

# landsCAPE



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Cape York Natural Resource Management acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we work and recognises their continuing connection to Country and community.

Cape York NRM pays its respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Stories by: Andree Stephens  
Design by: Monique Bell

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## From the CEO

It has been a very busy period since we last prepared our newsletter, with new staff, new projects, new board members and a new approach to the way we present our news.

In this, the first edition of LandsCAPE, our new-look magazine, we have gone bigger and bolder, incorporating news, issues, views, features and profiles - not just about the work of Cape York NRM, but of the Cape York Community in all of its eclectic and fascinating glory.

We want to continue to help Cape York communities improve the way they care for the natural resources of this region, so they can be enjoyed for generations to come.

We are always looking for stories about what makes the Cape tick and about your connections. So please, contact us.

We hope you are inspired and surprised by this latest offering from our organisation. Tell us what you think.

*Bob Frazer*



# She's got a ticket to ride

*Giving a new emphasis to 'girl power', a group of Indigenous women are taking on the big machines to build a new career path.*

SKILLING UP: Fenice Yoren at a Cape York NRM training session

**FENICE YOREN** has her sights set firmly on the road. At 28, the Hope Vale Indigenous woman is determined to get all the heavy machinery tickets she needs to get a job in road construction and earthmoving in Cape York.

Fenice is taking part in a training session with Cape York NRM to get her loader ticket Class 1, and to consolidate previous training for her roller and skid steer tickets.

"I really need this ticket job-wise," she says. "It's important — you do need those tickets to get where you want to be."

This is the third training session being undertaken by Cape York NRM which provides on-site heavy machinery training at gully erosion remediation sites across the southern region of Cape York.

And it's a first in terms of those taking part.

"This one's a special round of training because we've gone for female-only participants and all Indigenous ladies from Hope Vale, Laura, Cooktown and Mossman," Cape York NRM's Sustainable Industries and Water Quality Manager Michael Goddard says.

"The first two rounds of training were mostly male participants. We chose to have an all-female round of training to make them feel more comfortable learning alongside their peers.

"Today we're working on the northwest side of Lakeland, carrying out gully remediation activities and level one machinery operating training. We have had them on bobcats, rollers and loaders and we'll get them skilled enough to be certified over the coming days."

Fenice said the all-women's training was "a lot of fun with a lot of laughter". She undertook similar training last year in a mixed group which was "a bit frustrating".

"We didn't get as much time on the machines," she says.

Anselm Harrigan, from Normanby Station, thinks the session is a "fantastic" idea.

It's the second time Anselm has been involved in the training of young recruits as an Indigenous cultural liaison.

"Oh yeah, it gives them an opportunity to get out there, and doesn't make them think in an

Indigenous way, you know, that men have got to do everything and they've got to stay put in the camp," he says.

"Most of the females that are here are relatives, and feel comfortable with each other and with our cultural protocols."

Anselm said the training gets the women out on Country and out of their comfort zones, and importantly, creates employment opportunities.

"There are a lot of people out there looking for operators, and females now are stepping up. This new generation — this is where it starts."

He also believes construction and mining companies are seeing advantages of female operators as they are more cautious and there is less room for error.

"I reckon that's true, and they're easy to get on with too," he adds with a grin.

Anselm says the training sessions were opening new doors for young Indigenous people.

"It's good to see all the young rangers and people coming through that are keen to get their machinery tickets. It's good for a future resource... and by getting a ticket it makes them feel like they have something to look towards in the future.

"Especially in remote communities where they don't get a lot of opportunities and people like us are trying to support our own people to get more hands on deck.

"Cape York NRM is leading the way as always, doing a great job right across the Cape."

Although Fenice is currently working, it may be winding down and she will be applying for full-time jobs. Her ambition is to get a roller job on the roads, and work her way up. But she will also look more broadly to mining companies on the Cape.

She says the training session has made her less shy and more confident—and clearly, very determined.

To find out more about Cape York NRM's gully erosion remediation projects go to pages 16 and 40.



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