



# 2021 Cape York Regional Fire Forum

7-8 December 2021

Lockhart Room, Cairns Colonial Club Resort, Manunda

*Cape York Natural Resource Management acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, and recognises their continuing connection to land, water and community.  
Cape York Natural Resource Management pays its respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.*



## Cape York Regional Fire Forum 2021 | Program

Day 1   Tuesday 7 December 2021		
Time	Item	Presenter
8:00 - 9:00	Registration open. Coffee and tea	
9:00 - 9:10	Forum opening and housekeeping	John Gavin and Alex Debono- Cape York NRM
9:10 - 9:20	Welcome and Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gudju Gudju- Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Traditional Owners</li> <li>• Yirrganydji Traditional Owners</li> </ul>
9:20 - 9:30	Forum overview	Luke Preece- The Nature Conservancy Leasia Felderhof- Firescape Science
9:30 - 9:45	Cairns Traditional Owner fire projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siobhan Singleton- Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation</li> <li>• Abiculture Rangers</li> </ul>
9:45 - 9:55	NAFI Cape York fire season summary and funding	Rohan Fisher and Peter Jacklyn- Charles Darwin University (CDU)
9:55 - 10:30	Land manager presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APN Cape York</li> <li>• Rinyirru Rangers</li> <li>• AWC- Piccaninny Plains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shawn Huddy</li> <li>• Thomas Houghton</li> <li>• Sally Gray</li> </ul>
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Tea	
11:00 - 11:30	Sharing experience about the Olkola carbon project and where to next	Debbie Symonds- Olkola Aboriginal Corporation
11:30 - 12:00	SPARK and PALM fire models- Olkola pilot project	Olkola Aboriginal Corporation Leasia Felderhof- Firescape Science Rohan Fisher- CDU
12:00 - 12:30	Cape York Savanna Burning - past, present and what kind of future?	Daryl Killin- Tropical Forest Tree
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch and PALM 4D model demonstration upstairs in the Jardine room	
13:30 - 13:40	Firesticks Certification, Mentoring and Training Program	Peta-Marie Standley- Firesticks Alliance
13:40 - 14:00	Arson on Cape York	Mark Kerswell- Major Organised Crime Squad
14:00 - 15:00	<b>Workshop session 1</b> (choose 1 of 3)	
	NAFI skills	Peter Jacklyn and Rohan Fisher- CDU
	Thinking about better ways to manage business on country	Geoff Lipsett-Moore- TNC
	Firesticks Alliance tools for assessing and monitoring country types for planning burns	Peta-Marie Standley- Firesticks Alliance
15:00 - 15:30	Afternoon Tea	
15:30 - 16:30	<b>Workshop session 2</b> (choose 1 of 3)	
	How to use the Savanna Monitoring & Evaluation Reporting Framework (SMERF)	Andrew Edwards- Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research (DCBR) Aidan Joseph- FNQ Spatial
	Fire management and behaviour in northern Australia	Michael Blackman- Friendly Fire Ecological Consultants
	Mapping tools for fire projects (Google Earth, Avenza, Caltopo)	Dave Preece- Cape York NRM
16:30 - 17:00	Mitigation, permits and fire wardens	Neil Parker and Aaron Regan- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
19:00	Dinner   Lockhart Room, Cairns Colonial Club. Bar open from 18:30 Video presentation by Melsonby Rangers introduced by Bulla Mclvor	

## Day 2 | Wednesday 8 December 2021

Time	Item	Presenter
8:00 - 9:00	Coffee and arrival	
9:00 - 9:05	Day 2 opening	Alex Debono- Cape York NRM
9:05 - 9:20	Gambir Yadinji Cultural Heritage and Protection	Kylee Clubb, Thomas Clubb, Jai Joseph and Rangi Clubb- Gambir Yidinji Cultural Heritage and Protection
9:20 - 9:50	Land manager presentations · Merepah Rangers · Bromley Aboriginal Corporation · Cape York NRM fire projects	· Marilyn Kepple and Scott vanBarneveld · Christabel Warren · Andy Hartwig- Cape York NRM
9:50 - 10:10	Land managers 2021 fire season panel discussion	Hosted by Andy Hartwig- Cape York NRM
10:10 - 10:30	Landholder Bushfire Management Planning.	Craig Welden- Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Tea	
11:00 - 11:25	Savanna burning method review update (online presentation)	Gary Wyatt, Kristina Koenig and Andrew Edwards- Carbon Market Institute- Savanna fire management industry working group
11:25 - 11:40	Emissions Reduction Fund- Legal right and carbon service providers (online presentation)	Karen Graham- Clean Energy Regulator
11:40 - 11:55	Carbon farming training and co-benefit verification	Mark Malthouse- Aboriginal Carbon Foundation
11:55 - 12:15	The Land Restoration Fund, Savanna Burning, and First Nations co-benefits (online presentation)	Brett Kerr- Land Restoration Fund
12:15 - 12:30	Questions and panel discussion	
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 - 13:40	Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) update	Anna Boustead- (ICIN) APN Cape York
13:40 - 14:00	QPWS Cape York fire management	Mark Parsons and Ben Jones- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
14:00 - 15:00	<b>Workshop session 3</b> (choose 1 of 3)	
	Understanding the carbon market and communicating your fire story	Anna Boustead, Ben Gertz- Indigenous Carbon Industry Network
	Accessing high resolution Sentinel satellite images and finescale fire scar mapping	Aidan Joseph- FNQ Spatial Rohan Fisher- CDU
	Fire project data collection with the Fulcrum app	Ben Lister- Cape York NRM
15:00 - 15:30	Afternoon Tea	
15:30 - 15:45	Fire regimes that cause biodiversity decline- submissions for EPBC listing as a key threatening process (online presentation)	Peter Latch- Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
15:45 - 16:00	Gamba grass on Cape York	Travis Sydes- Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
16:00 - 16:15	Insurance for fire projects (online presentation)	Justin Back- Australian Bushfire Management Association
16:15 - 17:00	Forum wrap up and feedback	
17:00	Forum close	

# Workshops

## Workshop session 1 Tuesday 2-3 PM

Please select 1 workshop from the session to attend

### NAFI skills

Peter Jacklyn and Rohan Fisher- Charles Darwin University (CDU)



The North Australian Fire Information (NAFI) website is an online tool that fire managers in northern Australia rely on heavily. The NAFI service displays maps of fire activity based on information from satellites, such as hotspots (locations of recently burning fires) and fire scars (maps of recently burnt country). Peter from CDU has coordinated NAFI since its inception and will go through and explain how to use the many features of the NAFI website to help you get the most out of this invaluable service.

\*Bring your laptop or device if you want to follow along

### Thinking about better ways to manage business on country

Geoff Lipsett-Moore- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)



A successful fire management program requires a strong organisation with good governance systems in place. The benefits of organisations working together and collaborating is also well documented. Geoff from TNC will facilitate a discussion around thinking about better ways to manage business on country.

### Firesticks Alliance tools for assessing and monitoring country types for planning burns

Peta-Marie Standley- Firesticks Alliance



The Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation (FAIC) is an Indigenous not-for-profit organisation established for the principal purpose of protecting and enhancing the natural environment by the provision of information, education and training about Indigenous cultural fire and land management practices.

Peta-Marie Standley will facilitate a group workshop on some of the tools that they are working with communities on to assess and monitor country applying cultural knowledge.

## Workshop session 2

Tuesday 3:30-4:30 PM

Please select 1 workshop from the session to attend

### How to use the Savanna Monitoring & Evaluation Reporting Framework (SMERF)

Andrew Edwards- Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research (DCBR), Aidan Joseph- FNQ Spatial



SMERF is an on-line tool available for stakeholders to evaluate the effects of fire on individual properties or regions where burnt area mapping is available. SMERF can also be used for reporting against savanna burning carbon projects. Andrew from DCBR has been involved in the ongoing development of SMERF and will give a run down on the various reports and features available.

*\*Bring your laptop or device if you want to follow along*

### Fire management and behaviour in northern Australia

Michael Blackman- Friendly Fire Ecological Consultants



Michael from Friendly Fire Ecological Consultants has been working in land management for nearly 40 years and is a student of fire behaviour. He has been involved in fire management on state, federal, indigenous and private estates, compiling and implementing annual fire plans and in recent years has been involved in the delivery of fire management training across northern Australia.

Michael will present his personal 'Ten Commandments' of fire management in northern Australia based on his observations of fire behaviour over many years.

### Mapping tools for fire projects (Google Earth, Avenza, Caltopo)

Dave Preece- Cape York NRM



Digital mapping tools that work offline in the field and allow you to view data and track and record your movements can be critical for fire management. Dave from Cape York NRM will demonstrate how free applications can be used to set up georeferenced digital maps for use to help in fire management.

*\*Bring your laptop or device if you want to follow along*

## Workshop session 3

Wednesday 2-3 PM

Please select 1 workshop from the session to attend

### Understanding the carbon market and communicating your fire story

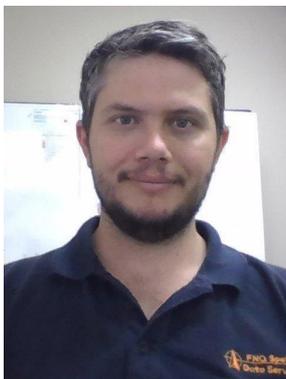
Anna Boustead, Ben Gertz- Indigenous Carbon Industry Network



The Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) is a network of Indigenous-owned organisations that operate across north Australia to develop and deliver carbon projects, mainly through savanna fire management. Anna and Ben will share resources that are being developed to assist groups to better understand the fire market and communicate their fire story.

### Accessing high resolution Sentinel satellite images and finescale firescar mapping

Aidan Joseph- FNQ Spatial, Rohan Fisher- CDU



The Sentinel satellite provides high resolution aerial images that can be used to map firescars. Firescar maps generated using Sentinel images are much more accurate than those provided by NAFI. Accurate fire scar mapping can be critical to help plan early season burning and also identify gaps in firebreaks to help manage risks from late season wildfire. Sentinel images are available for free online and Aidan of FNQ Spatial and Rohan of CDU will go through how to access these. These images can also be compiled into usable field maps that are widely used throughout northern Australia examples will be included.

*\*Bring your laptop or device if you want to follow along*

### Fire project data collection with FulcrumApp

Ben Lister- Cape York NRM



The Fulcrum application is used across the Cape for various data collection applications including for fire projects. Ben from Cape York NRM will go through the application and look at the existing fire project data collection form with opportunities to suggest changes to make it more relevant to your work. Access to licences to use Fulcrum will be available for Cape York land management groups.

*\*Bring your laptop or device if you want to follow along*

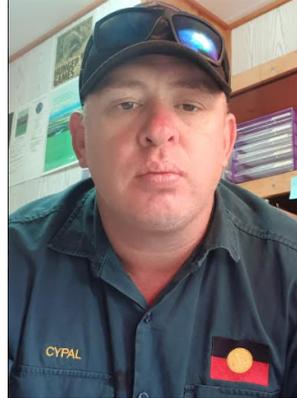
# Presentations

## Cape York land manager updates

Cape York land managers will provide an overview of their 2021 fire season and will share the successes and challenges of their fire programs.



Shawn Huddy-  
APN Cape York Rangers



Thomas Houghton-  
Rinyirru Rangers



Sally Gray- Australian Wildlife  
Conservancy, Piccaninny Plains



Marilyn Kepple-  
Merepah Rangers



Bulla McIvor-  
Melsonby Rangers



Christabel Warren- Bromley  
Aboriginal Corporation

## Sharing experience about the Olkola carbon project and where to next

Debbie Symonds- Olkola Aboriginal Corporation



The Olkola Aboriginal Corporation has been successfully running the Olkola Ajin Fire Project since 2014. Debbie shares their knowledge and experiences and talks about where to next.

## SPARK and PALM fire models- Olkola pilot project

Olkola Aboriginal Corporation, Lesie Felderhof- Firescape Science, Rohan Fisher- CDU



SPARK is a CSIRO toolkit for simulation and analysis of wildfires. PALM is a tool developed by DCBR which can be used to model and visualise fire spread across country.

Debbie, Lesie and Rohan will present their pilot project currently running on Olkola country which is looking to better adapt and test these fire models for use on Cape York.

## Cape York Savanna Burning - past, present and what kind of future?

Daryl Killin- Tropical Forest Tree



Since 2015 Daryl has supported savanna burning carbon abatement projects covering almost 3 million hectares of Cape York Peninsula, many of which are indigenous-run projects. Daryl will explore the history of savanna burning on the Cape, with a description of who is running projects, and display some of the fire metrics associated with the savanna burning method since 2013.

He will also outline and discuss some controversial but very real current issues and potential solutions, and challenge the industry to collaborate more closely. Only by working together can we leverage the action of many landholders over such a vast landscape.

We need a shared vision that is clear and concise and, most importantly, commands attention from various participants because it includes benefits at multiple levels.

## Firesticks Certification, Mentoring and Training Program

Peta-Marie Standley- Firesticks Alliance



Peta-Marie Standley will present on the Firesticks Certification, Mentoring and Training Program.

## Arson on Cape York

Mark Kerswell- Major Organised Crime Squad

Mark is Officer in Charge for the Major Organised Crime Squad. Mark will speak about arson on properties in Cape York as well as trespass issues and how these relate to fire management.

## Mitigation, permits and fire wardens

Neil Parker and Aaron Regan- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Neil Parker, Far Northern Area Director for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services will speak about fire wardens and permits and their role in fire management on Cape York. Aaron Regan is the Inspector for the new Mitigation Unit and will provide information on its role.

## Gambir Yidinji Cultural Heritage and Protection

Kylee Clubb, Thomas Clubb, Jai Joseph and Rangi Clubb



Gambir Yidinji Cultural Heritage and Protection are involved in fire training delivery and regularly work with groups on Cape York. All are heavily involved with the Rural Fire Brigade and will share their knowledge and experience in fire management.

## Landholder Bushfire Management Planning

Craig Welden- Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium



The Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (QFBC) is a collaborative network of land managers and stakeholders who are committed to improving fire and biodiversity management, supporting applied fire research, facilitating partnerships and building land manager and landholder capacity.

Craig will introduce the QFBC and speak about balancing fire safety and land management with the conservation of plants and animals, cultural values and primary production.

## Savanna burning method review update (online presentation)

Gary Wyatt, Kristina Koenig and Andrew Edwards- Savanna fire management industry working group



An update to the Savanna Fire Management methodology has been given priority for 2022. This update will allow projects to access an expanded set of carbon pools (standing dead and living biomass) and hopefully correct many of the problems with the 2018 avoidance and sequestration methods. Gary and Kristina are the co-chairs of the Carbon Market Institutes savanna fire management industry working group. Andrew is the main scientist advising the group. They will give an update on some of the proposed changes and the implications for carbon projects on Cape York and across northern Australia.

## Emissions Reduction Fund- Legal right and carbon service providers (online presentation)

Karen Graham- Clean Energy Regulator

Karen will run through the core Emissions Reduction Fund concept of legal right and the different options for participation available to land-holders in how they engage Carbon Service Providers.

## Carbon farming training and co-benefit verification

Mark Malthouse- Aboriginal Carbon Foundation



The Aboriginal Carbon Foundation (AbCF) supports carbon farming projects, led by Indigenous rangers. It connects Aboriginal communities who supply carbon credits, with organisations seeking to offset their carbon pollution and provides training for Indigenous rangers.

Mark will discuss training offered by AbCF and outline the co-benefits verification process they have developed.

## The LRF, Savanna Burning and First Nations co-benefits (online presentation)

Brett Kerr- Queensland Government Land Restoration Fund (LRF)



Brett will give examples of LRF savanna burning projects that are generating benefits for First Nations communities in FNQ, and will discuss some of the requirements unique to savanna burning projects.

Brett is responsible for the delivery of the Land Restoration Fund investment rounds and pilot projects program. He has been with the LRF since its establishment, and prior to that, managed private protected area programs within the Department of Environment and Science.

## Indigenous Carbon Industry Network update

Anna Boustead, Ben Gertz- Indigenous Carbon Industry Network



Anna and Ben will give an update on ICIN's activities in northern Australia. Their presentation will include the perspective of Cape York groups involved in the network such as APN.

## QPWS Cape York fire management

Mark Parsons and Ben Jones- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service



Mark will provide an outline of the tools, challenges and successes of QPWS Cape York fire management in a changing climate and competing community expectations.

Ben will discuss some case studies and joint management approach to fire planning and implementation.

## **Fire regimes that cause biodiversity decline- submissions for EPBC listing as a key threatening process (online presentation)**

Peter Latch- Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

The Australian Government has released a draft listing assessment 'Fire regimes that cause biodiversity decline' as a key threatening process under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, for public comment. In preparing the draft listing assessment, the Threatened Species Scientific Committee is seeking input from Indigenous organisations and Traditional Owners. Peter will provide some background and speak about this process.

## **Insurance for fire projects (online presentation)**

Justin Back- Australian Bushfire Management Association (ABMA)

ABMA aims to provide representation, collaboration, leadership, and education for the private sector bushfire management industry through the promotion of best practice principles and methodologies. ABMA has been working with fire practitioners in northern Australia to address some of their insurance issues. Lindsay will share insights into the current insurance issues facing the industry and other ABMA initiatives.

## **Gamba grass on Cape York**

Travis Sydes- Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQ ROC)



Gamba grass is a Weed of National Significance and its presence has serious implications for fire management. Travis is responsible for Regional Natural Asset Management & Sustainability for FNQ ROC and will provide an overview of current distribution, outline potential consequences of gamba grass and discuss management actions currently being undertaken across Cape York.