

Healthy Country Newsletter

Threatened Species

Jardine River Turtle: Photo courtesy of Origin Energy

What are threatened species, and why are they important?

An ecosystem includes all of the living organisms (eg. plants, animals, fungi) and processes (eg. soil, water, air) in a given area. Each organism or process within the ecosystem relies on the others for it to work efficiently and effectively. If something is missing from a system, it has an impact somewhere else. For example, trees rely on seeds being dispersed to reproduce. If the bird that spreads a particular kind of seed is removed from the system, the tree will also be at risk. The flora and fauna that depend on the tree for food and shelter will also be impacted. And so on.

Decline in species population or extinction can affect entire ecosystems through changes in ecosystem functions such as pollination and seed dispersal, or through changes in predation or competition. A species or ecological community becomes threatened when it is at risk of extinction.

Some great resources are available to learn about threatened species, and to help people get involved in recovery. The Queensland Government's new site *Spot Our Species* (<http://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/spot-our-species/>) provides some great information and enables recording of wildlife sightings. The site links with the *Atlas of Living Australia*, so Citizen Scientists can contribute to data about threatened species.

Cape York NRM welcomes Gregory Andrews to the role of Threatened Species Commissioner. The Commissioner's website (<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/commissioner>) takes you to the Commissioner's Calendar of Events and provides direct links to threatened species lists and recovery plans. The Commissioner is active on social media, so if you are working on threatened species programs, be sure to include his handle (@TSCCommissioner) in your tweets!

There is always fantastic on-ground work happening throughout Cape York - a publication of this size can barely scratch the surface of the people working to care for threatened species. This edition of *Healthy Country Newsletter* attempts to give just a glimpse into this great work and showcase some of the special fauna species that are at risk here.

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shortened to Cape York NRM**

Ghost nets are still a major threat to marine life.
Photo supplied: Riki Gunn



Understanding threatened species

by Luke Preece

Australia is one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries for flora and fauna. Species, habitats and ecosystems provide outstanding benefits to human wellbeing such as providing clean air and water, healthy soils to grow food, health and mental health benefits, and cultural services like recreation and education and spiritual and religious benefits.

Unfortunately though, the decline in Australia's biodiversity has been the fastest of any country over the past 200 years, which is partly represented by several extensive threatened species lists.

Threatened species are those species at risk of extinction. Decline in species population or extinction can affect entire ecosystems through changes in ecosystem functions such as pollination and seed dispersal, or through changes in predation or competition. There are several formal listings of threatened species for Cape York, from global to state level, including the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999 list and Queensland's Nature Conservation (NC) Act 1992 list respectively. While Cape York has a great number of native species, including migratory, rare and endemic species, many of these are on the threatened species lists. For instance there are over 100 species

recorded on Cape York that are on the NCA list as near threatened, vulnerable or endangered. Cape York also has a regional list of 53 priority species, identified through the Back on Track species prioritisation framework (<https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/prioritisation-framework/>).

Species are threatened by an array of pressures, including inappropriate fire regimes, disease, over-grazing, pest animals, weeds, loss of habitat, degradation of habitat and climate change. These affect the extent of populations and number of individuals. As the risk of extinction becomes greater, species are nominated for assessment under state or federal laws, and eventually find their way on to the threatened species lists.

An effective way to conserve species is through conservation actions across landscapes, such as clusters of properties, protected areas and nature refuges. Actions include monitoring, awareness raising, reducing threats and establishing new populations. Bringing species back from the brink can be achieved with good planning, making the right decisions, and coordinating across the habitat of these precious species.

Launching the Ghost Net Toolbox

by Riki Gunn

As of July 2015, GhostNets Australia will be moving into a new phase of its operation focusing on preventing the ghost nets from entering Australian waters from their source in Indonesia.

The move follows the bans introduced by the Indonesian government in January this year, forbidding all foreign owned (illegal) and trawl vessels from the Arafura Sea from operating in the region. It is reported that there are 7000 less illegal vessels in operation since these bans have been enforced, which should dramatically reduce the number of ghost nets being washed up on Australian shores.

GhostNets Australia will now work closely with the remaining fishers on further ghost net prevention, but that does not mean that the job for the rangers is over. Nets will continue to wash ashore and rangers will need to patrol regularly so that the effectiveness of the Indonesian bans can be monitored.

Unfortunately, GhostNets Australia will not be able to provide the hands-on support to rangers that it has delivered since 2004.

To bridge this gap GhostNets Australia has created the Ghost Net Toolbox which includes:

- step by step instructions
- a collation of all information currently known about the different nets found on north Australian shores

- fact sheets
- videos, and much more.

These tools are designed to work in conjunction with the ghost net on-line database (www.ghostnets.com.au/database) where all ghost net data is stored.

These resources also showcase the important achievements of GhostNets Australia since 2004. They are available on the website www.ghostnets.com.au



GhostNets Australia is working in Indonesia to reduce the impacts of ghost nets in Australian waters. Photo supplied: Riki Gunn

Congratulations to everyone who has been involved in this rewarding journey, for together we are putting an end to this ghost net issue.

Habitat Loss Impacts Cape York's Finches

The White-bellied Crimson Finch (a sub-species of the Crimson Finch pictured below left) and the Star Finch (pictured below right) are listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act and the NC Act. They live in grassland habitats near water, predominately in western Cape York. The habitats (and therefore the finches) are in danger due to a number of threats. These threats include the invasion of grassland habitats by woody weeds (such as *Melaleuca viridiflora*) is a result of:- altered fire regimes and grazing by cattle; the removal of tall grasses by pigs and stock congregating near fresh water during dry seasons; and the invasion of riparian habitats by rubber vine. The Kowanyama Aboriginal Land and Natural Resource Management Office has been monitoring the finches over the last few years, and the rangers are currently looking at new opportunities to implement the National Recovery Plan by rehabilitating waterways in the area.



Photo: <http://australianfinches.com/>



Photo: <http://goo.gl/7lk6DL>

Golden-shouldered Parrot: Survival Through Partnerships

By Allana Brown, Bush Heritage

Bush Heritage is a national not for profit organisation that works with landholders to support management of important areas of their land for conservation.

We aim to develop strong and enduring partnerships with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal landowners across Australia. One of the ways we support healthy landscapes is to work with landholders to manage pests, fire, habitat health, provide ecological advice, protect indigenous culture and work to protect threatened species of fauna and flora.

One such threatened species is the golden-shouldered parrot (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*) residing in central Cape York. Landholders Tom and Sue Shephard from Artemis Station have been working for many years with researchers to understand and help one of only two populations in the world, the northern Morehead River population. We are now helping to continue this work by supporting a project led by landholders, Tom and Sue Shephard, Olkola Aboriginal Corporation and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. We aim to enhance the parrot's habitat and increase its population and range by implementing management actions from the Recovery Plan written by Dr Gay Crowley and Dr Stephen Garnett.

With the support of Bush Heritage ecologist Allana Brown, Olkola Land Managers, Sue Shepherd and Dr Steve Murphy undertook surveys earlier this year to count active nests and to mark out potential habitat. The parrot's distribution is estimated at 1380 km² for the northern population, with survey effort this year focussing on the north-east corner of Olkola's tenure as a starting point.

The golden-shouldered parrot is a key conservation concern for all landholders involved. This iconic and beautiful small species of parrot is also one of the

Olkola totems, which comes with significant cultural responsibility to care for and protect the endangered bird.

The golden-shouldered parrot is a small granivore closely related to the extinct paradise parrot (*P. pulcherrimus*). The male is turquoise with a black crown, bright yellow on the wing and forehead and with a salmon pink belly. Females and immature birds are mostly green with a turquoise rump. Also known as the 'Ant bed Parrot' the little bird waits until the end of the wet season when termite mounds are soft from the rains and digs out a nest chamber in which to safely lay eggs.

Remote monitoring cameras were placed several meters away from active nests and will hopefully capture successful fledglings heading off into the world to fend for themselves. Not all chicks will make it however, and these cameras will also give us a good insight into the types and frequency of predation events suffered by the parrots (goannas and butcher birds being the main culprits).

In addition to the parrot surveys the Olkola Land Managers have established their first long-term monitoring plots and photo points to assess changes in savannah vegetation health over time. This will allow the Land Managers to understand the impacts of their management activities, particularly fire management, and the way this influences plant species diversity and habitat values. Woody thickening of broad-leaved titree (*Melaleuca viridiflora*) is a particular concern, as too many trees can adversely affect golden-shouldered parrot habitat.

We look forward to supporting the implementation of the recovery actions necessary to secure the current population— and protect the parrot and its habitat well into the future.

Out of hiding? Jardine River Turtle Reappears

The spectacular Jardine River Turtle (*Emydura subglobosa subglobosa*) ‘reappeared’ last year in the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) after almost 20 years in hiding.

First recorded by science in the 1970’s, the last scientifically confirmed sighting of the turtle was in 1996. While it is currently listed as near threatened under state legislation, it is about to be up-listed as vulnerable, potentially endangered.

Also known as the ‘painted’ turtle because of its yellow and red colouring, with an almost fluorescent red chest plate, the Jardine Turtle is a small, short-necked turtle, known to inhabit the freshwater swamps, rivers and wetlands in coastal areas of Papua New Guinea and the NPA.



Releasing the turtle. Photo: Origin Energy

NPA’s Apudthama Rangers, Apudthama Land Trust, and Origin Energy, with assistance from Environment and Heritage Protections Threatened Species staff, used survey traps in August last year to look for the turtle at 58 sites. There were 32 captures of the ‘painted’ turtle at only four of these sites, with the majority occurring at one site, and all within the Jardine River drainage system.

For the Apudthama Rangers and the Apudthama Land Trust, the discovery was incredibly significant. Ranger Coordinator Warren Strevens said the turtle is culturally sacred with its own storyline. The rangers are working hard to continue the monitoring of the turtle with their partners, through regular patrols and threat abatement, but need more resources to continue the work.

Warren said there are three main threats to the turtle - feral pigs, climate change and poaching for southern pet markets - with feral pigs being the major threat. While the rangers are funded to undertake feral pig

abatement work, the work is meant to target the pigs that predate threatened sea turtle populations, not the pigs which affect freshwater turtles and their habitat.

Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP)’s Alistair Freeman is a prominent researcher of the Jardine River Turtle. Alistair said ongoing research is needed to understand the turtle and to give it the best chance of survival into the future.

“We have been continuing to work with the Apudthama Rangers and are planning further fieldwork in October this year” he said.

Alistair indicated that the 2015 Jardine River turtle work plan would include:

- further surveys upstream of old crossing and into headwaters of Jardine River
- further monitoring of known population sites that were found in 2014
- seeking to have Jardine River turtle in Australian nominated as endangered under EPBC and NC Acts with the two years of survey and monitoring data as justification.



Measuring the turtles carapace. Photo: Origin Energy

Cape York NRM is working closely with the Apudthama Land Trust, the Apudthama Rangers, Origin Energy and EHP to help raise awareness of this important species. Cape York NRM’s Operations Manager, Peta-Marie Standley, and Indigenous Zone One Director Sandra Woosup (also the Chair of the Apudthama Land Trust) are establishing a fundraising program to continue research into the species.

“The public will be able to make donations to ensure a future for the Jardine River Turtle” said Peta-Marie. “Once established, donations can be made through the Cape York NRM website: www.capeyorknrm.com.au”.

Spear-tooth Shark (*Glyphis glyphis*): Critically Endangered and Mostly Unknown

Spear-tooth shark teeth. Photo: Jason Stapley

There are no known records of sexually mature (adult) *Glyphis glyphis*. ANYWHERE. EVER.

This is one of the reasons that Barry Lyon from Australia Zoo commenced researching the *G. glyphis* (otherwise known as the spear-tooth shark) in 2012.

The spear-tooth shark is listed on the EPBC Act as critically endangered and the Wenlock River appears to be the current stronghold for the species in Queensland. Spear-tooth shark recorded in the Wenlock River range from juveniles with umbilical scars to sub-adults with a total length of 1.57 metres. They have all been located in tidal, brackish and highly turbid water.

As very little is known about the shark, Barry's research is looking at the ecology. It is hoped that when more is understood about the shark's ecology, management and conservation practices will be enhanced.

To learn more about the species, Barry is capturing and tagging the sharks with acoustic pingers. Thanks to the extensive research on crocodiles undertaken by Australia Zoo, CSIRO and University of Queensland, the Wenlock River is already full of receivers, so the shark research is able to use technology already in place. So far 55 spear-tooth sharks have been tagged, and of these 39 have provided long term data, all of which are juveniles and sub-adults.

What is known about the shark

Barry is currently analysing the data recorded so far, and results indicate that:

- females may come to the mouth of river (in Port Musgrave) to give birth to pups. It is still

unknown at what age they start having young, because adults have never been captured.

- during September and October, juveniles swim upstream, to where the fresh water first mixes with salt, and the water is slightly saline.
- the new data shows that all the spear-tooth sharks inhabit the upper estuary in the mid-late dry season.
- when the river first really floods, there is a total migration to the lower estuary and the mouth of the Wenlock, with some sharks moving into Port Musgrave.
- after the wet until the end of June, all the sharks undertake ranging movements between lower and upper estuary.
- from July for rest of dry, the sharks remain in the upper estuary.
- sub adults appear to have a larger home range than the juveniles.
- the sharks also move with the tides. Data so far suggests they travel up to 25 km in a 24 hr period utilising tidal movement.
- bull sharks dominate the upstream clearer waters.

The Wenlock River is the crucial river for the species in Queensland. It is thought this is because its tidal sections are highly turbid, and being perennial, the Wenlock features fresh water inflow all year, unlike many other rivers on Cape York. A combination of sandstone and bauxite springs drive the perennial nature of the Wenlock River. This highlights the importance of the broader ecological connection between the catchment and the river itself. Barry has found the fresh water inflow has a big influence on which part of the river the sharks inhabit, however he is not sure if that is related to food sources or other drivers.

About the speartooth shark

Speartooth sharks are thought to grow to three metres or more in length. They have small eyes, and like the bull shark which is well adapted to hunting in dirty water, they have a large number of electro-receptors on their heads to help detect prey. The speartooth shark has approximately 670 of these electro-receptors, more than twice as many as the bull shark. This suggests it is well adapted to hunting in dark and turbid water. Its distinguishing feature is a series of teeth shaped like spear heads (see main picture). The second dorsal fin is also at least half the height of the first fin, and much higher than that of a bull shark (see picture, bottom right).

The main threats to the species' survival are considered to be commercial gill netting,



Gill irrigating while tagging. Photo supplied: Barry Lyon

insensitive recreational fishing, and habitat modification.

What the public can do to help save the speartooth shark

Juveniles are known to enter crab pots, and may occasionally take baits of line fishers, so anglers are encouraged to carefully release any they find. Speartooth sharks have not been known to take hooked fish from anglers' lines, so should not be seen as a threat.

What's next? The science will be used to inform management actions into the future, to raise awareness about the speartooth shark, and to identify further gaps in knowledge for future research.



Releasing the Speartooth shark. Photo supplied: Barry Lyon

Western Cape York's Threatened Marine Turtles

Rangers across western Cape York have commenced monitoring of threatened Flatback, Olive Ridley and Hawksbill turtles as part of their annual work plans in an attempt to increase numbers of these threatened species.

Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA) supports this work through the coordination of work plans, sharing of skills, and the sharing of resources. WCTTAA is now celebrating two years of on-ground coordination and leadership in the management of threatened marine turtle populations. The group - which involves rangers from Northern Peninsula Area (Apudthama), Mapoon, Napranum and Pormpuraaw - recently welcomed Kowanyama rangers to the Alliance. WCTTAA has been funded by Queensland Government through the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program and Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd on behalf of GhostNets Australia.

Queensland is home to six threatened species of marine turtle and the coastline of western Cape York has important nesting grounds for three of those – the Flatback (*Natator depressus*), Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) turtles. Under the EPBC Act, the Flatback and Hawksbill turtles are listed as vulnerable, while the Olive Ridley is listed as endangered.

Some of the key threats to these turtles include predation (predominately by feral pigs), climate change, ghost nets and other marine debris, fishing and hunting. In addition, many of the beaches where turtles nest on western Cape York are accessed by people for fishing and camping.

Nesting season is now underway and occurs throughout most of the dry season, so extreme care should be taken by people driving on beaches to avoid damaging nests and killing hatchlings.

Cape York Mammal Declines

by Noel Preece

Cape York Peninsula, as we all know, is rich in wildlife. Over half of all Australian bird species, a third of the frogs and mammal species, and a quarter of reptiles species are found here. But there is something very wrong, because we are not finding the animals we know should be here.

Mammals across northern Australia are already suffering badly, with 53% of dasyurid, 47% of macropod and potoroid, 33% of bandicoot and bilby, 33% of possum, 30% of rodent, and 24% of bat species being assessed as extinct, threatened or near threatened (Ziembicki et al. 2014).

Recent extensive trapping surveys across Cape York by independent fauna researchers, and CSIRO and others have been coming up with very low numbers of animals. In my experience of over 40 years of trapping mammals for instance, I have never caught so few mammals during surveys. These results are disturbing. In the past, in places like the Kakadu Conservation Zone in the early 1990s and further west on the Yampi Peninsula in the late 90s and early 2000's, we regularly had 'trap full nights', exciting and exhausting because every trap, all 140 of them, would hold an animal. Recent surveys by myself

and colleagues in the Cape York Peninsula and Northern Gulf regions have been having up to 87% of survey sites with zero animals (Starr, Waller, Preece & Leung, 2014 Australian Mammal Society Conference, Melbourne). This is rare in my experience, and very disturbing.

A picture of the trapping rates of small mammals can tell an even more alarming story. Colleagues wrote that the dramatic declines of mammals observed in the Northern Territory from 1990s to mid 2000s were 'extremely low' – our trapping results on the Cape and Northern Gulf are almost all in the 'extremely low range' range. One exception is the Brooklyn Sanctuary, which is on the edge of the Wet Tropics. South Endeavour and the Steve Irwin Reserves may also show better results, but the studies are few in the region, and there is no real long-term monitoring.

We have already lost 22 mammal species from Australia, around 10% of our total mammal fauna (Woinarski et al. 2011). There is an urgent need to do a lot more work on the plight of our beautiful native mammals so that we can try to head off a disaster.

Below: Endangered Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*)
Photo: Natalie Waller



Building Resilient Landscapes:

Maintaining and Enhancing Biodiversity Values in Northern Gulf and Cape York Nature Refuges Project. High diversity of declining small and medium sized mammals identified on South Endeavour Nature Refuge

by Carly Starr and Natalie Waller



Above: Common Rock Rat (*Zyzomys argurus*)
Photo: Natalie Waller



Above: Common Planigale (*Planigale maculata*)
Photo: Natalie Waller

The Nature Refuge program is a Queensland Government initiative, which enables landholders to be actively involved in protecting biodiversity on their property. Landholders enter into a voluntary agreement with the Queensland Government, agreeing on the sustainable use and management for the area gazetted. There are currently approximately 48 Nature Refuges in Cape York and Northern Gulf regions.

Northern Gulf Resource Management Group, in partnership with Cape York Natural Resource Management, successfully secured funds from the federal governments 'Biodiversity Fund' from 2012 to 2017. The project has devolved two rounds of funds to Nature Refuge landholders to carry out threat abatement projects, and is working to improve our understanding of these areas across the two regions. Thus far, the project has worked with landholders on 19 of these properties. South Endeavour Nature Refuge is located 20 kilometres from Cooktown and is owned and managed for conservation by the South Endeavour Trust. The Nature Refuge covers almost 7000 hectares of diverse savanna and rainforest pockets along the Endeavour River. The slopes of the Dickson and Henderson Plateau feature semi-deciduous vine thickets, with altitudinal gradients of almost 500 metres.

Northern Gulf RMG has just returned from conducting a comprehensive fauna survey across 18 sites on

South Endeavour Nature Refuge, adding to over 120 sites established by the team in the two NRM regions. The survey identified exceptional diversity of small to medium sized mammals not identified on many other surveys in similar vegetation communities across the regions. Species detected included: The Northern Quoll; Common Rock Rat (above left); Common Planigale (above right); Grassland Melomys; Delicate Mouse; White-tailed Rat; Common Brushtail Possum; Common Ringtail Possum; Sugar Glider; Brush-tailed Phascogale; Short-beaked Echidna; and Northern Brown Bandicoot. Most notable were the threatened Northern Quoll (see page 8), which were detected across the majority of the 18 survey sites. Northern Gulf RMG has recently commenced the inclusion of camera trapping alongside traditional survey methods for mammals in the region, and preliminary results have identified a significant improvement in the detection of these declining mammal species.

Given the decline of small and medium sized mammals across much of the top end, we suggest this Nature Refuge has regional significance as important refugia for mammals, particularly when compared to other surveyed sites in the region. Lastly, the inclusion of camera trapping is proving vital on fauna surveys. Camera traps detect the presence of small and medium sized mammals which appear to occur at low abundance in Cape York and Northern Gulf savannas.

Fire management on Cape York:

Friend and Foe

by Peta-Marie Standley

Fire on Cape York is a key threatening process. It impacts on the plants, animals, landscape and health of waterways, wetlands and springs, either positively or negatively.

Aside from lightning strikes that arrive late in the year prior to the onset of the wet season, people start most fires in Cape York, deliberately or by accident. Over the years people have worked hard trying to solve the problem of hot late season uncontrolled wildfires that can burn up to 70% of Cape York in as little as a few weeks. There is more work to be done; fire management requires constant attention and the involvement of people. As our seasons change, being responsive to fire management requirements requires knowledge and skill.

Storm season burning has been promoted as a management tool for reducing thickening vegetation, particularly broad leaf tea tree suckers (*Melaleuca viridiflora*). More recently the Savanna Burning methodology is influencing the way people burn, promoting early season burning prior to the carbon abatement cut-off date of 1 August annually. Cape York NRM would like to work with land managers and communities to adjust this methodology so that it better suits our fire management requirements and seasonal shifts.

Like managing most things in the natural environment, fire management is not simple. Satellites don't see everything – affected by the shape of the Earth, cloud cover, vegetation signals and smoke haze – so fire scar mapping is not an absolute reflection of everything that happens on the ground. Vegetation and animal requirements for fire are diverse and not all systems should be managed the same way to affect a positive result on our biodiversity. Not all vegetation systems are eligible under the savanna burning methodology and so non-eligible vegetation community burn requirements should be considered in overall fire planning and risk mitigation.

Fires behave differently - variability between seasons, time of year, time of day, fuel loads, fine and course woody debris, moisture levels, vegetation type, wind patterns, past fire history, known plant and animal species present, aspect, slope, geology, soils,

surrounding vegetation communities, on-ground or aerial burning and single, multiple or linear ignition points - all play a role in determining how a fire will or should behave and the impact that it has on our environment.

Cape York NRM supports the Northern Australia Fire Information website via fire scar mapping in partnership with Cape York Sustainable Futures. We have recently developed a prospectus to increase investment in fire management in Cape York. We are in the final stages of releasing a vegetation base map for Cape York that improves the detail of vegetation information for people to plan for Savanna Burning 2, in partnership with Firescape Science. A spatial layer is in development for our ATLAS (www.capeyorknrm.com.au) to show the burn recommendations for different ecosystems developed by western science for Cape York and to identify gaps in information.

We are planning with properties across Cape York in clusters to develop property and sub-regional implementation plans with land managers (*stay tuned; we will be working with you soon if we have not seen you yet*). We are working towards updating the regional fire strategy through these clusters to protect our important environmental assets including Cape York's precious river systems. The edges of waterways and between vegetation communities are important places where plant and animal species can evolve. These areas are also rich in food resources and need to be protected from wildfire.

We support the *Indigenous Fire Workshop* that has been growing for nine years. The workshop provides people locally and across Australia with skills to help implement, monitor understand ethnobotany and record fire management. The workshop is a partnership with Mulong's Victor Steffensen, James Cook University researcher Peta Standley and ethnobotanist Gerry Turpin from the Tropical Herbarium.

We welcome working with all organisations and people with an interest in Cape York's fire management. We encourage you to contact us to find out more about what we are doing, or to let us know how your fire management projects are going. Contact Cape York NRM on 1300 132 262.

Around the Cape: More Pictures From Our Stories

Golden-shouldered Parrots



Glen, Brendan, Hamish and Ashley (Olkola Land Managers) with Allana (Bush Heritage Australia) at a nest site. Photo: Allana Brown



Golden-shouldered Parrot eggs recorded with an inspection camera during surveys this year. Photo: Allana Brown

Jardine River Turtle



Apudthama rangers and Apudthama Land Trust inspect the turtle. Photo: Origin Energy



Sandra Woosup (Apudthama Land Trust) shows the fluorescent underside of the Jardine River turtle. Photo: Peta Standley

Indigenous Fire Wokrshop



Indigenous Fire Workshop participants look on as Victor Steffensen explains traditional burning methods. Photo: Kerry Trapnell



Rangers from Northern Territory Land Council at the fire workshop. Photo: Kerry Trapnell

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Shane Gibson
Indigenous Sector, Zone 4

Calendar of Events

July

- 16 [Threatened Species Summit - Melbourne](#)
- 17-21 [Chilli Beach Clean-up](#)
- 20-21 [Developing Northern Australia Conference](#)
- 30 [Growcom Serious About Farm Safety](#)
- 31 [Cooktown Show](#)

August

- 1 [Cooktown Show](#)
 - 4-5 [Cape York Beef Cattle Producers Roundtable](#)
 - 31 [Mapoon Beaches Clean-up](#)
- Date Claimer - November**
- 4-5 Cape York NRM Annual General Meeting
(time and venue to be confirmed)

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Australian Government



Queensland
Government