

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, a wide, reddish-brown dirt road stretches from the bottom left towards the horizon. To the left of the road is a field of tall, dry, golden-brown grass. To the right is a flat, open landscape with sparse vegetation. The horizon is a straight line in the distance. Above the horizon, the sky is a vibrant blue, filled with numerous white, fluffy clouds of varying sizes.

Cape York

Healthy Country

NEWSLETTER

Issue 45
2021

**Skilling up to fight
erosion**

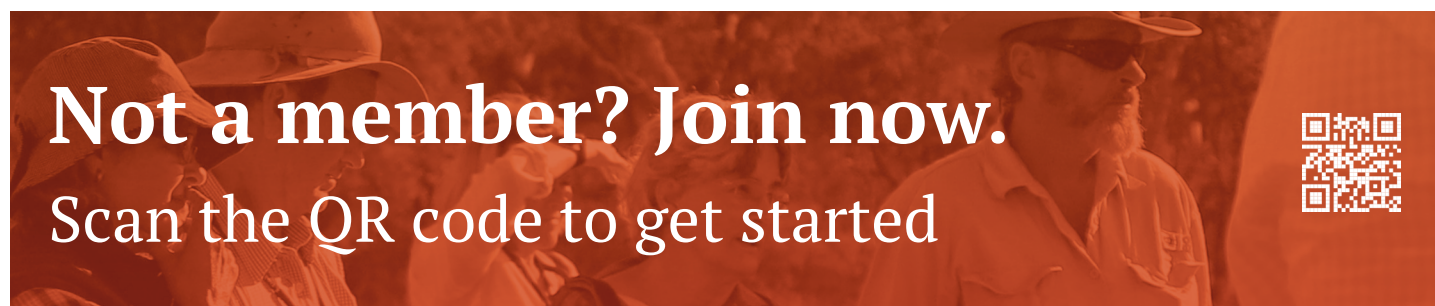
Pages 12-13

**Protecting coastal
ecosystems on
eastern Cape York**

Pages 10-11



©Jessie Price-Decle



Welcome to the Cape York Healthy Country Newsletter



The rush is on to beat the wet season and it is full steam ahead across Cape York. The huge amount of activity at the start of this dry season has continued with tourist numbers only now starting to slow, and mustering continuing as landholders take advantage of the current cattle prices.

The huge amount of activity is also reflected at Cape York NRM, with project delivery accelerating towards the end of the year. This edition of the Healthy Country newsletter highlights the activity that has been delivered in recent months.

The article on pages 12–13 is a great example of how we are helping to improve knowledge about gully erosion on the Cape and the ways in which the damage can be repaired. The first of a series of training programs for Indigenous rangers began late last month on the operation of machinery used in gully erosion mitigation. Not only are the courses helping our waterways, but they provide new qualifications and broaden Ranger skill sets across a range of work opportunities.

The Healthy Farming Futures article on page 5 highlights the coordinated aerial burning and feral animal control program. This program operates across several properties and is based on property planning and discussions with land managers to coordinate broadscale on-ground action to deal with two of Cape York's big challenges.

The establishment of the Catchments to Coral project has progressed with plans now in place for action spread along the full length of eastern Cape York in an endeavour to protect fragile coastal ecosystems. The article on pages 10–11 recognises the role of the independent reference group in informing the decisions about project priorities and outlines the fire, weed, feral animal and beach protection actions that are being supported.

In addition to project delivery, Cape York NRM has also been busy implementing the changes to its governance, with the membership approving the new Constitution at the special general meeting in August. This is the first major change to the Constitution since the organisation was formed over 11 years ago and is the culmination of over 12 months of Board and member discussions.

The Board has continued to develop the new strategic plan for the organisation, and identify the skills and resources needed to position the organisation for the future. This has been a big task and the Board has tackled it head on.

We have two important events coming up, and on the opposite page are the notices for our upcoming Annual General Meeting and the Fire Forum. If you are available or interested please get in touch and I hope to see you there or somewhere on the Cape soon.

Warm regards
John Gavin



Cover image | Road on the Nifold Plains Rinyirru National Park taken by staff member Nat Mason



08



13



16



19

- 02 What's coming up
- 03 CEO's welcome
- 04 Contents page
- 05 Fire & feral animal management
- 06-07 Kicking goals for turtle protection
- 08 Cape York Regional NRM Plan
- 09 Millions of hectares on the mend
- 10-11 Protecting east coast ecosystems
- 12-13 Rangers trained to combat gully erosion
- 14 Sediment reduction from Normanby Station
- 15 Smart sampling for Lakeland water
- 16-17 Calling on Cape cassowary know-how
- 18 Sawfish monitoring in Rinyirru
- 19 Introducing three new staff members
- 20 Conquer the Corrugations
- 21 South Cape York Catchments news
- 22 Update from our Directors
- 23 Seasons Greetings

Fire and feral animal management on Cape York



Wetland on Holroyd River Station

The Healthy Farming Futures (HFF) program has seen the completion of the 2021 coordinated aerial burning program, and the feral animal control program.

Staff, Andrew and Nat, have visited properties across the Holroyd Plain region, undertaking property planning, discussing project opportunities, updating mapping, and checking in on what's happening on-ground.

In June and July, the HFF program supported the Cape York coordinated early season burning program, covering 23 properties from as far north as Wolverton Station, to Bonny Glen, south of Cooktown.

In October the HFF project team partnered with property owners to conduct a coordinated feral animal control program which covered eleven properties in Cape York's western draining catchments.

Business workshops, land condition monitoring, soil and erosion control workshops, and Cape York's annual Grazing Forum are all in the pipeline for the coming year of the Program, so keep an eye out for opportunities to get involved.

If you have any workshop or training suggestions, please contact Nat at natalie.mason@capeyorknrm.com.au or 0419 655 780

The Healthy Farming Futures project is supported by Cape York NRM through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program



Coordinated fire management | Kings Plains

Actions and words speak volumes

Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA) has kicked many goals this year protecting marine turtles on the Western Cape through its highly successful on-ground work as well as through spreading the word on these quiet achievements.

WCTTAA Ranger groups have again delivered a turtle nest monitoring and protection program during 2021 on beaches covering some 150 kilometres of remote coastline.

The Ranger groups included:

- Pormpuraaw Land and Sea Management Rangers
- Napranum Rangers
- Mapoon Land and Sea Management Rangers
- Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council / Apudthama Rangers

The WCTTAA turtle nest monitoring and protection program includes a targeted and coordinated feral pig control program, along with direct nest protection to olive ridley and hawksbill turtle nests.

While different monitoring methodologies are used for each beach, the number of turtle nests and species are recorded, along with the predation rates throughout the season.

Turtle nests are protected using a combination of aerial and on-ground predator control and installing protection devices on nests of endangered species.

The final data analysis for the 2021 nesting season is yet to be finalised, however, WCTTAA is again well on track to reach the target of 70% nest survival rate to ensure the future of these local populations. Along with this on-ground work, WCTTAA has also been busy behind the scenes.

In February WCTTAA presented at the North Queensland Threatened Species Symposium in Cairns, highlighting the importance of coordinated and targeted efforts, and monitoring the quantitative impacts of this vital work.

The Symposium was well attended and included the Threatened Species Commissioner Dr Sally Box.

Olive ridley turtles have since been included on the Priority List for National Threatened Species, which improves their eligibility for additional funding from the Australian Government.

They were one of 100 priority species selected under the Threatened Species Strategy's first five-year action plan, 2021-2026.



Flatback turtle on the western Cape

WCTTAA also presented at the National Feral Pig Action Plan Stakeholder Forum and has since been invited to be a demonstration site for best practice in pig management. A big congratulations.

Despite the ongoing successes of the Western Cape turtle conservation program funding is always competitive.

However, Cape York NRM is pleased to note program finances have just been extended to the end of the 2022 calendar year through the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program, which is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments.

We will finish the year with a Western Cape marine turtle meeting which brings together members of WCTTAA, along with other organisations, delivering outcomes for marine turtles on the western Cape and key representatives from the Queensland Government's marine turtle conservation program.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.



Nanum Wungh Land & Sea Management



Mapoon Land & Sea Rangers turtle nest monitoring

Cape York Regional NRM Plan 2021-2030

In early November, global leaders met in Glasgow at COP 26 (Conference of the Parties 26) to seek agreement on a path to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius.

Almost 200 countries were asked for their plans to cut emissions as a means to reduce current and future climate impacts.

These global decisions have local ramifications. The people on Cape York are already seeing the impacts of climate change, and building climate resilient communities and industries that can adapt readily to current and future impacts will be essential to maintain and enhance a vibrant environment and economy on Cape York.

Our natural assets underpin Cape York's economy, and ensuring their effective management helps build a more robust future. In parallel with the planning occurring at the global level, we are also planning for the future of Cape York's natural, social, and cultural assets with the review and completion of the Cape York Regional NRM Plan.

Much has been achieved during the term of the previous Plan (2016-2020), but much has also changed. The effective management of threatened species, fire, feral animals and weeds, soil erosion, and sustainable agriculture will continue to be major natural resource management issues across Cape York.

However, new and emerging issues such as increased visitation to the Cape and increasing impacts of droughts, fire, floods, and sea level events as a consequence of climate change, are also imposing new challenges.

Equally, there are new and emerging opportunities that will help to enhance the resilience of communities across Cape York. These include diversified incomes through:

(1) payments for ecosystem services, and new markets such as the Land Restoration Fund, providing opportunities for carbon payments as well as premiums prices for improved biodiversity, social, and cultural outcomes,

(2) the continued sealing of the Peninsula Development Road improving access for the cattle industry, and increasing opportunities for agri-tourism and cultural-tourism, and

(3) the opportunity for new governance and business models to reduce risk and provide improved returns on investment for landholders.

These changes, together with deepening impacts of climate change and changing support from Government and Industry, shape the emphasis of new and emerging natural resource management priorities for the future. The new Plan provides a synthesis of the views from across Cape York, and also provides some strategic direction for the future.

The new living Cape York Regional NRM Plan 2021–2030 will now be released for ongoing public engagement, consultation and comment in December 2021. Watch this space!



Cool burn at Balurga Station

Millions of hectares on the mend

Graziers across Cape York's Joint Management Area (Palmer, Mitchell and Alice River Catchments) are busy delivering all sorts of exciting projects to improve native vegetation and soil health on their properties.

Since the program began in 2018, graziers have been partnering with Cape York NRM and Gulf Savannah NRM to plan and deliver projects across 16 grazing properties in the region, spanning more than 2.3 million hectares.

Each project is unique and tailor-made to the problems and solutions for that property. Out west at Rutland Plains, MDH are installing additional watering troughs in three paddocks to spread grazing pressure and reduce overgrazing around the existing troughs. Just down the road at Drumduff Station, Colin and Beth Hughes are improving wetland condition by controlling feral animals. Meanwhile at Pinnacle Station, Robert and Robyn Raymond have been remediating breakaways to restore grazing country and reduce soil loss.

So how do we know if these projects are making a difference? Before and after the work is done, Cape York NRM undertakes assessments of the vegetation and wetland condition using specialised surveys. This might mean driving to a paddock and looking at the ground cover—are there productive, perennial and palatable grasses? How dense is the coverage? Or it might mean taking a chopper ride to wetland areas, where the team can assess the water quality and the degree of damage done by feral animals.



Pig damage at a waterhole on Drumduff

We're proud to support graziers in the region who are doing amazing work to care for their patch by improving their land and waterways.

This project is funded by the Queensland Government's Natural Resources Investment Program



Pig on the run at Drumduff



Station manager Carl Weston checks a trough at Rutland Plains

Protecting coastal ecosystems on eastern Cape York

Projects will be spread along the full length of eastern Cape York in an endeavour to protect fragile coastal ecosystems—wetlands and floodplains, coastal vegetation, and potential turtle nesting beaches—under the Catchments to Coral program that is funded by the Australian Government’s Reef Trust.

A Catchments to Coral Reference Group was established in May this year that brings together a wide range of expertise from individuals and organisations to support the coordinated and strategic delivery of the Program’s outcomes and objectives.

Dave Preece, Cape York NRM’s Coastal Ecosystems Coordinator, said that the Group will provide expert advice to ensure best practice management and science is being used in program delivery.

“The Reference Group will share information and collaborate where possible on related programs taking place in Cape York and help inform priorities for implementation and investment,” he said.

Membership of the Catchments to Coral Reference Group was by invitation, seeking to engage people with significant expertise in Cape York reef catchment values, and organisations who are delivering related programs in the same geographical area.

“For example, the members have expertise or knowledge in capacity building for Traditional Owners and land managers in terms of governance, or the expertise to deliver land management activities,” Dave said.



Stewart River mouth | Image Kerry Trapnell

The Reference Group consists of representatives from:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- Queensland Department of Environment and Science – Threatened Species (marine turtle conservation program)
- Queensland Department of Environment and Science – Queensland Wetlands Program
- Great Barrier Reef Foundation
- Tangaroa Blue Foundation
- North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance.

Cape York NRM has been engaging with land managers to identify and plan a suite of projects that will protect wetlands and floodplains, coastal vegetation, and potential turtle nesting beaches across eastern Cape York.

Completed project plans have been submitted and endorsed and include:

- Hymenachne control in Rinyirru Wetlands, Kings Plains Lake and Howick River
- Coordinated Gamba grass management in the Cooktown region
- Rubber vine control in the Laura and Normanby River catchments
- Pig control in Endeavour and Annan River catchments, and eastern Cape York coastal areas
- Beach protection and access management along the Cape Melville coast
- Marine debris clean-ups along eastern Cape York beaches
- Fencing of wetland and riparian areas in the Hann and McIvor River catchments, and on Binthi and Lama Lama Country
- Cross tenure fire management throughout eastern Cape York



Wetland damaged by unmanaged cattle

Opportunities to get involved in the Catchments to Coral program are still available, and targeted projects will continue to be sought that protect significant priority wetlands, coastal vegetation and turtle nesting beaches.

Workshops and training programs will also be facilitated as part of the Catchments to Coral program, aimed at increasing skills and knowledge for land managers, and to encourage cross tenure collaborations for land management projects.

This project is funded by the Australian Government’s Reef Trust



Normanby River | Normanby Station

Skilling up to fight erosion

Rangers from Normanby, Melsonby and Hope Vale were first in line to take part in a series of training programs designed to combat gully erosion in Cape York.

Held in Normanby and hosted by the Normanby Land Management Group in October this year, the first course focused on learning how to operate machinery which can be used to help mitigate damage caused by erosion.

The first round was “very well received,” according to Cape York NRM Sustainable Agriculture and Water Quality Manager Michael Goddard.

“Interest in the Project has been quite significant and the participants have really enjoyed the training.

“Not only are we improving understanding and mitigation of gully erosion, we're also very excited by the opportunities to increase the capacity of individuals throughout Cape York.”

The 11 participants, five of whom were Joint Management rangers, gained machinery operation tickets following the training. These skills can be used across multiple roles and opens up new work options.

“We may not want to be rangers forever and this gives us the opportunity to go away and work and we can come back and be rangers later if we want,” trainee Ray McIvor said.

Apart from up-skilling, the Project aims to tackle the ongoing issue of erosion in Cape York and its effects on waterways. It can be caused by a number of factors including fence lines and vehicle tracks, or by cattle moving along the same tracks and creating water channels.

Erosion can also be caused by natural phenomena such as river bank slumping in large wet weather events.

Erosion leads to sediment loss which then clogs waterways and wetlands and eventually impacts coral health on the Great Barrier Reef.

Cape York NRM will run a second round of training in the Lakeland region in late November on a large gully site along the Laura River.

Two more sessions will be delivered by staff from Griffith University's Coastal and Marine Research Centre & School of Environment and Science. They are theory-based and will focus on how to avoid increasing the risks of erosion through better planned ground works, and how to mitigate erosion when it occurs.

Participants completing this training will receive an accreditation through Griffith University for completing the module.

This project is funded by Queensland Government's Natural Resources Investment Program



Vince Harrigan, Ranger Coordinator from Normanby Station



Glenn Groves from MAC Training Solutions demonstrating laser level measurement



Shaun Law from Scotts Earthmoving giving the trainee some practical tips



Glenn Groves from MAC Training Solutions maintaining safety



Vince Harrigan, Ranger Coordinator from Normanby Station

Skills beat the rills at Normanby



Gully work at Clayhole Creek

Erosion is officially at risk of extinction at Normanby Station. In the last few months, the Normanby Rangers have been getting seriously skilled up in gully remediation, receiving training in operating bulldozers, excavators, rollers, loaders and water carts.

The Rangers have put their new skills to the test, remediating a large alluvial gully on Clayhole Creek.

With instruction from an experienced trainer and supervision by Cape York NRM, the Rangers have been fine tuning their techniques by knocking down steep eroded banks, cutting and filling material, compacting and smoothing to transform a massive eroded gully into a restored landscape.

The area will now be left to revegetate with a covering of gypsum, mulch and grass seed to establish over the wet season.

Ranger Coordinator Vince Harrigan is stoked with the results.

“We’ve really enjoyed this work and seeing the land restored. Having Glenn and Geoffrey to give the team training with the machines has also been great for us, because now we feel confident to do more remediation projects like this. We want to keep fixing up erosion on Normanby.”

Ranger Trainee Kelsey Harrigan said it was great to get involved in the project. “Working out on Country, having the opportunity to upskill myself, the Clayhole erosion work has given me the chance to learn to use the excavator and the dozer, which I enjoyed learning”.

The work at Clayhole Creek will save over a hundred tonnes of fine suspended sediment from entering Princess Charlotte Bay every year.



Aerial view showing the expanse of the gully work at Clayhole Creek

This project is funded by the Australian Government’s Reef Trust

Smart sampling for Lakeland water



Lakeland agricultural area

Automated sampling and new testing sites are among the latest innovations being introduced at Lakeland to improve the detail of water quality information in the local area. Cape York NRM has been working with landholders and the Department of Environment and Science to ensure real-time information on just how healthy the waterways are.

As part of this project, the Department will be installing an autosampling station, which will be maintained by Cape York NRM, on the Laura River.

Autosampling stations are just as they sound—they collect water samples automatically when a certain set of conditions are met. For example, when a stream gets to a certain height it will trigger a sampling event; or samples might be taken at a certain time of day every day.



Autosampling station equipment

The samples are stored in a refrigerated unit until they are all collected and sent to Brisbane for analysis.

The autosampling station will also include a real-time nitrate sensor, which will upload data straight to the cloud.

Several new monitoring sites are also being established for grab samples—samples collected by hand—in waterways within the Lakeland area. They will be collected by trained Cape York NRM project staff and will provide landholders with up-to-date information on nutrients, pesticides and suspended sediments in local waterways.



Refrigerated autosampling station

This project is funded by the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science

Calling on Cape cassowary know-how

Traditional Owners and Community in Cape York cassowary country are being urged to help update information on one of the region's most culturally significant and iconic threatened species.

The southern cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*) has two separate populations in Cape York - in the MacIlwraith and Iron Ranges and north of Shelburne Bay.

"Very little is known about the size or health of these populations and this lack of data is a contributing factor to the species being listed as 'Endangered' under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC Act)," Cape York Natural Resource Management Biodiversity and Fire Manager Kerri Woodcock said.

"The Cassowary Recovery Team is carrying out a review of the Southern Cassowary Recovery Plan and is inviting input from people living in those Cape York population areas. In particular, it acknowledges that Aboriginal people have close cultural links with their Traditional Country and the cassowary, and therefore possess extensive knowledge of the bird, its habitat and conservation."

The Plan was adopted in 2007 and the Cassowary Recovery Team was officially established in 2009 to oversee its implementation. The Team is chaired by the Wet Tropics Management Authority and has over 40 members.



Daintree cassowary | Image credit Wren. R. McLean

The Australian Government requested the review of the Plan in 2020 to ensure that the threats and priority actions for the Southern Cassowary remain current.

"The review is designed to ensure that projects on the ground are still successful and relevant, and whether we need to adjust or refocus efforts," Kerri said.

"Incredible work has been carried out over the past decade or so, particularly in and around the Wet Tropics Area. Cassowary awareness campaigns, feral pig control programs, monitoring surveys and road safety have all played a part in protecting and increasing knowledge of this amazing creature. But we need to extend that to the Cape," Kerry said.

"This is where we come into it. Cape York NRM joined the Recovery Team in 2017 and has been working to establish ways to better increase knowledge of the more elusive Cape populations."

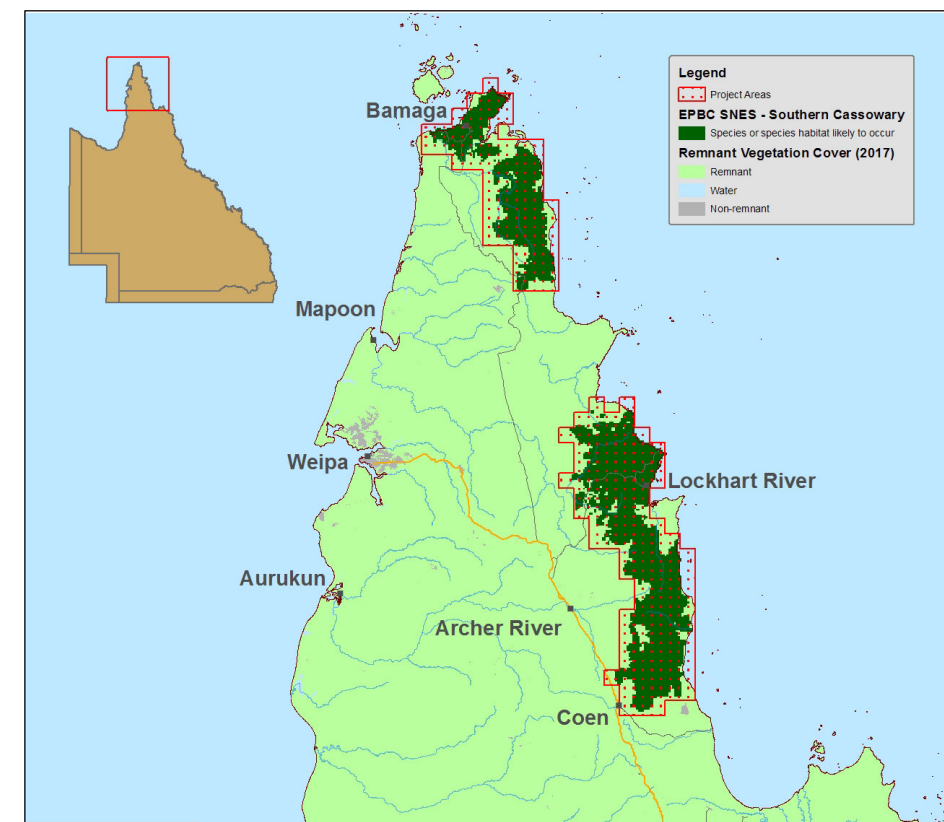
"We are working with project partners to increase and document the knowledge of Cassowary distribution, habitat and threats in Eastern and Northern Cape York. We also want to adopt similar threat mitigation actions such as feral animal control, weed control and fire management activities to protect cassowary habitat."

The Cassowary Recovery Team held a workshop with its members in April 2021 to start the review process. Broader engagement with communities was hampered by COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions and interstate border closures, but is now back on track.

The Team would like to hear from anyone with connection to Cape York cassowary country who would like to be a part of the Review or the Cassowary Recovery Team.

This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program

Please contact Orionne Albert-Mitchell, Biodiversity Project Officer, Cape York NRM, to get involved or to be kept up to date with progress on the Recovery Plan Review
orionne.albert-mitchell@capeyorknrm.com.au or 0459 386 344



This project explores cassowary population and distribution in previously undocumented areas for east and north Cape York. Map shows species habitat and areas where habitat is likely to occur.

Monitoring the elusive sawfish in Rinyirru

Traditional Owners and Land and Sea Rangers of both Rinyirru corporation and Laura joined together to carry out a 10-day sawfish survey in Rinyirru Lakefield National Park last month.

The team worked with Sharks And Rays Australia (SARA) and Cape York NRM from October 17 to 27.

Led by Dr Barbara Wueringer (SARA) the field trip involved handline and drumline sampling, and gill netting at each site.

“The trip was great, we covered a lot of area but we only tagged and released one sawfish and three Freshwater Whiprays,” Cape York NRM officer Joey Dix said.

As a part of a collaboration with James Cook University’s Global Sawfish Search Project, eDNA samples (Environmental DNA) were also taken at each site. Sampling waterways for traces of small sawfish particles is another form of recording species location.



Laura Rangers and Joey Dix join SARA at Rinyirru

The Rinyirru survey is the second completed this year as part of the Sawfish Monitoring in Far North Queensland project (with the first survey carried out with Land and Sea Rangers from Kowanyama in June).

“We have strong results back on the eDNA from a Kowanyama trip and we hope to have similar results back from this study,” Joey said.

The three-year project is designed to increase knowledge on survey techniques and protection of this endangered species within local communities on the Cape.

You can help SARA and Cape York NRM with the Sawfish Monitoring in Far North Queensland project by recording any sightings or accidental sawfish catches on the SARA website sharksandraysaustralia.com on the Report Your Sighting page sharksandraysaustralia.com/report-your-sighting/



Sawfish monitoring at Rinyirru

The project is funded by the Queensland Government’s Community Sustainability Action Grants

New staff to projects and communications



Orionne Albert-Mitchell — Biodiversity Project Officer

Ori joined the Cape York NRM in November 2021 as the biodiversity project officer, based in Cooktown.

Ori was born and raised in the Rossville to Bloomfield regions of Far North QLD, sparking her deep appreciation for the natural world. She completed her entire schooling by distance education, achieved a degree in Zoology and Ecology from JCU Cairns and a diploma of permaculture from TAFE NSW.

Prior to working for Cape York NRM, she worked for three years in Biosecurity within Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Cairns; conducted multiple surveys and workshops focusing on the fungi of North QLD; and volunteered in various organisations with festivals, surveys and clean-ups.



James Dobson — Water Quality Project Coordinator

James joined the Cape York NRM team as Water Quality Project Coordinator based in Cooktown, where he has lived for the past two years. Before joining the team in October 2021, James worked part-time as a ranger with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services while he finished his PhD studies on goannas.

While working as a ranger in Cape York, James gained knowledge of local NRM issues and on-ground experience working with Traditional Owner ranger groups to tackle the major environmental threats to this region.

James is involved in projects including gully erosion remediation in the Normanby basin and the training and accreditation of Traditional Owners in erosion mitigation machine operation, which is increasing employability and producing favourable socioeconomic and environmental outcomes.



Andree Stephens — Communications Officer

Andree has been a journalist and communications officer for the past 35 years. She began working in newspapers in Canberra and AAP in the National Press Gallery, before a stint in Fleet Street, London, for a year. She worked as a freelance media consultant while living in rural NSW, which also included work with ABC radio, before returning to Canberra.

Andree spent a year writing speeches for the former Governor General of Australia, Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, before returning to The Canberra Times as their senior feature writer and then Sunday newspaper editor.

In 2010, Andree moved to Cairns to be closer to family and became the Head of News at The Cairns Post followed by seven years as Communications Advisor for the Far North Queensland port authority.

News from South Cape York Catchments

South Cape York Catchments AGM

South Cape York Catchments' (SCYC) AGM was held on 11 September 2021 at Cooktown's new boathouse (Waalmbal Birri Heritage and Culture Centre).

The previous year's management committee were successfully re-elected, the auditors report favourable, and staff shared introductions and highlights followed by a presentation from Jamie Dobson.

Following the AGM, a keen group went out exploring with Jamie at the Botanic Gardens for a night-spotting tour. They found: a brown-headed Snake (*Furina tristis*), a sleeping black-faced monarch (*Monarcha melanopsis*), Bynoe's gecko (*Heteronotia binoei*), Papuan frogmouth (*Podargus papuensis*), and a suspected sleeping white-bellied cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina papuensis*) high up in the trees.

A relatively quiet night, but informative and entertaining nonetheless. SCYC sends a huge thank you to all who attended the AGM, to Shaylee our newest trainee for her help with ensuring a smooth event, staff, stakeholders, and all the valued community members.



South Cape York Catchments AGM



Night-spotting group at the Botanic Gardens

The walk raises awareness of the 'corrugations' in life, supports and remembers those affected, and aims to remove the stigma surrounding mental health in Cape York.

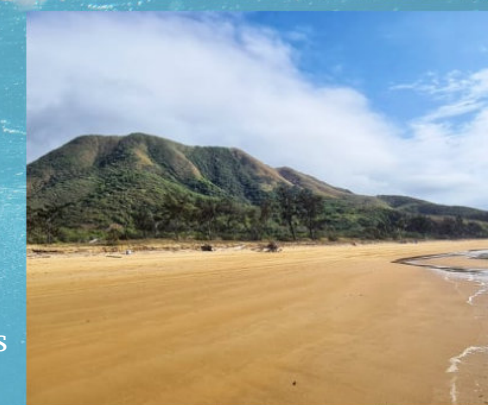
Conquer the Corrugations a not-for-profit event with a goal to raise awareness and encourage people to come together as a community to support each other. Dozens of dedicated people walk, or travel by horseback, from the Coen Information Centre to the Archer River Roadhouse—a total of 42 kilometres travelled over two days.

Cape York NRM is a proud supporter of *Conquer the Corrugations* and congratulates everyone involved in organising and participating in this wonderful initiative.

**Conquer the Corrugations
Mental Health Awareness Walk**
was held in Cape York
from 1–4 October 2021



In August, South Cape York Catchment coordinated the beach clean-up team and was made welcome on Gamaay Country for the annual North Shore beach clean-up with Tangaroa Blue, ReefClean, and a horde of dedicated supporters and volunteers.





Update from the Directors

The weather has changed and the heat is here. Our teams are frantically trying to reach project milestones before the rain makes an appearance for the long haul and the climate is putting pressure on everyone.

The Board is excited to see the geographical spread of these projects and collaborations, and how incredibly innovative our project teams are at working within scope and direction to broaden and strengthen the on-ground benefits.

Our budget for next year has been approved and our Constitution has been reviewed and changes approved by our members in August. We agreed that we want to continually reflect and improve as a Board, and understand the needs of our communities and the needs of the landscapes so we can design and mould our strategic direction.

We have just finished working on the latest strategic plan which has been considered hand in hand with all the learnings and understandings we have sought from our members. Our teams invested considerable energy and passion into revisiting the NRM Plan, and the Board appreciates and values your contributions to that work as it helps shape us as an organisation.

We have thought hard about the values for the organisation, again recognising that Cape York is and must remain our focus.

We have worked on our vision going forwards to become “A healthy landscape, healthy community and healthy economy for Cape York Peninsula”. We aim to achieve this through nurturing and empowering communities to embrace NRM knowledge and practice across Cape York Peninsula.

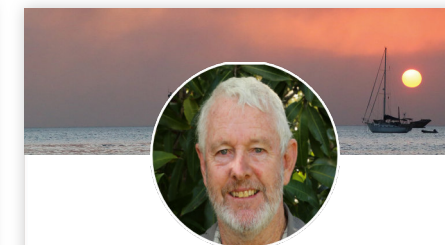
The Board looks forward to welcoming the new Directors and a fresh approach for 2022.

Warm regards
Emma Jackson

Cape York NRM Board of Directors



Emma Jackson
Chairperson



John Charlton



Katherine Steffensen



Sally Gray



Marilyn Morris



Sally Witherspoon



*Cape York NRM Directors and staff
wish you a very happy Christmas
and all the best for 2022*

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



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