

*Cape York*

# Healthy Country

NEWSLETTER

Issue 38

2019

*Western Cape turtles  
face an uncertain future*

*pages 2-3*

*Cape York cassowary  
survey*

*pages 8-9*



# Western Cape turtles face an uncertain future

*As the year winds down, planning ramps up for WCTTAA's end of year Forum which will focus on reviewing the outcomes of the 2019 turtle season and contemplating the year ahead.*

WORDS AND IMAGES KERRI WOODCOCK

The Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA), a collective of five Indigenous Ranger groups (Pormpuraaw, Mapoon, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council / Apudthama and Kowanyama), spent the 2019 winter months counting endangered marine turtle nests, protecting turtle nests from feral pigs and removing marine debris from western Cape beaches.

Between July and September, WCTTAA monitored 150 kilometres of the remote western Cape coastline. The goal of ensuring that as many turtle hatchlings reach the water as possible requires a combination of activities including the targeted removal of feral pigs from both the ground and air, as well as the installation of nest protection cages in some locations.

As the year winds down, planning ramps up for WCTTAA's end of year Forum which will focus on reviewing the outcomes of the 2019 turtle season and contemplating the year ahead.

Cape York NRM's Kerri Woodcock, who coordinates the Alliance, said while the group continued to achieve success after success, program funding was due to run out in June 2020.

'The Alliance of land and sea managers on the western Cape is working collaboratively and building local capacity to deliver a threatened species recovery program.

Through the support of the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program, WCTTAA is achieving the low nest predation rates required, but a long-term approach is needed to secure these populations.

'With funding due to finish up in June 2020, marine turtles on the western Cape face an uncertain future.'

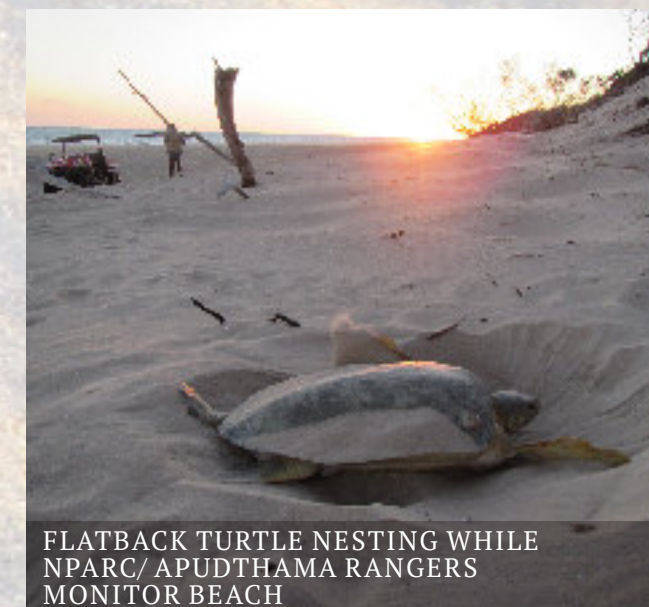
WCTTAA Chair Robbie Morris echoed Kerri's sentiments.

'WCTTAA has made a huge difference to the outlook of a range of marine turtles. We know what works when it comes to protecting these threatened species, and we are getting it done. We call on the Queensland and Australian governments to commit to funding this successful program which is not only protecting culturally significant species but also supporting Indigenous peoples to work on country.'

*This project is funded by the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program, which is a joint initiative of the Australian and Queensland Governments*



PORMPURAAW RANGERS INSTALLING A NEST PROTECTION CAGE ON AN OLIVE RIDLEY NEST



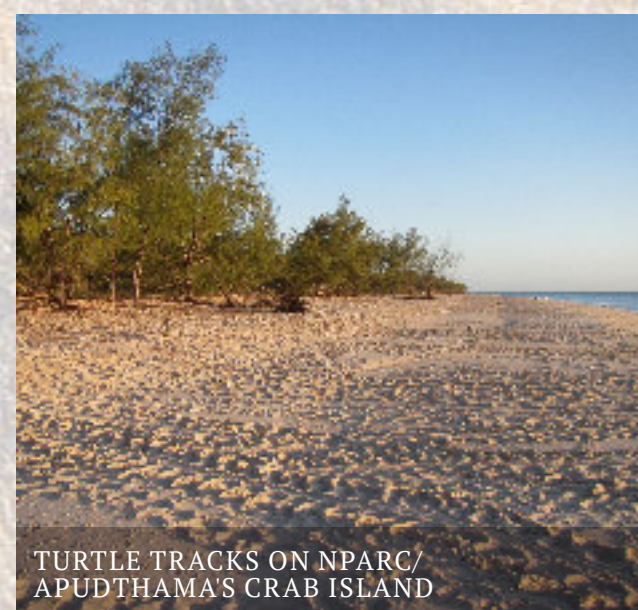
FLATBACK TURTLE NESTING WHILE NPARC/APUDTHAMA RANGERS MONITOR BEACH



FLATBACK TURTLE RETURNING TO WATER AFTER NESTING, CRAB ISLAND



MAPOON RANGERS MONITORING NEST PREDATION ON SKARDON BEACH



TURTLE TRACKS ON NPARC/APUDTHAMA'S CRAB ISLAND



NANUM WUNGTHIM RANGERS, NAPRANUM, REMOVED GHOST NETS FROM PENNEFATHER BEACH



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*Cape York NRM offices will be closed from  
4:30pm on 24 December  
and reopening at  
8:30am on 2 January*

# Coordinated, whole-of-region, feral pig response needed on Cape

*Cape York NRM and the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA) back the National Farmers Federation's call for a national feral pig control program to be put in place*

WORDS JULIANA FOXLEE



It is estimated that there are more than 20 million feral pigs in Australia, with the highest numbers found on Cape York peninsula.

CEO John Gavin said feral pigs were a threat to the land, waters, plant, animals and economy of the region.

'Feral pigs are a huge problem on the Cape. As well as being a potential vector for African Swine Fever which could decimate Australia's pork industry, they cause major headaches for the agriculture sector through crop damage and destruction, churn up waterways and wetlands which causes sediment to flow out to the northern Great Barrier Reef, spread weed seeds, consume native reptiles, insects and birds, destroy endangered turtle nests and eat turtle eggs and hatchlings.'

Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council Environmental Manager and Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA) Chair Robbie Morris said feral pigs pose a major threat to endangered marine turtles.

'Feral pigs are the number one threat to a whole range of endangered marine turtle species. Putting it quite bluntly, if we don't solve the feral pig problem, we are looking down the barrel of extinction for these turtles.'

This is an unthinkable proposition but it is what we are looking at if we don't take concerted action immediately to manage to get rid of the majority of feral pigs on Cape York.'

*According to the CSIRO, effective feral pig control on Cape York requires around 75 percent of the population to be culled every year.*

'To achieve this, we need a long – term, science based whole of region approach. It is unlikely we will ever eradicate feral pigs from the Cape entirely but if we keep their numbers low we can contain the damage they cause,' John said.

'We recognise Cape York is the heart of the country's feral pig problem and we call on all levels of government to invest in a strategic, long term, whole of region feral pig management program for the Cape.'

Not only would this address the threat of African Swine Fever, it would protect the region's agriculture sector, improve water quality, help secure the future of threatened turtle species and reduce the spread of feral pigs into other regions of Australia.'



# Carbon farming on the Cape

*Cape York NRM has been awarded \$200,000 under the Palaszczuk Government's Land Restoration Fund to assess the feasibility of a collective carbon farming initiative in the Normanby basin*

WORDS JULIANA FOXLEE | IMAGE BEN LISTER

The Land Restoration Fund is a flagship program that supports carbon farming projects and climate change mitigation programs in Queensland.

Cape York NRM and project partners The Nature Conservancy and CSIRO will work with land managers to explore the potential for coordinated carbon projects across 14 Normanby basin properties.

'Alongside the feasibility study, Indigenous fire practitioners will share their knowledge with local rangers in cultural burning techniques,' Cape York NRM CEO John Gavin said.

'Traditional savanna burning reduces the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere, as it promotes 'cool burning' – which is burning at the start of the dry season, when the fuel load is low, to prevent wildfires later in the season when the fuel load is high.

'We will also examine the carbon storage potential of the Normanby basin's endangered littoral vine forests and develop recommendations on how best to maximise

carbon capture in these ecological communities.

'By taking a collective approach, Cape York NRM and its project partners hope to maximise environmental and economic outcomes for Normanby basin land managers and showcase the potential of carbon farming.'

Environment Minister Leanne Enoch said the Queensland Government was proud to support this initiative, which enables First Nation's peoples to care for country.

*'This project will deliver clear environmental, social and economic benefits across the Cape York community,' Ms Enoch said.*

'This project will help Queensland meet its carbon emission targets, and protect threatened species and ecological communities.'

*The project is supported by the Queensland Government and delivered by Cape York NRM, the CSIRO and The Nature Conservancy*



# Cape York winners in 2019 Queensland Landcare Awards



**Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc.** won the Indigenous Land Management Award.

As a not-for-profit organisation, Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc. has worked tirelessly over the last five years to support Traditional Owners to protect country from the impacts of feral species. Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc also provides employment and training to local Indigenous people, building the capacity of the Cape York community.



**South Cape York Catchment's Jessie Price-Decle** was the runner-up of the Young Landcare Leader Award.

Jess supports community, Traditional Owners, and school kids to protect our corner of the world. She is particularly passionate about wetland protection and water quality improvement, and has worked for the last few years with grazing properties across eastern Cape York, supporting them to make management changes which reduce sediment loads in our waterways.



# Cape York cassowary survey

*How are cassowaries in north-eastern Cape York tracking?*

WORDS JULIANA FOXLEE

Cape York NRM, the CSIRO and Lockhart River Traditional Owners spent four days trying to answer that question, walking across nearly 60 km of rugged terrain in Kutini - Payamu (Iron Range) National Park looking for 'signs of cassowaries'.

The survey, which took place from 14-18 October 2019, was undertaken as part of Cape York NRM's Biodiversity Bright Spots Rainforest project which focuses on threatened species.

Cape York NRM Community Engagement Officer Joey Dix, who helped coordinate the survey, said it was a both arduous and valuable experience.

'We tried to cover as much ground as we could inside Kutini - Payamu over the four days and it's not the easiest terrain' he explained.

'We were looking for cassowary scats, footprints, and of course, the birds themselves. The survey was done on foot which was challenging as there was a lot of fallen trees as a result of Cyclone Trevor which hit the Cape in March.

Although the walking wasn't easy, it was a great experience, especially seeing the expertise of the Traditional Custodians of the land first hand.'

The survey's objective was to see whether Lockhart River's cassowary population was doing well.

CSIRO's Matt Bradford, who is the survey's Science Coordinator said while something is known about cassowaries living in the Wet Tropics, Cape York cassowaries, which are listed as Vulnerable under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, are a bit of a mystery.

'Getting a sense of how many there are, where they live, what they eat, and where they like to wander is a key step in ensuring we know what to do to protect them into the future,' he explained.

'This survey was all about looking for signs of cassowaries (sightings, scats, footprints, vocalisations) to give us an indication whether there is a healthy population in Kutini - Payamu.

We walked a total of 58 km and found some good evidence of cassowaries including two fresh scats, 11 sets of footprints, and even saw one adult and three juveniles. We were thrilled to see juveniles as this indicates a breeding population.'

Matt said there were fewer signs of cassowaries than expected, probably attributable to Cyclone Trevor which swept through the Cape earlier in the year.

'There was only a moderate number of cassowary signs which may be due to the scarcity of fruit following Cyclone Trevor,' he said.

'However, the forest is well on the way to recovery with many species flowering and a few already dropping fruit.

Experience from Cyclones Larry and Yasi has shown us that the rainforest responds well to cyclone disturbance. Plants that like lots of sunlight will grow quickly in response to the broken canopy.

Many understory species that don't often flower will take advantage of the light and space to produce a large fruit crop - all of which helps to support cassowary populations.



'The survey was a great experience. The forest in the area is a complex mosaic of rainforest, beach rainforest and woodland.

My highlight was walking along the sandy creeks with the young Traditional Owners learning about the different animal tracks.

They were happy to get out into the bush and visit places they hadn't been to for a while and to walk in areas they had only flown over.'

Matt said the data suggested that the cassowary population around in Kutini - Payamu was in good shape.

'Evidence so far indicates that the cassowary population on Cape York is tracking along just fine and that they live in a variety of forest types, including rainforest, open woodland and coastal littoral vine forest (where the forest meets the sea),' he said.

'It is heartening to know this habitat is nearly completely protected they can move freely between the ocean and the mountains, and up and down the coast between forested areas.

'It is vitally important that we don't fragment their habitat by clearing forest and constructing fences and roads.'

After the wet season the team will revisit the areas walked this year and survey new areas outside of Kutini-Payamu.

Cape York NRM and CSIRO will also work closely with Traditional Owners to identify major threats to Cape York cassowaries and their habitat and put in programs to reduce those threats.

*This project is supported by Cape York NRM, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program*



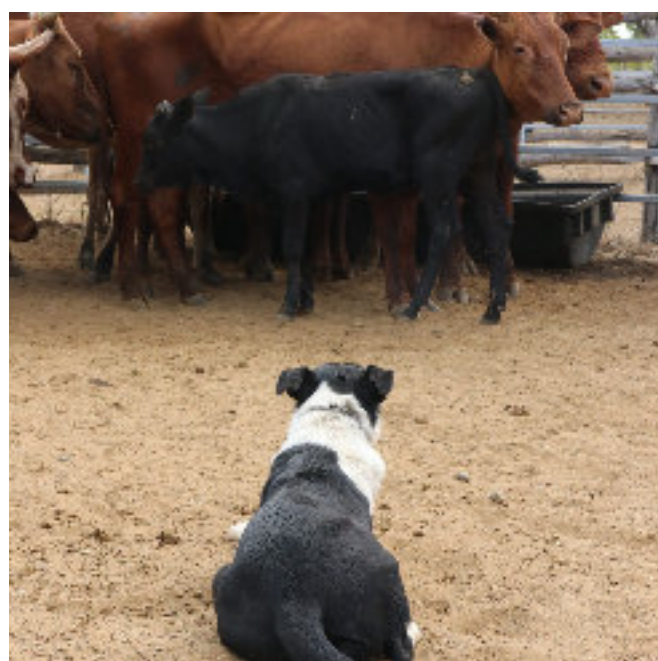
# Normanby Station feral cattle muster

WORDS AND IMAGES JESSIE PRICE-DECLÉ

The Normanby Rangers mustered feral cattle on Normanby Station earlier this year as part of their Reef Trust IV Gully project.

Reducing the numbers of feral cattle on the station has many benefits, including supporting gully remediation works, increasing ground cover, and reducing the impacts to the Normanby River frontage.

*This project is funded by the Australian Government and delivered through the Reef Trust with the support of Cape York NRM*



# Reef Phase IV gully remediation starts in Laura basin

WORDS MICHAEL GODDARD | IMAGE HARRY JAMES

*Gully remediation projects in the Laura basin will stop over 700 tonnes of sediment entering the northern Great Barrier Reef*



Gully erosion occurs where surface water causes the removal of soil along drainage lines. Once started, gullies will continue to move by headward erosion, or by the collapse of side walls unless steps are taken to stabilise the disturbance.

The remediation activities, taking place on grazing properties Spring Creek and Beefwood Park, will reduce the flow of sediment into river systems, wetlands, and the Great Barrier Reef.

Two projects are now underway on Spring Creek. The first focuses on a large scalded area—the result of wind and water erosion removing the topsoil—with two active head cuts.

The second is on a rapidly eroding linear gully—a gully that is concentrated along defined channels creating very deep scars in the landscape.

A third, large remediation project will get started before the end of the year.

Spring Creek landholder Wayne Smith said the project had lots of co-benefits.

‘While clearing for the fence line to protect the gully, I’m able to get rid of noxious weeds and invasive plants poisonous to cattle and native wildlife, so the work is more than just helping the gully—it combines a lot of benefits into one project,’ he explained.

‘It’s great that the government is helping graziers improve their land. This project will make a difference on my land, but also help protect the river and the Reef. It’s a win-win situation for everyone involved and I am happy to be a part of it.’

The fourth project will take place on Beefwood Park on a large scald with active gully lobes around the edges of the scald.

These projects will reduce the impact of sediment run-off to the Reef by an estimated 732 tonnes per year.

*The Cape York Natural Resource Management Reef Phase IV project is supported by Cape York NRM through funding from the Australian Government’s ‘Reef Trust IV: Scaling up Normanby Basin gully and stream bank remediation in priority areas’ program*



# Reef Water Quality Report Card 2017 and 2018

*The Reef Water Quality Report Card 2017 and 2018, which assesses the results of Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan (Reef 2050 WQIP) actions, was released in August this year*

WORDS AND IMAGES ABBEY ERNST

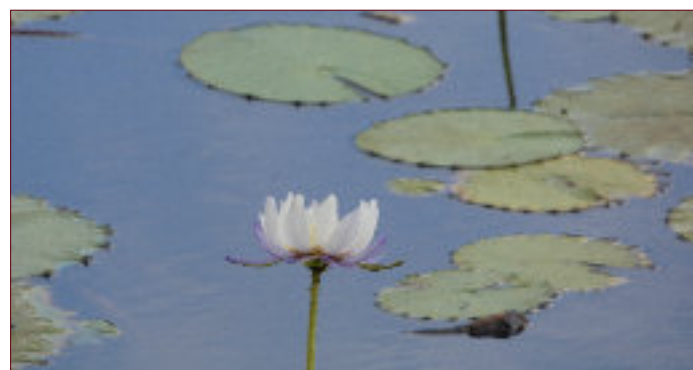
The report collates information from Reef catchments where changes in land use, management practices or projects were recorded. This data is used to measure progress towards the targets in the Reef 2050 WQIP.

Cape York's Reef regions cover seven catchments—43,000 square kilometres of land—which discharges 16,000 gigalitres of water a year into the Great Barrier Reef.

According to the models for Cape York, the Normanby catchment met the Reef 2050 WQIP target to maintain the current loads of anthropogenic end of catchment fine sediment and particulate nitrogen.

The Endeavour catchment did not reach the targets and was graded C (in moderate condition). Limited data was available on Cape York's remaining catchments.

The 2017-18 Cape York story as told by the report card:



## Overall:

- Good (81%) progress towards the 90% target for mean ground cover for late dry season
- Good progress towards the riparian extent target of no loss (<0.1% lost)
- Very good progress towards the wetland extent target of no loss (<0.1% lost)
- Moderate condition (C) for the inshore marine environment:
  - Good 'B' - Water quality
  - Poor 'D' - Inshore seagrasses
  - No data - Corals

## Grazing:

- 459,235 ha of grazing land is managed using best management practice systems relating to pasture erosion
- 42,159 km of stream banks were managed using best management practice systems relating to streambank erosion
- 587,896 ha were managed using best management practice systems relating to gully erosion
- 59,256 ha of improved pasture management from destocking cattle and controlling feral animals on the Queensland Government owned Springvale Station in the Normanby catchment
- 44,235 ha of improved pasture and gully management as part of the Australian Government's Reef Trust gully erosion project on Kings Plains station, delivered by South Endeavour Trust

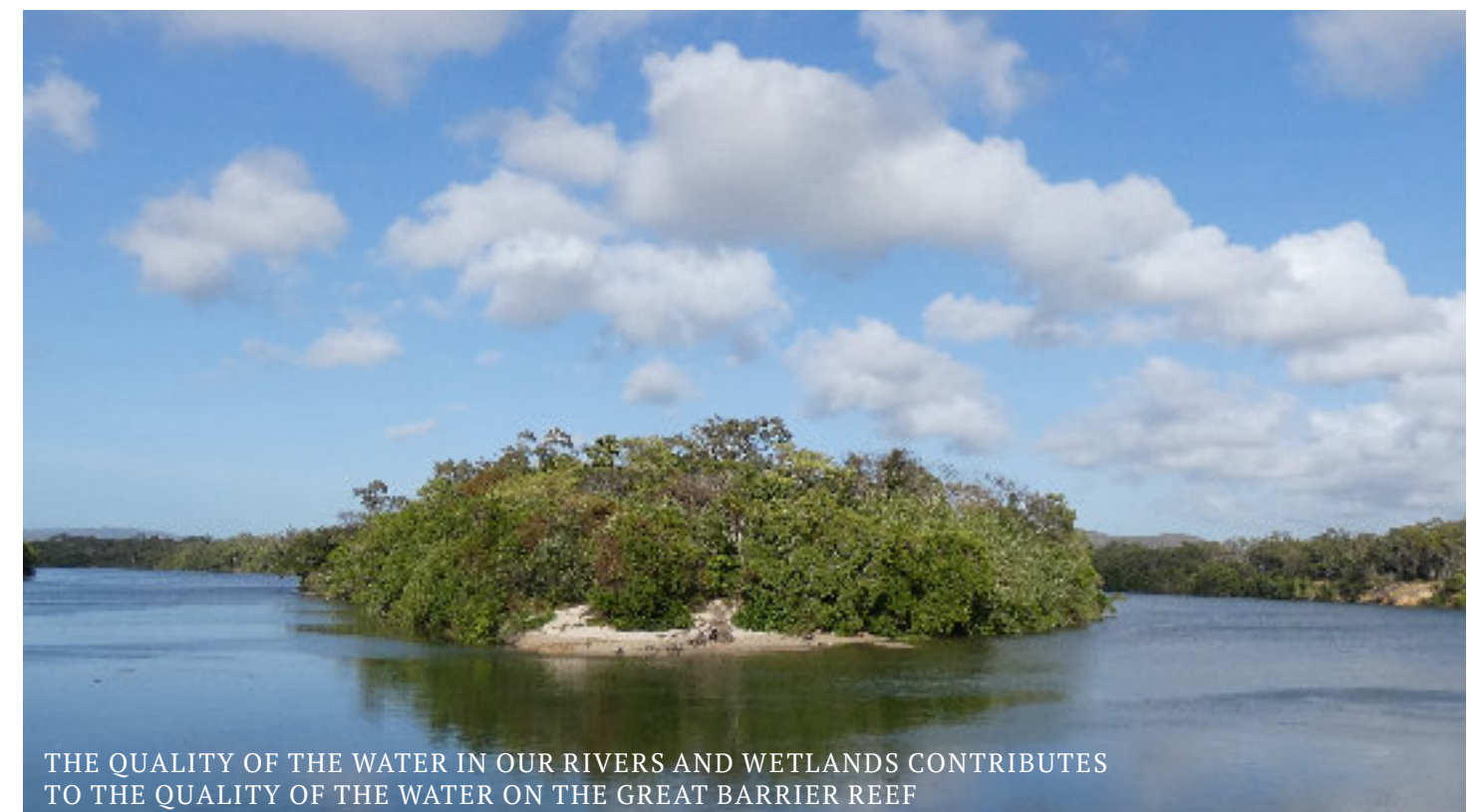
The Report Card is available on line at: [reportcard.reefplan.qld.gov.au/home?report=overview](http://reportcard.reefplan.qld.gov.au/home?report=overview)

We would like to thank all participating landholders, managers and properties in the Reef catchments who have been and continue to be involved in Cape York NRM Reef projects: Reef Trust III, Reef Trust IV and Paddock to Reef.

*Report card results are collated through the Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modeling and Reporting Program which is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments*

Through this work we have been able to continue building the knowledge and skills of Cape York landholders enabling progress toward best management practices.

Cape York NRM strives to continue the work with landholders to build the resilience of land and sea environments for people and communities to enjoy into the future.



THE QUALITY OF THE WATER IN OUR RIVERS AND WETLANDS CONTRIBUTES TO THE QUALITY OF THE WATER ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



# Out of the books and into the boots for Cape York NRM Graduate Trainee

*No one ever learned to walk by reading a book about it—the same message holds true for working with land managers on Cape York*

WORDS HARRY JAMES

In my six months as a graduate trainee with Cape York NRM I have learned as much I did during four years at university.

It's been a steep learning curve, but the only way to get over a big hill is to hit it at pace!

I have been lucky enough to attend a whole lot of training sessions, and have gained both knowledge and experience as a result.

At the Low Stress Stockhandling course at Fairview Station I gained skills on how to develop the right attitude to calmly manage cattle.

At the erosion control workshop at Artemis Station I learned how to build outback roads that work. At the Cape York Indigenous Fire Workshop at Mary Valley I was privileged to receive hands-on insights into traditional burning methods.

During that week at Mary Valley I also picked up a lesson I won't forget—don't set up camp right next to where they are doing night burning, unless you want your swag to permanently smell like charcoal!

And, volunteering in the kitchen at the Laura Rodeo I mastered the art of making toasties like my life depended on it.

Most of all I have been blown away by the kindness and friendliness of everyone I have met on the Cape.

I can't wait to keep meeting new people and building strong partnerships for great land management on Cape York.

*"This place is incredibly special, mainly because of the people who help take such good care of it"*



HARRY INSTALLING A WEATHER STATION AT LAKE LAND

*The Agricultural Extension Work Placement Program is facilitated by the Queensland Farmers' Federation with the aim of enhancing extension skills as graduates assist in delivering agricultural and natural resource management projects with landholders in Great Barrier Reef catchments. The Program is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation with support from the Queensland Government Reef Water Quality Program.*

# Top teaching in the Top End for Cape York NRM staff

*'The change starts with us'—that was the takeaway for Cape York NRM staff attending the Australasia-Pacific Extension Network (APEN) conference in Darwin recently*

WORDS HARRY JAMES

The biannual conference brought together almost 200 extension professionals from across Australia, New Zealand and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

During the two-day event over 70 leading experts delivered tools and techniques, cutting-edge research, and case studies designed to help extension professionals build knowledge and work more effectively with land managers.

An extension professional provides land managers with access to up-to-date knowledge, support and advice to help them improve their business outcomes.

Cape York NRM's Oliver McConnachie, Harry James, Abbey Ernst and Joey Dix travelled to Darwin for the event.

Harry James is part of the Agriculture Extension Work placement program funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation with support from the Queensland Government.

Harry said he was thrilled to attend the event.

'As a recent graduate, the conference was an amazing opportunity to network with professionals in the field from all over Australia and beyond', he said.

Harry also praised the quality of training provided by industry experts.

'I learned so much about how to work collaboratively with land managers.

At the core of everything we need to understand the 'why'—why someone is doing something one way, and why they may or may not want to change.

We all make decisions based on many factors and past experiences. Good extension starts with us understanding the people we work with and where they are coming from.

When we start with that there's a solid foundation to do really amazing things that are great for people and great for the land. I'm sure what I've learned this week will stick with me for the rest of my career'.

During the conference attendees went on several exciting field trips, including to the Crocodylus Park, the Beatrice Hill buffalo farm and the Darwin Aquaculture Centre where visitors were introduced to sustainable production and conservation programs for barramundi, black jewfish and black lip oysters.

Sustainable Industries Officer Abbey Ernst said the visit to the Centre showcased the opportunity for innovative economic solutions in remote Indigenous communities.

'It was inspiring to see the innovative collaborations taking place by remote Indigenous communities on the black lip oyster program. Last year the Darwin Aquaculture Centre delivered 90,000 black lip oysters to Warrumi, a remote island community in Arnhem Land, with the outlook to establish a local commercial oyster industry for the region.'

The next APEN conference is expected to be in New Zealand in 2021.

*The Agricultural Extension Work Placement Program is facilitated by the Queensland Farmers' Federation, under the support of the Queensland Government*





# Protecting Cape York's endangered species

*Coastal vine thickets, ant plants and cassowaries need protection from a range of threats including out of control wild fires*

WORDS JULIANA FOXLEE | IMAGES BARRY LYON

With an early bushfire season in full swing across the country, heat waves on the way, and the memory of last year's record-breaking high temperatures, wild fires are on the mind of Cape York NRM's Fire and Biodiversity team.

Focusing on endangered littoral rainforest and coastal vine thickets, ant plants and cassowaries, the team is working with the CSIRO, Traditional Owners and land managers to protect these species from a range of threats including out of control wild fires.

Biodiversity and Fire Manager Kerri Woodcock said developing managed, ecologically sensitive and lower emissions burning practices plays a key role in protecting threatened species and plant communities,

'We recognise the key role cultural and savanna burning plays in protecting threatened species. These practices result in cool burns, reduce fuel loads and maintain ground cover and vegetation, all of which works to prevent wild fires and protect threatened species habitat.

As a result, the project team is working to establish the North Queensland Indigenous Fire Practitioners Network to promote, support and practice cultural burning in the region.

*'The Network will support and promote cultural and savanna burning in Cape York which in turn will reduce the risk of wildfires in the region,' Kerri said.*

'The Network will play an integral role in managing the landscapes in which Cape York's threatened species exist.'

Along with getting the Network up and running, 2019/20 will see the project team facilitate on - country surveys in remote central and northern Cape York communities. The surveys will be conducted by CSIRO and Traditional Owners so traditional and scientific knowledge inform management into the future.

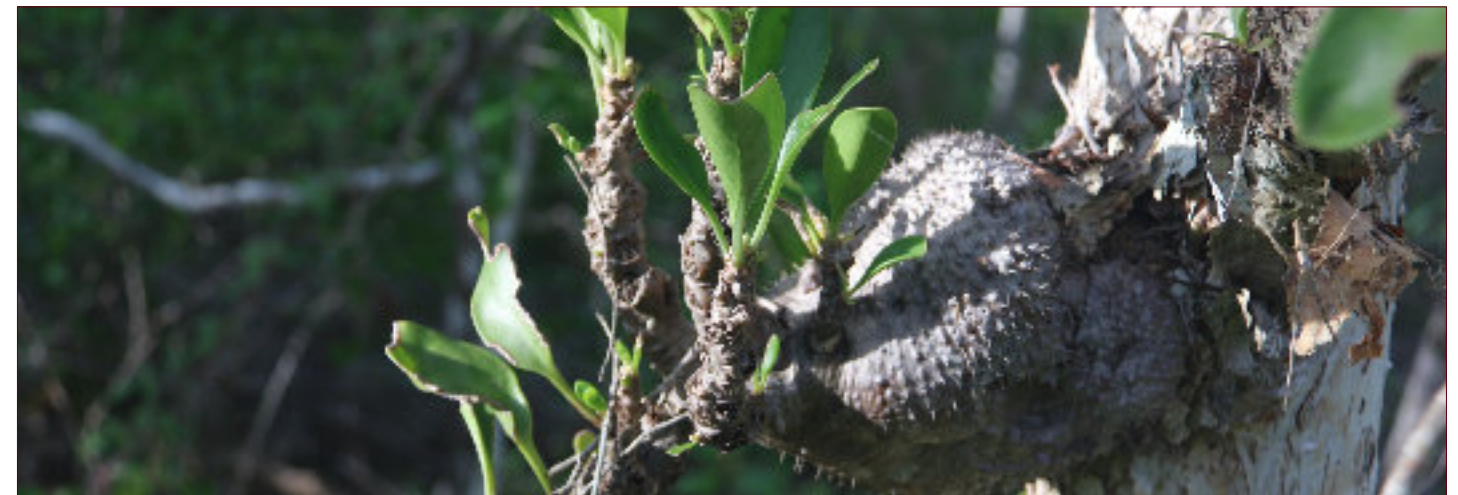
Kerri said the surveys would take place in north east cassowary country and south east littoral rainforest and coastal vine thickets.

'The project team will be heading out with Traditional Owners, and CSIRO botanists and species experts, to map key sites and identify what needs to be done to enable these threatened plants and animals to thrive.

'This work is supported by Indigenous fire practitioners who help manage the landscape to protect these threatened species and ecological communities. Setting up the Network will provide much needed support for this critically important element of land management.

'By combining local knowledge with science and mapping technology and better managing wildfires, we are in a good position to put plans in place in partnership with local land holders to protect cassowaries, ant plants and littoral rainforest and coastal vine thickets into the future.'

*This project is supported by Cape York NRM, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program*





# Cooktown

## EXPO 2020

Wantharra, Gadii Nganthanungal –  
Come and join us for an action-  
packed three weeks of showcases,  
exhibitions and festivals!



July 24 - 26 Discovery Festival



July 17-19 Reconciliation Rocks  
Music Festival

Injinoo Dance Troupe



August 1-4 Endeavour Festival

get on board!

[www.cooktown2020.com](http://www.cooktown2020.com)



Proudly supported by



# SAVE THE DATE

## 'BLOOM & PROSPER'

5-7  
June  
2020

For the first time, Northern Gulf NRM's popular women's event will be held in Mount Carbine, bringing it closer to the Cape.

Basalt Bash 'Bloom & Prosper' is an event for rural and remote women, bringing them together to build stronger social cohesion, reduce the sense of isolation, encourage conversations on key issues and common themes, and improve mental health and well-being.

It's also an event where women build skills, are provided with links to assistance and industry related updates and information, build networks among rural and isolated women—plus relax and have a few fun days together.

### VENUE

Mount Carbine Rodeo Grounds

### ACCOMMODATION

Camping - bring your own gear

### MEALS

All meals provided, plus a couple of complementary welcome cocktails at dinner on the Friday night



Stand by for program updates - great things are afoot

Expressions of Interest for stall holders are coming soon

We'll keep you up to date by eBulletin, social media and our websites

Email me for up to the minute information  
[robyn.may@capeyorknrm.com.au](mailto:robyn.may@capeyorknrm.com.au)



This project is jointly funded under the Commonwealth and State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Although funding for this product has been provided by both the Australian and Queensland Governments, the material contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of either Government.



# Minister visits Springvale Nature Refuge

WORDS JULIANA FOXLEE AND IMAGE JULIANA FOXLEE

Minister for Environment and Science Leeanne Enoch visited the former Springvale cattle station in Cape York in August to view environmental works including weeds management, aerial and ground burning sites, and boundary fencing.

She met with representatives from Queensland Parks and Wildlife, the Yalanji Joint Venture Aboriginal Corporation and Cape York NRM who are all working on environmental projects on the property.

Yalanji Joint Venture (YJV) CEO Liam O'Neil, who is managing the joint Cape York NRM, YJV and Griffith University Springvale Station West Normanby Distal Gully Demonstration Site - Normanby Basin project on the property, said he was in the process of ensuring cultural heritage clearances are in place which will in turn enable gully remediation earthworks to begin.

'This is important as Springvale Nature Refuge has a high concentration of culturally significant sites,' Mr O'Neil said.

'We will work with the Queensland Government and Traditional Owners to preserve cultural heritage significance for future generations and ensure all stakeholders understand the significance of this before remediation works are started.'

Traditional Owners will be trained to plan and implement gully remediation works and will earn accreditation from Griffith University as they progress the project.

*The Springvale Station West Normanby Distal Gully Demonstration Site - Normanby Basin project is funded by Queensland Government's Natural Resources Investment Program*



## CEO's 2019 roundup

*I am continually excited and inspired by the people and environments of the Cape, along with the projects that we get to deliver and support.*

WORDS JOHN GAVIN

It's great to see the need for feral pig control on Cape York getting national attention and we are continuing to push for more funding to protect our industries and environment.

This will help to support the fantastic work of the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance. This program continues to deliver results but it's future is bleak unless we can find more funding.

The article on Reef Trust IV activities highlights the work that land managers get involved in that support protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

The Cape seems to get forgotten in reef discussions far too often, but this hasn't dampened the commitment for people to do direct on ground action.

Cape York NRM believes young people have an important role to play in building a sustainable future.

One way we support that is by providing prizes for senior high school students involved in environmentally - focused study or projects.

In this newsletter we celebrate the achievements of Cape York students Jermaine, Phoenix and Akitou, and I would like to personally congratulate them on the awards they have won through their dedication and hard work.

Thank you for following and supporting the great work across Cape York and I hope you found this newsletter interesting. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope to see you somewhere on the Cape soon.



# Update from the Directors

*The landscape is drying out and the season has changed*

WORDS DIRECTOR EMMA JACKSON

Following a quite considerable wet season, this year's cooler dry season lasted longer than usual; landholders and some communities still dealing with the effects of Cyclone Trevor.

Land managers actively work to minimise the impacts of late season wildfire by implementing various fire management practices such as conducting early season burns.

A number of property owners and land managers have already been affected by wildfires that started through no fault of their own.

Fires can be accidental or a result of natural weather phenomena. Unfortunately, arson also plays a significant role in the Cape York fire season.

The results of Cape York NRM's recent director elections means that the members of the organisation's Board of Directors has remained unchanged.

The Board is now able to continue to work on the strategic direction of the organisation. Succession and continuity are important to us, as well as ensuring that as much investment as possible reaches the ground.

The Board of Directors met in early March for a teleconference and have since held two face-to-face meetings.

We caught up on business, projects, funding and had some solid discussions around the future direction of the organisation and how we can improve our engagement with the broader community.

We are a Board of Directors who look through a very diverse lens, bringing knowledge, skills and suggestions to the table from a variety of background.

Although key themes for funding and projects are determined by the State and Commonwealth Governments, we do have some flexibility with how those projects are delivered.

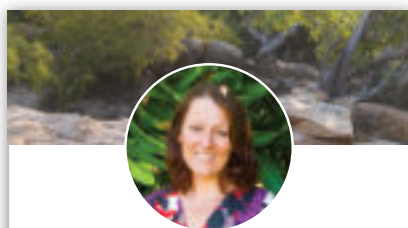
Our staff are out in the field chatting to members throughout the year, coordinating workshops, and engaging at forums and functions to pull that information together.

Staff liaise with the Board and, with careful thought, assemble all the information into key priorities for Cape York.

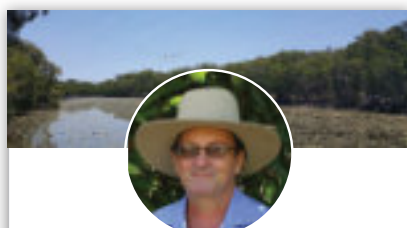
We hope you have a great season ahead and the storms soon begin to bring that much needed rainfall.

*Cape York NRM offices  
will be closed from  
4:30pm on 24 December  
and reopening at  
8:30am on 2 January*

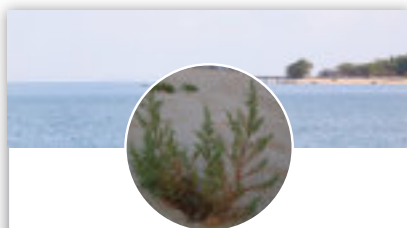
# Board of Directors



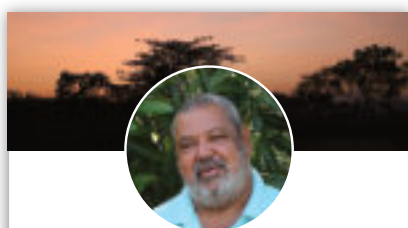
**Emma Jackson**  
Chairperson  
Primary Industries Sector



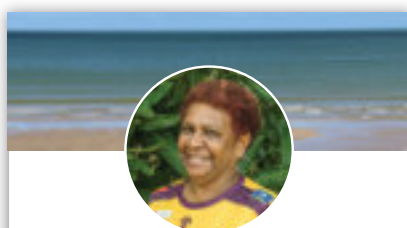
**Trevor Meldrum**  
Vice Chairperson  
Community Sector



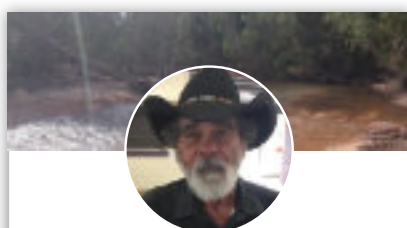
**Currently Vacant**  
Indigenous Sector  
Zone 1



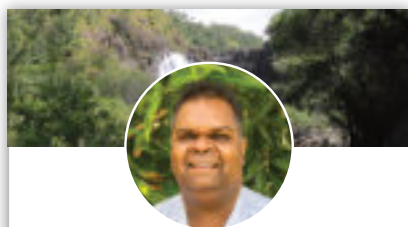
**Joseph Elu**  
Indigenous Sector  
Zone 1



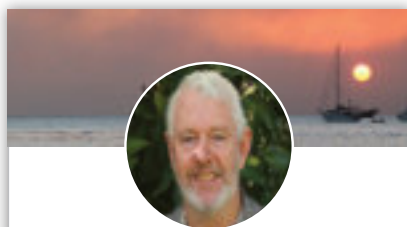
**Pauline Smith**  
Indigenous Sector  
Zone 2



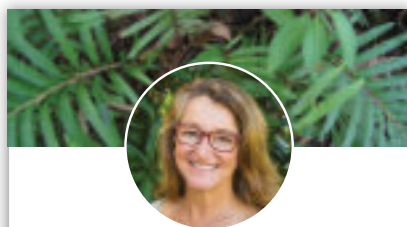
**Eric Rosendale**  
Indigenous Sector  
Zone 4



**Desmond Tayley**  
Local Government Sector



**John Charlton**  
Tourism, Small Business, Mining  
and Other Industries Sector



**Sally Gray**  
Conservation Sector



**Currently Vacant**  
Indigenous Sector  
Zone 3

*Cape York NRM  
Directors and staff wish  
you a very Happy  
Christmas and all the  
best for 2020*



## CONTACT US

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Australian Government

National  
Landcare  
Program

