback behind surrounding upper intertidal saltpan and saltmarsh areas.

"There were also zones between living and defoliated areas that displayed intermediate symptoms with partial defoliation and yellowing.

"With no previous reports of such extensive, unexplained dieback of mangroves anywhere in the world before, these observations suggest the extent, severity and timing of this occurrence of mangrove dieback is unprecedented" Dr Duke said.



Above: Karumba mangrove seaward margin in March 2016. Photo: Gavin Groover New, Carpentaria Barra

Main photo: The extent of the dieback is viewed from the air. Photo: Norm Duke

MANGROVE FAST FACTS

Mangroves are vital for healthy waterways. They filter nutrients, pollutants and sediments from the land and provide homes for 80% of seafood species. The total value of fisheries in the Gulf of Carpentaria is at least \$30 million per annum.

Mangroves are also great at storing carbon. In fact, the mangroves in Queensland's Gulf coastline store 320 mega tonnes of carbon. That's more than half of Australia's entire annual CO₂ emissions. When mangroves die the carbon is released back into the air. Increased CO₂ emissions are the key contributor to global warming.

Chief Scientist visits Lakeland

Queensland's Chief Scientist, Geoff Garrett, visited southern Cape York in May. Farmers, conservationists, scientists and rangers provided Mr Garrett with their views on water quality and gully erosion, and also their concerns for the regions future. Mr Garrett saw first hand the impacts of gully erosion, and also the innovative work of Lakelands farmers.



At Crocodile Station discussing gully erosion with Laura Rangers (from left) Ted Lees, Gene Ross, Geoff Garrett, Sue Marsh



At Kureen Farming discussing innovation (from left) Will Higham, Paul Inderbitzin, Geoff Garrett, Tom Inderbitzin



At Annan River discussing water quality (from left) Will Higham, Geoff Garrett, Christina Howley



At Red Valley discussing water availability (from left) Geoff Garrett, Peter Inderbitzin

Photos: Lyndal Scobell

Important information about the Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014

Changes to the Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014 came into effect on 1 July 2016.

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries Leanne Donaldson said the Biosecurity Act 2014 introduces changes that ensure a consistent, modern, risk-based approach to biosecurity.

“The changes cut red tape, reduce legislation by about 130 pages, and cut the number of biosecurity fees charged to farmers and the public.

“In the face of these increased risks the Biosecurity Act 2014 improves our response capability by enabling biosecurity officers to respond immediately to emerging situations while testing is under way.

“From today, Queensland’s biosecurity is strengthened through new cattle tick management, an animal registration scheme, new biosecurity zones, expanded certification and auditing arrangements and flexible requirements for animal movement” she said.

To find out how the new laws apply to you, call 13 25 23 or visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

WWF MOU signed

by Robyn May

Cape York NRM directors are happy to have recently formalised the organisation's relationship with World Wide Fund for Nature Australia (WWF) with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Cairns on 29 April 2016.

The MOU has been established in recognition that WWF and Cape York NRM share a set of common goals and wish to work together for the benefit of the people and landscape of the Cape York Natural Resource Management region.

Detailed in the MOU are a set of intended common values, principles and actions that underpin the relationship, as well as documenting a set of agreements and expectations around the relationship between the parties.

Signatories to the MOU are Ghislaine Llewellyn, WWF-Australia Conservation Director, and Director Emma Jackson, Chair of Cape York NRM.

Above right: Gilly Llewellyn (left) and Emma Jackson following the signing.

Right: Cape York NRM leadership team and WWF's Cape York team were present for the signing.

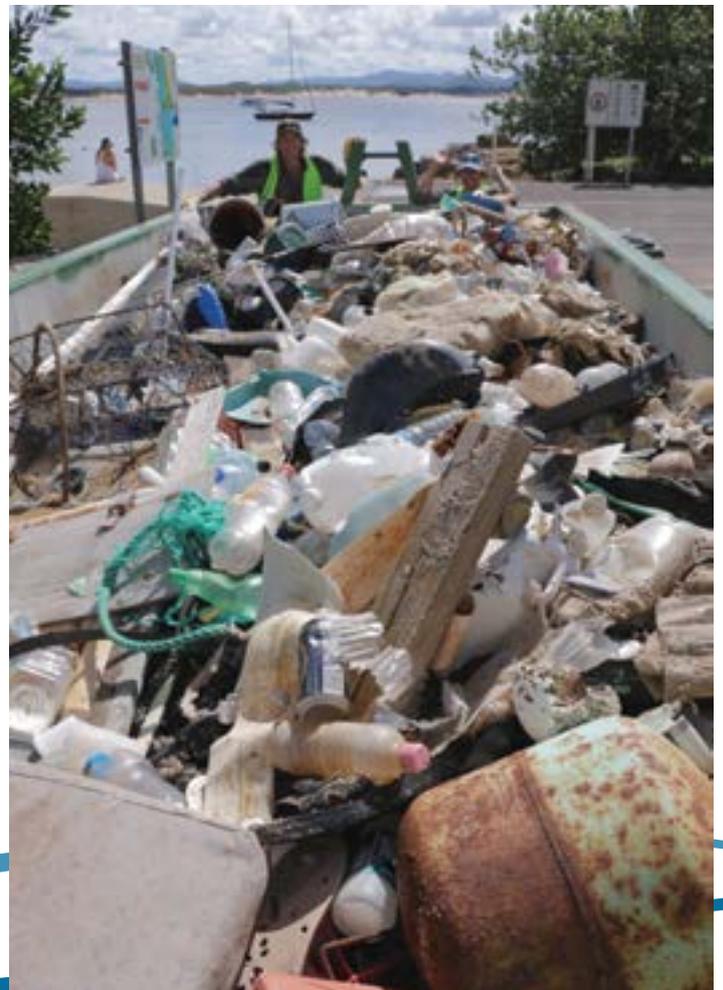


Around the Cape



Above: Fredrick Liddy, Nathan Port, Emma Jackson and Andrew Brown. Wunthulpu have recently completed the Lava Hill Lantana Project, supported by Northern Gulf Resource Management Group's Nature Refuge program through the Biodiversity Fund and Cape York NRM.

Right: Denis Kelly and Samantha Hobbs from South Cape York Catchments hard at work at the Cooktown Beaches Clean-up, held in May.



2016 Indigenous Fire Workshop

Hosted by Yalanji Nyungkul Warra

“ Bringing fire back to Yalanji Nyungkul country
*Baya wundi baja Yalanjina Nyungkul
warra nga bubungu* ”

Register Now at www.capeyorkfire.com.au

22/08/16 - 25/08/16



Jabalbina



Cape York Ngunya
Resource Management Ltd

Board of Directors



Emma Jackson
Chairperson
Primary Industries Sector



Barry Lyon
Conservation Sector

Pauline Smith
Indigenous Sector, Zone 2



Marilyn Kepple
Indigenous Sector, Zone 3



Shane Gibson
Indigenous Sector, Zone 4



Sandra Woosup
Indigenous Sector, Zone 1



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



Jodi Hamilton
Community Sector



Dale Motlop
Indigenous Sector, Zone 1



Desmond Tayley
Local Government Sector



Cape York Calendar

July

- 8-16** Chillli Beach Clean up
- 16** Big Talk One Fire, Cairns
- 21-29** Mapoon Beach Clean up

August

- 22-25** 2016 Indigenous Fire Workshop

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Date Claimer: 28-29 October - Laura
Cape York NRM AGM & Cape York Atlas Presentation

September

- tbc** Wenlock Catchment Management Group AGM
Cape York Weeds and Ferals Inc. AGM
 - 14** Small Brother Big Sister, Tanks, Cairns
 - 16** South Cape York Catchments AGM
 - 30-2** Wallaby Creek Festival, Rossville
- and... [Conquer the Corrugations](#) on **1-2 October!**

