

WUNTA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



Draft Strategic Plan

2012–2015

*How good and how pleasant it is for brethren
to dwell together in Unity!*

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WUNTA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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This management plan is a work-in-progress. More information will be included as the planning process continues.



Contents

Foreword.....	5
Our Organisation.....	7
The Nesbit country.....	7
Vision.....	11
Values.....	11
Our Strength-Based Approach	12
Programs	14
Program 1. Management and Governance	15
Program 2 - Economic and Social Enterprise Development	18
Program 3 – Land management.....	20
Program 4 - Cultural Arts Program	24
Program 5 - Community Education, Training and Capacity Building.....	25
Current activities.....	26

Last update: October 2012

Foreword

We are pleased to present Wunta Aboriginal Corporation's Strategic Plan 2013-2015. Our Plan outlines how we will use a strength-based approach to provide access to quality tourism, ranger programs, land management and cultural arts programs that:

- Strengthen the educational and business knowledge, skills and capacity of our people to enhance competitiveness for employment and participation in social and cultural activities and economic and social enterprise development; and
- Build mutual awareness, understanding, empathy and respect through cooperation and partnership between our clan groups, organisations and non-Aboriginal organisations in our community

We are proud and culturally strong community organisation. Our Board and members have an acute understanding of the negative aspects and impact of Australian history and remain wholly committed to moving beyond the problems of fear, blame, ignorance, and denial to restore a sense of pride and dignity among all people.

We respect the ancient customs, knowledge, lore, practices and values of our people and will use our strength-based approach to create positive change in the way indigenous and non-indigenous people think, feel and behave towards each other. This is with the hope to heal the hurt and suffering of our nation's past and become proud and responsible leaders of the future.

Our Plan will build on the solid foundation established by our organisation by increasing local organisational coordination,

maximising resource efficiency and capitalising on the strengths and opportunities available to our families and our community.

We encourage all community members and government and non-government organisations to embrace our plan and commit to working with us to build and sustain pride and dignity among all people across our unique and special (Ngaachi) place/Homeland

Samuel Zaro

Chairman/Ceo

Our Organisation

Wunta Aboriginal Corporation was established on 11th of March 2010 by The Brown Family, Descendants of George and Tilly Brown (see our Family Tree on the next page), Traditional owners of the Nesbit River (Palinjii) situated on Umpila country north of port Stewart near Coen, Cape York Peninsula.

Wunta Aboriginal Corporations' board of director consists of three local indigenous people who are elected by the Members at each Annual General Meeting.

The board meets on a quarterly basis and provides strategic direction and advice via the organisation's Chairman/Ceo.

The Nesbit country

The Nesbit river on the eastern side of the MacIlwraith Range is an area of significant natural and cultural importance, but is also one of the least well-known areas on the Cape York Peninsula.

Boundaries of Nesbit (Wunta) area are historically defined by:

- North: two oak trees that mark the way from Cape Smith to Nesbit (about half-way), the north one is Matty country, the south one is Nesbit country
- South: the Chester river and an approximately straight line from Hays Island off the coast
- West: the MacIlwraith Range to its base on the Western side

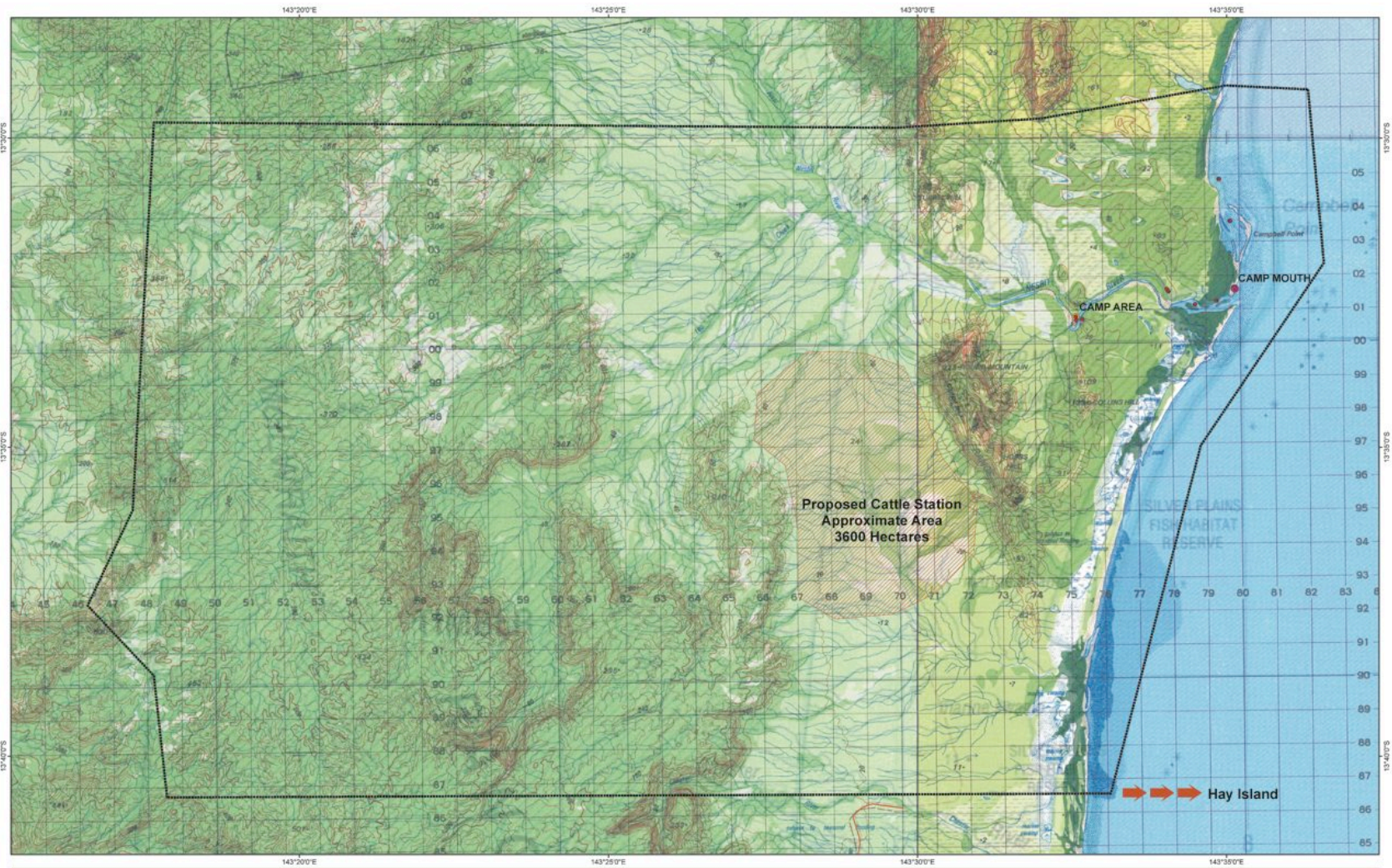
A rough map of the boundary has been drawn based on discussions from a field trip conducted in September 2012 (see Map below).

Need to include an introduction to country, based on CYPLUS reports and currently known information about the area, including:

Last update: October 2012

- *cultural stories of Wittharingoonoma, Khayampa, Wunta Muta, 7 stones, the lagoon on Wunta, Leo falls, the river, mountains and other special sites*
- *the MacIlwraith Range National Park area*
- *the Silver Plains Fish Reserve*
- *data from Wildnet and other biodiversity records*
- *historical information about the area*

Last update: October 2012



NESBIT AREA 100k MOSAIC TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Wunta Aboriginal Corporation



Legend

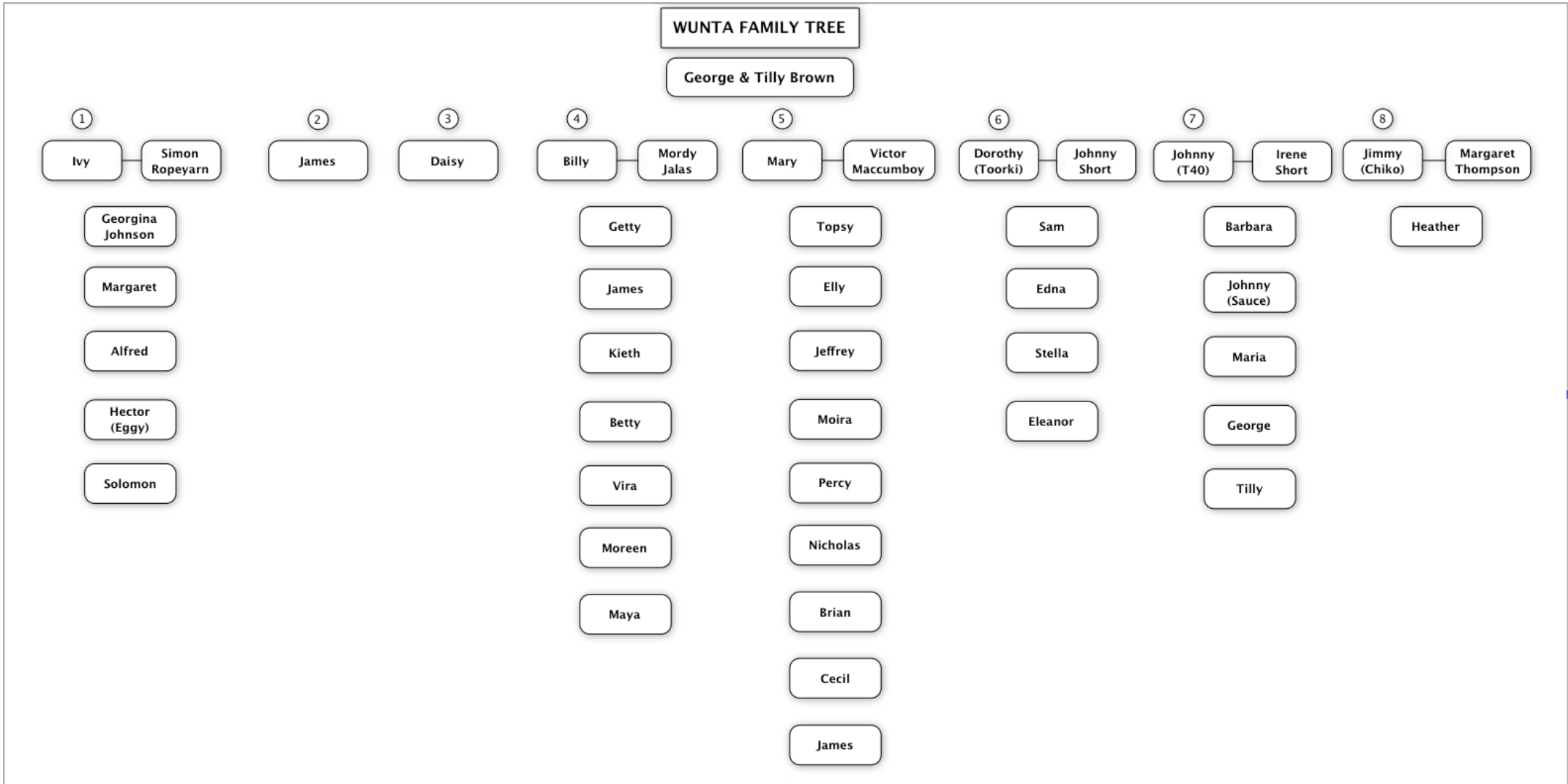
- Approximate Outline Wunta Cattle Station
- Approximate Outline Wunta Lands

Scale 0 0.5 1 2 3
Kilometers

The outline is an approximation of the boundary of the Nesbit area (Wunta people) based on discussions only, to be revised as necessary on further consultation

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Vision

Our vision is for a strong, united and prosperous community, based on: ***“How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” (Psalm 133).***

Values

Include environmental and economic values

The traditional values of care, sharing and respect for the land, the people and the environment form the foundation of our organisation and guide our strategic and cultural focus.

- We Care for the Spiritual, physical, cultural, emotional, social and economic security, peace and wellbeing of all people.
- We share a passion for moving beyond ignorance, fear, denial and blame and restoring dignity, peace, happiness and harmony among all people.
- We Respect the strengths, cultural diversity, rights, views, values and expectations of all people.
- A healthy country that can provide cultural and economic benefits is one of the keys to progressing towards our vision. We value the health of the environment, the plants and animals of Wunta country that can keep our culture alive and support our economic aspirations.

Our Strength-Based Approach

Wunta Aboriginal Corporation's strength-based approach embraces positive attitudes toward people's dignity, capacities, rights, uniqueness and common interests.

Our fundamental belief is that all people, regardless of their cultural, social and economic background, have the strengths and resources within themselves to bring about real change in their lives, their families, their clan group or their community.

While we acknowledge adversity and respect the problems, we remain wholly committed and focused on making real change by building on the strengths, opportunities and resources of our individuals, our families and our community.

The following principles support our organisation's values and underpin our strength-based approach:

Social Justice and Equity

All people have a right to access, participation and equity.

Strength and Pride in Culture

Knowing who we are, where we connect and where we belong reaffirm our cultural identity and pride and strengthens how we think, feel and behave.

Valuing People, Family and Community Strength and

All people, families and communities are unique and special and each has the intrinsic strengths and resources to make real and positive change.

Cooperation and Partnership

Working in cooperation and partnership promotes integrated community wisdom, unity and learning, shared responsibility and resource efficiency.

Ethical Decision-Making, Leading and Governance

Ethical decision-making, leadership and governance demonstrate

Creativity and Innovative Thinking

Creativity and innovative thinking allows challenges to be identified and resolved, influences positive change, informs best practice and adds value for money.

Programs

A meeting held at Lockhart in September 2012 resulted in a better understanding of the capacity and desires of the Wunta people.

One of the outcomes of the meeting was a rank of the priorities and desires of the Wunta people. The rank of on-country targets are:

1. cultural knowledge transfer
 - a. getting people on country to share their knowledge and learn from each other
2. Healthy country
 - a. Ranger program with managed turtle, crocodile, dugong populations, research, monitoring, weed control and tourism
3. Tourism
 - a. Camping and fishing spots, walks to lookout, arts and craft
4. Native food garden
5. Education and training centre
6. Scientific knowledge
7. Cattle station
 - a. Place with water, out the back of the Emberley Range, for exporting beef
8. Commercial fisheries, including crayfish
 - a. Note: concern that this would interfere with fishing tourism

Wunta Aboriginal Corporation looks at delivering 5 programs to the Clan group to create full time employment and improve our country.

The priorities outlined in each of the programs need to be detailed through workplans that reach annual targets. Use a table for each program that outlines priorities and targets for the next few years.

1. **Management and governance** – The core program is for the maintenance of the organisation, equipment and people and integration across programs.
2. **Economic and social enterprise development** – This program is set to create a secured full time employment for the clan group that will protect and manage the land and sea area for the environment and economic activities.
3. **Land management program** – This program will manage the land, including a ranger program, that maintains roads and fence-lines, controls weeds and feral animals, monitors biodiversity and manages fire on the Nesbit area
4. **Arts & Cultural program** – For arts, craft and entertainment.
5. **Community education, training and capacity building** – through schooling, mentoring and training programs, develop the capacity of the community for improved land management, business and the arts.

Through the successful implementation of this Plan, we aim to broaden our capacity and scope to deliver additional programs and events that continue to build mutual awareness, understanding, empathy and respect between Aboriginal people and organisations and non-Aboriginal people and organisation in our area through cooperation and partnership.

Program 1. Management and Governance

The core program of management and governance will be done through continuous administration of the Wunta Aboriginal Corporation, its people, processes, infrastructure and equipment. The program is key to integrating the other programs set out in this Strategic Plan.

This program will be to strengthen our customs and record everything that we have been taught by our elders. The aim is to keep the traditional practices alive to build viable business for sustainable income.

Promotions and Marketing

Wunta Aboriginal Corporation will actively promote its programs and its services to all individuals, government and non – government organisations and businesses in the Cape York communities and across the broader regions.

Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring and reporting are part of governance, but each of the indicators, targets and actions should be detailed in each of the programs below.

Wunta Aboriginal Corporation Board of directors will monitor the implementation of this Plan and evaluate performance and achievements against each of our key targets and indicators.

The Board of Directors will meet on a monthly basis and represent Wunta Aboriginal Corporation at all meetings relating to the business of the corporation and the Nesbit country. The Chairman/Ceo will also be responsible for:

- The development, implementation, monitoring and supervision of the organisation's Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plans;
- The provision of evaluation and performance reports in accordance with partnership funding conditions and requirements.

Objective

To integrate and facilitate the delivery of programs through transparent and accountable processes.

Priorities

- Mend partnerships with Governments and non-government organisation to create ongoing working relationships.
- Maintain the appropriate size, composition and functions of Wunta Aboriginal Corporation's Board of Directors.
- Maintain organisational infrastructure, equipment, systems, and insurance requirements for all programs.
- Maintain professional policies, standards, systems, practices and procedures to ensure total resource management transparency, compliance and accountability.
- Recruit, train and retain culturally competent and skilled Board members and staff and ensure access to ongoing professional training, performance appraisal and capacity building programs in response to need.
 - Transfer cultural knowledge of the Nesbit area from the elders to the younger generations.
 - This will include a field trip to the Nesbit river in November 2012
 - Identify skills held by people involved in the Wunta Aboriginal Corporation
 - Some of the skills already held by the people in the Wunta family include roadworks, chainsaw use, water supply, business management, teaching, administration, horticulture and hospitality. These skills need to be built on in this program.

- Maintain active presence, participation and involvement with all relevant regional, state and national government and non-government and community-based Tourism, Rangers, land management, and cultural and arts organisations.
- Maximise exposure locally and across the broader community through an increase presence and participation at schools and social and cultural events; and
- Monitor individual, family and community Tourism, Rangers land managers and cultural arts interests and respond to changing trends.
- Maintain an up-to-date Website to promote the organisation and its programs, services and events.
- Maintain an active interest, involvement and supporting role with our local Wunta community to re-create networks to promote our programs and services;
- Develop a localised cross-cultural communications programs and marketing materials to actively promote and market our organisation, our programs, services and our local artists and performers.

Program 2 - Economic and Social Enterprise Development

Objective

To increase capacity and maximise opportunity for the clan groups to create self-employment and generate wealth through sound economic and social enterprise development.

Priority Actions

- Maintain quality partnership linkage with key government and non-government business support and lending organisations to increase knowledge and awareness and maximise access and participation of local Aboriginal and business aspirants.
- Ensure the availability and delivery of quality economic and social enterprise development programs.
- Maintain an active interest, support and mentoring role to our local business operators and ensure their active involvement and participation in business activities.
- Maintain Strong Indigenous Business Support Networks.

Sub-program: Tourism

This program has the potential to develop sustainable tourism ventures for the clan group because of the uniqueness of the biodiversity and estuary system surrounding our areas.

A Business Plan developed in conjunction with Kim MacDonald will supplement this program. Include objectives, priorities, targets and actions from the plan in this section.

Objectives

To establish our tourism operation on our country, to provide employment and training for our people and, by doing so, encourage the survival of our cultural heritage through facilitating visitors connection with what Palinjii and Umpila means to us.

Priorities

- Survey the Nesbit country to assess the condition of potential camp-sites and areas for tourism.
 - → Note: this was done in September 2012. Potential sites were photographed and marked on the map.
- Map areas of access tracks, weeds, fishing spots, lookouts, waterholes, waterfalls and walking tracks.
- Develop business plan
 - *Conducted with Kim MacDonald*
- Immediate repair of one and only Palinjii access track to allow 4WD vehicle egress after each wet season.
 - We require the resources to improve the drainage and stability of the track to prevent wash-outs and other water erosion issues that currently restrict access and damage the environment through excessive runoff.
- The beginning of the next wet will be viable, supplemented by air/sea where possible when the roads are closed.

Program 3 – Land management

There is much that needs to be done on this plan, including training for management activities, mapping and monitoring threats, targeting key issues and providing detailed work-plans.

The program will train participants to develop skills that will benefit the whole clan group. The purpose is to manage all traditional areas through land management strategies. This project will be funded and managed by a full time employment project coordinator with the support of a traineeship position and a part time administration officer.

Objective

To enable our young people to learn modern land, sea & camp ground management and flora & fauna care practices, enabling them to add to their existing traditional knowledge of country and provide a proactive & protective core of Wunta people to care for country & enlighten visitors.

To use optimal methods to protect our country from erosion, feral animals and noxious plants and to clarify all sacred sites for preservation purposes. Our objective is also ensure the success of turtle, dugong, crocodile, fish and birds breeding places and to limit the damage caused by uncontrolled burning of country.

Be proud Wunta rangers that will be caring for our country managing our traditional land & sea boundaries.

Priorities

- Cultural knowledge transfer
 - Target: Sharing cultural knowledge among Wunta people via on-country field trip.
 - Action: Planned for November 2012 through a Cape York NRM application to the Small Grants program.
- Biodiversity monitoring
 - MoU with Australia Zoo
- Fixing the access road to the Nesbit area from Silver Plains
 - People in the Wunta family have some capacity to build roads. Equipment can possibly be hired.
- Setting up ranger program
 - Maintenance of fence line and fences to establishing homesteads on traditional land to stamp ownership of our country

- Immediate Control of land and sea areas to prevent illegal fisherman and trespasser as well as protecting the boundries and cultural sites
- Weed management
 - Identification and mapping of weeds
 - Training of weed control procedures
 - Weed control (annual)
- Fire management
 - Partnerships/advice from CYWAFAP and other organisations
 - Mapping of different habitat types
 - Recording of knowledge about the grasslands
 - Training in fire management
 - On-country traditional burning
- Feral animal control
 - Partnerships/advice from CYWAFAP and other organisations
 - Monitoring of feral animals
 - Control through shooting, baiting etc.

From the notes at the meeting in September 2012, Lockhart:

TARGET: **Well managed land and sea country**

(Viable marine, terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna)

1. Identify roles and responsibilities
2. Training
3. Setup Ranger program
4. Control of threats: weeds, feral animals, erosion, fire, cattle, illegal fishing

TARGET: **Lookout to Nesbit and sea**

1. Upgrade access road
2. Put in signage

TARGET: **Camp site on mouth of river**

fly-in-fly-out fishing with good camp (tents), shelter, good food, looked-after boats.

Last update: October 2012

TARGET: Camp site up Nesbit River

- Camp up river,
- Calculate reasonable rate per camper per day,
- ticket facility at Coen,
- online ticketing,
- payment by card for administration; cash if well-managed

TARGET: Viable crocodile population

1. MoU with Australia Zoo
2. Australia Zoo partnership on country
3. Crocodile research, management and monitoring

TARGET: Cultural knowledge held within Wunta people

1. Application to CYNRM Small Grants program
2. Training for video and other recording methods
3. Shared learning of significant sites through knowledge transfer, particularly from Dorothy Short to the family
4. Recording of cultural knowledge

ACTION: Traditional Fire Management

Seek assistance to appropriately manage fire, using on-country burning practices conducted by other Indigenous groups on Cape York Peninsula. Traditional fire management takes into account factors such as:

- Timing of day
- Season
- Flowering
- Fauna
- Temperature
- Wind

ACTION: Biodiversity monitoring

- Fish monitoring (video)
- birds
- botanical survey
- mammal surveys

ACTION: patrol area by boat for fishing; warning and fines (GBRMPA)

ACTION: Cultural and resource mapping

Last update: October 2012

- Significant sites,
- camp sites,
- weeds
- Erosion
- Roads & erosion
- Grasslands
- Fresh water points
- Waterfall
- Walking tracks

ACTION: **weed control**: washdown facility, CYPWFAP

Program 4 - Cultural Arts Program

This program will develop an arts scene through local partnerships and artists for dance, craft and painting.

Objective

To be recognised as leaders in delivery of quality cultural arts programs and events.

Priorities

- Maintain quality partnership linkage with key government and non-government Cultural, arts and events organisers and provider to Increase local knowledge and awareness and maximise access and Participation in quality programs and events.
- Ensure the availability, delivery and broad community access and participation in quality arts and cultural programs and events.
- Ensure access and participation of local artists and performers in quality regional, state and national Arts, and Cultural events.

- Provide quality advice, guidance and mentoring support to local individuals, and the broader community.
- Partnerships and attendance to events
- Skills and training development
- Well-known artists making high quality arts and craft

Program 5 - Community Education, Training and Capacity Building

Objective

To build on the strength and capacity of local individuals, Families and the community to maximise success and improve quality of life.

Priority Actions

- Maintain quality partnership linkages with key government and non – government education and training provider organisations to increase local knowledge and awareness and maximise access and participation.
- Ensure the availability and delivery of quality education, Training and capacity building programs.
- Provide quality advice, guidance and mentoring support to local individuals, families and the broader community.
- Assess feasibility of an education and training centre on country

Current activities

The Wunta Aboriginal Corporation is currently seeking business opportunities and funding to initiate programs on country. These opportunities include:

1. Application to Cape York NRM's Small Grants program for cultural knowledge transfer
2. Working with Kim McDonald for
 - a. Tourism development
 - b. Boating training
 - c. Application to the Land and Sea grants (EHP)
3. Collaborations with Dr. Steve Burroughs for building infrastructure
4. Building relationships with Australia Zoo for developing a Memorandum of Understanding for crocodile research and monitoring