

Cape York

Healthy Country Newsletter



Photo: Kerry Trapnell

Issue 33 Summer 2017

Season's Greetings

Another productive year has passed for Cape York NRM. We look back on 2017 as a busy year of hard work and many successes for Cape York NRM and its partners.

We recruited our Fire Project Coordinator following last December's Cape York Fire Forum; and we launched *My Cape York Life* – a podcast series showcasing the lives of Cape York's land managers.

Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA) held a forum to review three years of operations. The WCTTAA documentary, *One in a Thousand*, was launched and almost 500 people have attended seven public screenings so far. The Laura region was first in *Grasses of Cape York* – our new guide to the Cape's native grasses. The *Grasses of Quinkan Country* will soon be on our website.

Over 100 people attended the National Indigenous Fire Workshop, hosted by Balnggarrawarra Gaarraay Traditional Owners; our Regional Landcare Facilitator hosted the State Regional Landcare Facilitator workshop in Cooktown; and we've participated in many Cape York events and meetings.

Gully remediation works continued on Crocodile Station, and are extending to other properties. Cape York NRM has also supported planning for gully erosion management on Springvale Station. We've continued to support growers in Lakeland, releasing

the ABCD Frameworks for Grazing and Agriculture. Electro-conductivity mapping continues in Lakeland, helping farmers make best use of soil, water and fertilisers.

Cape York NRM, Terrain NRM and Northern Gulf Resource Management Group partnered to establish Corporate Nature. We've also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Torres Strait Regional Authority to strategically align on common goals.

Cape York NRM and partners presented at the 14th Queensland Weed Symposium, and we are currently wrapping up the Litter and Illegal Dumping project, and recording series two of *My Cape York Life*.

Behind the scenes our staff undertakes reporting, IT, project support, communications and mapping to keep the wheels turning for our office. We're also working hard to ensure our bid for the National Landcare Program (NLP2) represents the aspirations of Cape York's land and sea managers, with consultations held in Cooktown, Bamaga, Weipa and Coen.

A highlight of the year was a 20/20 score for our participation in the National Landcare Programme Performance Expectation review.

Cape York NRM looks forward to continuing the hard work and successes with you in 2018.

Printed on sustainably sourced paper



Our office will be closed from 21 December and will reopen on 2 January 2018

Update from the Directors

Cape York NRM would not exist without its partnerships with the State and Federal governments. They not only fund us, but they work with us, assisting us and guiding us with state and national priorities relating to natural resource management outcomes. Other organisations, such as The Nature Conservancy, help in areas that our membership believes are important and where the region has identified areas of focus that do not fall under the scope of funding from government. For this, we are grateful.

Our partnerships with those delivering for us, with us, and those who share data, research and resources with us, are vital to our growth and strength. So much of our development is through others' capturing key information, again linking with projects and priorities with the land and water.

Schools, universities and other organisations who partner with us, help promote the work we carry out and showcase the success stories throughout the year. We need these solid partnerships - they bring innovation, creativity and opportunity to the organisation from a range of experiences and skills across industry.

Our membership is our number one partner. We rely on the feedback from our members to provide direction, suggest ideas and help us stay relevant in the region. Changes occur daily, so our membership is welcome to feed observations, requests and thoughts to any member of staff or the board. We are a team, collaborating with our membership, and with other organisations, agencies and groups in the region.

2017 is winding down with festivities upon us. We would like to say thank you for investing time and support into our organisation this year and thank you for helping to promote the successful work we help to carry out across Cape York.

In this issue are some wonderful examples of our partnership projects that have proved to be effective for various land and water managers.

Without natural resource management Australia has a bleak future, but without our partnerships Cape York NRM has an even darker future.

To our partners, I thank you for working with us, supporting our teams, and believing in us. Have a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year, with 2018 bringing joy in your hearts, on the land, and in the water. Whatever your industry or priority for 2018, find a partner and together make that outcome a solid one.

Emma Jackson
Chairperson
Primary Industries
Director



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Information available throughout the Cape

Display stands containing:

- Cape York NRM membership forms
- Healthy Country Newsletters
- Cape York NRM Annual Community Reports
- Thoughtful Travelling stickers

have been delivered to 20 roadhouses, stores, and other outlets throughout the Cape.

If you see one and stocks have run out, please let us know by calling 1300 132 262 or email media@capeyorknrm.com.au

Remember to like us on Facebook and Twitter, and visit our website www.capeyorknrm.com.au

Project update - Crocodile Station gully works

November 2017

By Michael Goddard
Gully and Grazing Project Officer, Cape York NRM

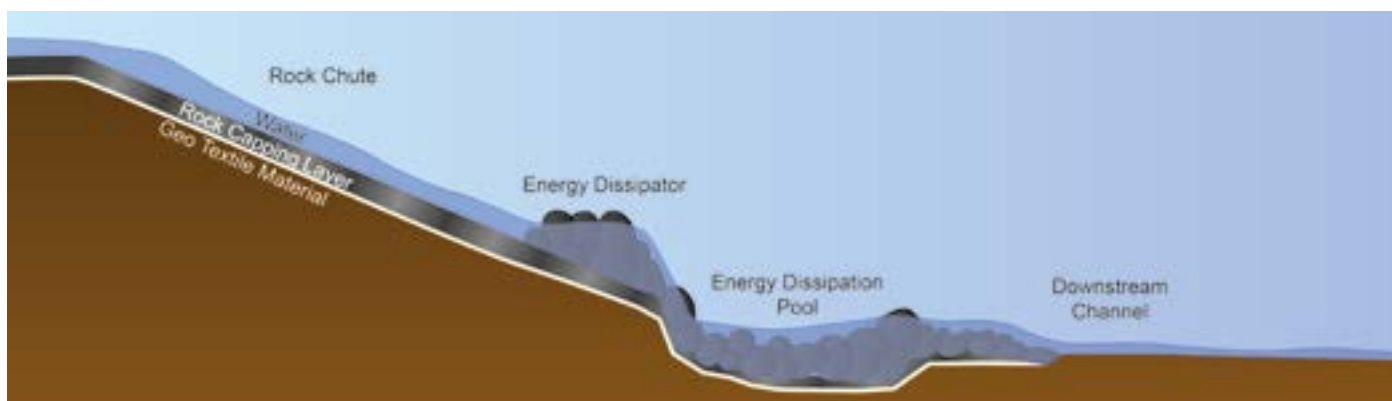


Diagram showing how the drop chute design is used in gully remediation works.

As a continuation of the ongoing gully remediation trials carried out by Cape York NRM on Crocodile Station, three fast moving gully headcuts have been stabilised using rock chutes and energy dissipation pools. The channels downstream of the gullies have been revegetating over time.

It was considered unwise to undertake any works in the channel downstream due to the risk of destabilising the channel and undermining the works.

The works were carried out by Peter and Annette Marriot from Far North Earthmoving, Stanley McKenzie with assistance from Dane and Chance Sellars from Indigenous Land Council (ILC), and Michael Goddard and Will Higham from Cape York NRM. Over the course of the construction, training was provided to the ILC employees on different strategies for gully headcut remediation, and they gained hands-on experience for their ongoing gully remediation program.



Looking upstream to gully stabilisation works at gully 1.1, with water sitting in energy dissipation pool
Photo: Michael Goddard

Of the three headcuts, two were advancing rapidly. Since 2009:

- Gully 0.1, which has a catchment size of 7.4 hectares, had advanced 29 metres over eight years and yielded 163 tonnes of sediment per year over that period.
- Gully 1.1, which has a catchment size of 10.4 hectares, had advanced 74 metres over eight years and yielded 236 tonnes of sediment per year.

Materials used for headcut stabilisation works were sourced onsite. Additional basalt rock was obtained from a nearby Lakeland farm which was expanding its water melon production from ex-cattle pasture.

The rock sourced on site was used to line the chute, and the basalt was used in the construction of the energy dissipater and the dissipation pool at the bottom of the structure. The objective of the pool is to remove the energy from the fast flowing water exiting the chute above, and delivering the water at the same level as the downstream channel. This removes the possibility of the water undercutting and undermining the structure, thus eliminating the need to install a number of grade controls in the downstream channel.

Establishing grass cover and monitoring performance of the structures will be a focus for the coming wet season. Griffith University have installed water quality monitoring equipment that will be used to try to quantify the water quality benefits of the erosion control structures.

More monitoring by Laura Rangers in Laura-Normanby catchment

By Christine Musgrave, Laura Ranger

The Laura Rangers are continuing to expand their capacity to monitor water quality in the Laura- Normanby catchment. Recently the Rangers received training in operating the new automatic water sampling equipment installed in the East and West Normanby Rivers by the Department of Science, Information, Technology and Innovation (DSITI).

This equipment collects up to fourteen water samples and stores them in a refrigerated container. Storms frequently occur in the afternoon, causing rivers to rise overnight. This equipment samples whenever the river height rises or falls by a pre-set level capturing the entire event. Once analysed, these samples provide information on the sediment and nutrient loads carried by the rivers and their turbidity and pH levels.

The Laura Rangers have been collecting flood water samples for many years but have not previously had the opportunity to work with the auto samplers. Field officers Rae Huggins and Leigh Anderson spent the day with the Rangers instructing them

on equipment maintenance, sample processing, sample preservation and resetting the equipment for the next collection cycle.

The Rangers also received training in the use of an app designed by DSITI for recording manual and automatic water sampling data. The app is a step up from the old method of paper recording, and once in mobile range, sends the information to the head office in Brisbane.

Water monitoring by the Laura Rangers is undertaken to support anecdotal evidence from local Elders and community members suggesting that the health of the Laura River is declining. The information can be used to determine current water quality in the catchment and, through modelling, predict future trends and develop water management plans. Once interpreted, the data can be used to identify areas where land use practices and/or fire regimes are impacting water quality, which will then help guide where time and resources should be invested.



Left to right: Jonathan Upton, Leigh Anderson (DSITI) Christine Musgrave, Susan Marsh.
Photo: Megan Bramwell, Laura Ranger

Is there an easy cheap way to grow healthy food?

By Wendy Seabrook, Learning from Nature

At two recent Cooktown workshops, Cape Yorkers learned ways to do just this.

The workshops - 'How to grow more with less' and 'Create your pest-resistant garden or farm', were run by Cooktown's Dr Wendy Seabrook, and supported by Cape York NRM through funding from Cook Shire Council's Economic Development Programme. She provides training, videos and other resources in ecological farming and gardening.

"Participants came away from the workshops with practical ideas to trial on their own properties" she said.

Wendy finds herself travelling around the world more frequently, being asked to share these techniques with food growers who are experiencing different problems and challenges.

"Organic techniques are great for growing chemical-free food. But growing gets heaps easier using these ecological techniques" Wendy said. "We bring Nature's FREE ecological services back into our gardens and farms again."

Workshop participants heard how innovative farmers and gardeners are benefitting from using this ecological approach - farmers like Colin Seis, who uses 70% less fertiliser on his pasture cropping enterprise than his neighbours do in the NSW Central Highlands; while Gabe Brown and family who farm 5,000 acres in North Dakota, USA, get higher levels of nutrients in their soil than their neighbours, and achieve this result without applying fertilisers.

Cost savings are not just from fertilisers. For example, thirty years ago Carl Rosato and Helen Atthowe were regularly applying organic pesticides - now they very rarely use them in their Californian orchard.

They are creating food and shelter for the predators and parasites of their insect pests, just as Wendy is doing on her farm.

Stefan Sobkowiak from Miracle Farms in Canada reduced his pest problems by replacing his apple orchard with a diversity of tree crops - over 100 varieties of apples, plums, pears, and cherries. What's clever is how he's done it - there are different trees in each row, but they all fruit within a 10-day window - making harvesting efficient.

At the workshop, participants spent part of the afternoon developing ideas for their own properties.

"Ideas included growing living mulch as nitrogen-fixing and soil-decompacting ground covers in bananas and orchards; using flowering plants between vegetable rows to attract beneficial insects; and even open-canopied 'fertiliser trees', like African farmers are using, instead of buying expensive fertilisers" Wendy said.

Feedback from workshop participants was positive. Bernie Alberes said it was great to look at things from a different perspective, while Manon Denninger said it was amazing how much easier growing can be when we work with nature.

Do you want to learn more about ecological growing? Check out the videos and other resources at learningfromnature.com.au. Wendy is also happy to come and do workshops in other Cape York Peninsula communities.

For information, contact Wendy Seabrook 40695058

*Left: Roman Jost exploring ways to create habitat for beneficial insects in his Dragon Fruit
Photo: Wendy Seabrook*



Turtle monitoring wraps up for a

Rangers of the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA) have completed another successful year of turtle nest monitoring and protection on western Cape beaches for 2017. The partnership of five Ranger groups from Northern Peninsula Area, Mapoon, Napranum, Pormpuraaw and Kowanyama work together for the protection of marine turtles along the west coast of Cape York.

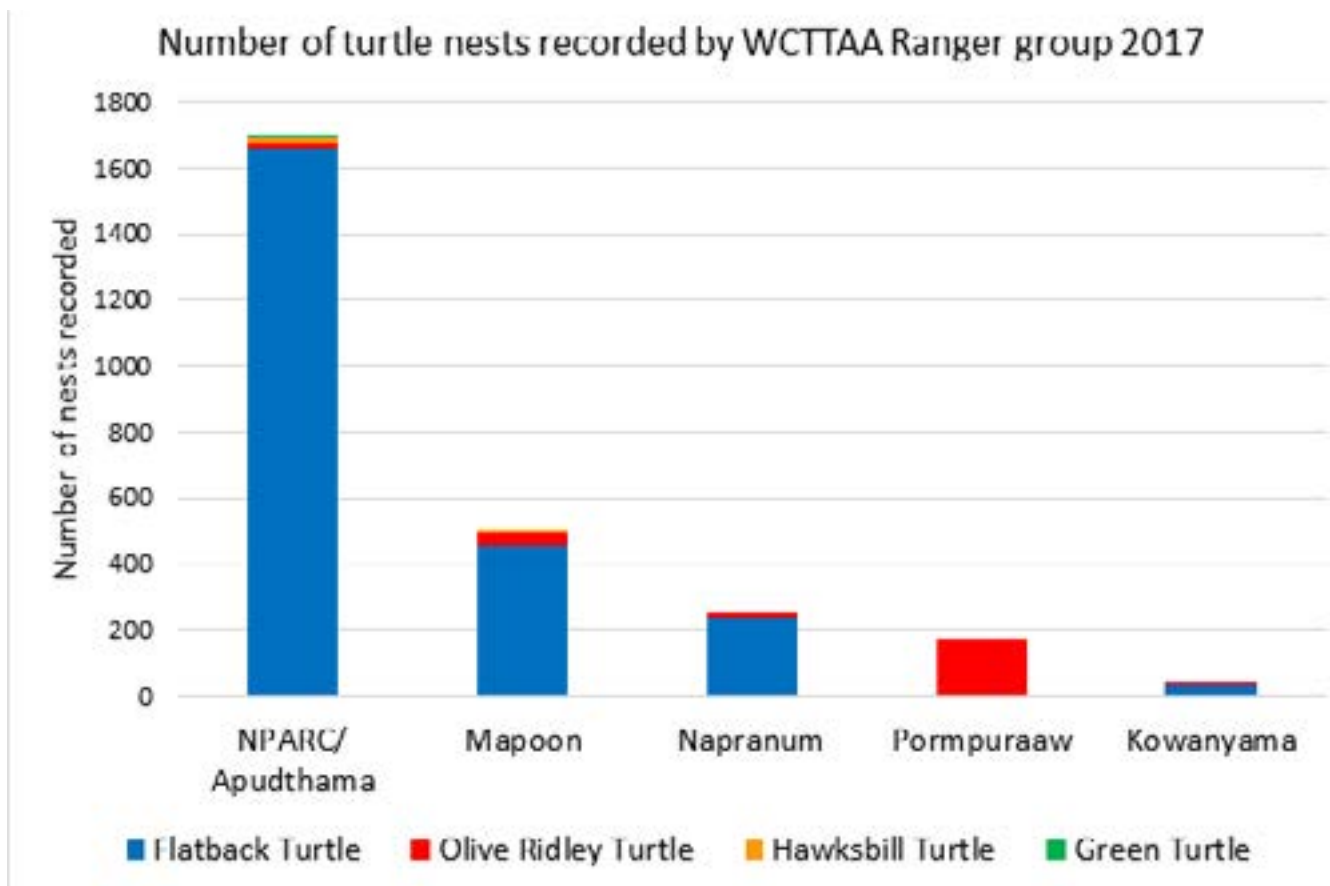
Western Cape York provides internationally significant nesting habitat for the vulnerable Flatback (*Natator depressus*), and endangered Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) turtles. Turtle nesting occurs all year round on the western Cape, but peak nesting season is during the dry season, May to September.

With such a large and remote stretch of coastline, each of the WCTTAA Ranger groups has selected beaches (known as census beaches) which are monitored during this peak nesting season. Rangers monitor the same census beaches each year; recording turtle tracks, nests, species, predation rates as well as the success of the nests for hatchlings. In 2017, WCTTAA Rangers monitored 17 beaches, covering 265 kilometres of the western Cape York coast.

A significant part of the Ranger's work is aerial culling activities to remove feral pigs, which are a key predator of turtle nests. For the endangered Olive Ridley and Hawksbill turtles, Rangers also protect the nests by covering them with an aluminium cage to prevent predators (pigs, dogs and goannas) from digging up the nests. In 2017, only 10% of the turtle nests monitored were predated on census beaches that could be accessed throughout the monitoring season. This is compared to the near 100% predation rate that was recorded on the western Cape in the 1990s.

The numbers of turtle tracks, nests, and incubation success recorded by WCTTAA in 2017 were all stable compared to previous years. However, ongoing protection and monitoring is required as nest predation, the impacts of climate change, marine debris and discarded fishing nets (ghost nets) continue to threaten the future of marine turtles on the western Cape.

The Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance is supported by Cape York Natural Resource Management and funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments' Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program.



Another year on the Western Cape

By Kerri Woodcock, Coordinator WCTTAA



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Key outputs of WCTTAA's turtle monitoring and predator control for 2017

By Kerri Woodcock, Coordinator WCTTAA



3,689 pigs removed by aerial culling activities and another **145 pigs removed** by ground culling activities; covering nearly one million hectares on western Cape York



2,550 turtle nests recorded



170 nests directly protected by aluminium cages



90% of all turtle nests monitored across all beaches **survived** through to hatchling*
** for those beaches that could be accessed for the full monitoring season*



13,024 turtle tracks recorded



255 hatched nests dug up and monitored to assess incubation success of the beaches

One in a Thousand documentary released

By Kerri Woodcock, Coordinator WCTTAA

A documentary which showcases the work of Indigenous Rangers involved in the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA) is now available to the public.

One in a Thousand was made to promote the work of WCTTAA Rangers - which involves the regional coordination of marine turtle work programs, training, data collection and analysis, and communication activities – to their communities and to the broader public.

The film's title *One in a Thousand* refers to the estimated number of hatchlings that make it through to adulthood. The documentary was filmed on the western Cape and has been 18 months in the making.

WCTTAA Chairperson, Robbie Morris, said that during September and October, the film was screened in the five western Cape communities whose Rangers star in the film.

“Nearly 350 people attended the screenings on the Cape. We held a public screening of the film in Cairns during late November, which was attended by our funders from the Nest To Ocean Turtle Protection Program, our project partners, and the Cairns community.

“The feedback from all of the screenings has been extremely positive” Robbie said.

Also produced with the documentary are two short animations: *The Lifecycle of marine turtles*, and *Threats to Western Cape Turtles*, produced by students from the University of Technology Sydney.

The documentary and animations are now available on Cape York Natural Resource Management's webpage at www.capeyorknrm.com.au/wcttaa

The film was made with funding by Australian and Queensland Governments through the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program. WCTTAA is supported by Cape York NRM.



One in a Thousand screening in Mapoon
Photo: Kerry Woodcock



WCTTAA Coordinator Kerri Woodcock, and previous WCTTAA Coordinator Johanna Karam, at the Cairns screening of *One in a Thousand* Photo: Robyn May



Cairns audience gathering for the screening of *One in a Thousand* Photo: Robyn May

Our Cape Kids

The Australian Government has a plan to look after our threatened animals and plants - it's called *The Threatened Species Strategy* - and it includes ways to improve the opportunities for 20 of Australia's threatened birds by the year 2020.

You can find lots of information about this plan on the website <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/20-birds-by-2020/>, including the list of the 20 priority birds.

Below is a list of just 10 of those birds. See if you can fill in the gaps and write the birds' full names next to the clues.

Also on this list are **three** birds that are found on Cape York.

Can you identify which they are?

Answers are hiding somewhere in this newsletter.



E----rn c----w

G----- s-----ed p---ot

H--m--ed h----eater

Hoo--d --over

M----e e-- - w--n

Mal----owl

N---t p----t

O----- b-----d -ar--t

S-----n Cassowary

W----rn -round ---rot



Top Tips for Reporting

By Jorg Edsen

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Leader, Cape York NRM



Reporting can sometimes feel overwhelming, but your reports are very important. Thorough reporting content can have a direct impact on funding availability for either the next step of your current project, or new and exciting ones down the track.

The good news is that Cape York NRM staff members are here to help you, so give us a call. And besides - we love to read about your successes. Include any hurdles you might have encountered along the way and how you got over them, or how future projects could be modified to avoid these challenges altogether.

Here are some brief tips that might make the reporting process not only smooth-flowing, but enjoyable as you revisit the journey of your project.

1. *Overview of project progress*

Describe your key achievements in relation to your contract.

2. *Partnerships and participation*

Name your project partners and how they contributed to the project.

3. *Output details and data*

Tell us about specific measureable results of your project eg: fencing, fire management, weed control, community events, and the like.

4. *Lessons learnt, challenges and variations*

Tell us about project challenges, how they impacted the project, and what you've learnt that may lessen their impact in future projects.

5. *Communications Information*

List and attach copies (electronically if possible) of photographs, media articles, newsletters, websites, DVDs, posters, brochures, maps, reports and other publications from the project.

6. *Workplace Health and Safety*

Provide information on any notifiable Workplace Health and Safety incidences. List any changes or updates to your workplace health and safety policies, safe work practices and procedures or responsibilities.

7. *Financial Information*

Include financial data – what your project cost; how you spent your grant. Include invoices/receipts.

Remember to include a column showing costs at your own expense, and also any in-kind contributions, and include a \$ value. For example, any voluntary labour, use of equipment or venue. An example is that you held a two-hour meeting in the local community hall and the fee was waived, but is usually \$20 per hour. You put this in your in-kind column at \$40.

8. *Other special conditions as relevant per contract.*

Add any other specific information outlined in your contract that you haven't already addressed.

Be sure to get in touch if you would like more information or support to complete your project report. We're here to help!

Contact: v.wundersitz@capeyorknrm.com.au or call 1300 132 262



New voices for the Wenlock River

By Andrew Dawson
Wenlock Catchment Management Group



The Wenlock Catchment Management Group Photo: Mapoon Land and Sea Rangers

The Wenlock Catchment Management Group recently elected a new committee to continue the voice for this important river system.

The Wenlock River catchment is one of Australia's most biodiverse, relatively pristine rivers spanning over 7,500 square kilometres. The community that form part of the Wenlock River catchment, uphold cultural, social, and economic links with the river and its lands of the catchment.

To give the Wenlock River a voice and to maintain these values, the Wenlock Catchment Management Group (WCMG) was formally established in 2014. The group strives to identify and address priority issues for the wellbeing of the river and its lands.

Members of the WCMG display a varied and strong knowledge base of the Wenlock River and have close connections to the land and sea. The WCMG continues to seek the inclusion of Traditional Owner representatives from its lands - Kuuku l'yu Northern Kaanju, Yinwum, Atambaya, Luthig, Tjungundji, Taepithiggi, Thaynhakwith and Yupungathi people. It also includes land owners and managers of cattle stations, Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve, and Cape York Natural Resource Management.

At the AGM in October the group welcomed Sally Gray from Piccaninny Plains Wildlife Sanctuary, Australian Wildlife Conservancy as chairperson, taking the reins from Mapoon's Jason Jia, who remains on the committee as treasurer. New member to the group, Ashley Nobbs from Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve is vice-chair, while long-term member Jocelyn de Jersey from Mapoon is the group's new Secretary.

The WCMG has recently raised concerns of witnessed accounts of inappropriate fishing practices with large numbers of crab pots, and some stranded trawler nets found in the Wenlock River. Another report of alleged orchid poaching from riparian zones and bushland adjacent to the Wenlock River has also raised concerns.

The group has attracted funding for sustainable management of the catchment, and to promote community involvement in sustainable practices. Funding to date has supported the development of a strategic plan, while a small grant from Cape York NRM will support water quality monitoring on the river. South Cape York Catchments has recently donated \$1000-00 to WCMG to help within ongoing establishment.

To find out more information, including how you can become involved in the Wenlock Catchment Management Group, contact:
sally.gray@australianwildlife.org
or, lscobell@capeyorknrm.com.au

Merepah People returning to Country

Moompa-Awu Aboriginal Corporation

By Robyn May, Communications Officer, Cape York NRM



Marilyn Kepple at Coen River Photo: Robyn May

Marilyn Kepple was born in Cairns and grew up in Coen, where she has lived for 30+ years. Marilyn's family connection to Coen is through the Wik liyeny (iiyeny) - also referred to as Mungkanhu which is the language group for the area - and formerly recognised as Wik Mungkan people.

Marilyn's family was removed from Merepah (sometimes spelled 'Meripah') in the mid-1900s and relocated to Coen. Merepah is located 90 kilometres north-west of Coen, accessed by road and crossing of the Coen River.

In September 2016, Moompa-Awu Aboriginal Corporation became incorporated after many family consultations and talks – their vision being to return to their homeland, 'Merepah'.

"I was honoured to be re-elected as Chairperson for Moompa-Awu Aboriginal Corporation. Merepah is very special to our people and I'm looking forward to living back out on Country" Marilyn said.

"There are both flora and fauna species of great significance living at Merepah and we plan to rejuvenate the ecosystems to encourage their continued existence" she said. "The organisation's hopes and dreams for the future are to live and work on, and to take care of, Country."

More short-term goals are working towards improved governance, with guidance from the Indigenous Land Corporation, and creating a

Healthy Country Plan with the assistance of the Centre for Appropriate Technology.

"Our Healthy Country Plan includes caring for our natural environment, and the bringing of people together to share knowledge and identify the most important conservation topics and opportunities. The inclusion of issues like Indigenous social and cultural values, and the use of language, tools and appropriate facilitation processes are very important" Marilyn said.

In the future, Moompa-Awu Aboriginal Corporation hopes to partner with Cape York NRM on projects such as IT development. Weed and feral animal control is also an important undertaking to ensure a healthy ecosystem to support flora and fauna endemic to the region.

PRONUNCIATIONS

liyeny (iiyeny):

'liy' is like the 'ea' in sea, but lengthened a little

'ny' is like the Spanish 'manyana', but not strongly emphasised.

Mungkanhu:

'nh' is an 'n' sound but with the tip of your tongue pressing against the back of your upper teeth, tongue forward of the usual 'n' that these languages also have.

Cape York Calendar

Events significant to your life on Cape York

JANUARY

- 2 All Cape York NRM offices reopen
- 23 Cape York NRM meeting of the Board of Directors
- 24 Wenlock River Catchment Group teleconference
- 26 Australia Day public holiday
- 27 Cape Kimberley Clean-up, Tangaroa Blue
www.tangaroablue.org

FEBRUARY

- 2 World Wetlands Day

MARCH

- 6 Clean-up Australia day
- 30 Good Friday public holiday

Answers to page 10 quiz

- * Eastern curlew
- * Golden shouldered parrot
- Helmeted honeyeater
- Hooded plover
- Mallee emu-wren
- Malleefowl

- Night parrot
- Orange bellied parrot
- * Southern Cassowary
- Western ground parrot
- * *We three are found on Cape York*

2018 - Invite to submit articles

This is an invitation to all our project partners, and Cape York NRM members and directors, to submit content for the Cape York Healthy Country Newsletter. We want to share your stories about the terrific work that you're doing with everyone across the Cape. It's inspiring for people to read about what can be achieved by the land and sea managers of this beautiful region, so please contact us to chat about your ideas for natural resource management related articles; or simply send an email.

Everyone loves to see what's happening - words (though important) mean so much more with great photos. Our project partners are encouraged to take lots of photos as their projects progress. They're important for reporting purposes, a useful document for your own records, and welcomed as valuable newsletter content.

Photo tips:

- Be aware of your background (rubbish, people, personal items)
- Photos need to be of high quality, minimum of 1MB
- All people in photos must give permission for the photo to be used
- Name people in photo, and provide short description (eg: John Smith wiring fence at ...)
- Features of people in shot should be clear
- Crisp, clear photos – be aware of lighting
- Have fun!

Written content:

Keep one-page articles to around 250 words – maximum of 300 – to allow room for photos.

Submission deadlines for 2018:

It's extremely important that your submissions arrive here on time to increase the opportunity of your article being included in the next issue. Following are the submission deadline dates, and general theme for each issue (topics may alter):

Submission to be received by	Newsletter theme
16 March	Water
1 June	Soils
31 August	Biodiversity
30 November	Annual wrap-up
You're welcome to call me on 07 4095 7131 or 1300 132 262, or email to rmay@capeyorknrm.com.au	

Sponsor opportunities for the Gateway to the Cape

By Waratah Nicholls, Project Manager, Gateway to the Cape

Organisations and businesses are offered the golden opportunity to promote their businesses and support a great local initiative by sponsoring a new traveller stop and information centre on Cape York.

The new traveller stop, named 'Gateway to the Cape', will be situated at the junction of the Mulligan Highway and the Peninsula Development Road at Lakeland, which is 80kms south of Cooktown. This is an ideal spot for travellers to stop on their way to the tip of Australia, and while travelling through Cape York.

Project Manager Waratah Nicholls said the project steering committee and Lakeland community were planning something special.

"The building, is designed by local Garry O'Kane, and was the winning concept selected in a design competition earlier this year" Waratah said. "It is modelled on a horse stable, reflecting the light horse breeding history of Lakeland. The stable will make an interesting setting for information displays, and for sheltering people from sun and rain" she said.

The building will be set into a sculpture park, which is mapped out as a representation of Cape York Peninsula. The Gateway to the Cape park will house BBQ facilities, and will showcase the work of local artists through sculptures, and installations, that explore the culture, creatures and geographic features, of the region. The sculptures will form part of an interactive, environmental and educational game that visitors can play as they walk around the park.

"There is a buzz about this project; it is an opportunity for the Cape York Peninsula community to be part of something big and unique as well as representative of our country" Waratah said.

Lakeland Progress Association's Stefanie O'Kane said the project would be an attraction where all travellers will want to stop, relax and enjoy the facility.

"It is good to get all the great info about the region out there and in one place" Stefanie said.

"Lakeland is the perfect place for that, at the beginning of people's trip to the Tip. Lakeland residents are excited about having this facility in their back yard. We see the Gateway as a place we will be able to relax, join friends for a BBQ, and let the kids play. It will be an interesting place to show off to our visitors" she said.

GOLDEN SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The 'Gateway to the Cape - Traveller Information Stop', offers you a unique opportunity to promote your business, and be part of a creative initiative that helps protect our unique environment.

Sponsorship is invited for:

- Construction of the building
- Sculptures and installations that reflect your business/region
- BBQ areas
- Information Signage

Please contact Waratah on 0429695533 or email waratahnicholls@gmail.com for more information

Stefanie said that the school will use the facility as a learning tool, and as an activity to teach students about the environment and about the different regions, history and cultures of Cape York.

"I encourage everyone to get involved in this wonderful community project" Stefanie said. "It is something we can be proud of - so get involved, have a say in the park's design, volunteer to help, and come along to community sculpture creating workshops."

Funded by a Cook Shire Council RADF grant, workshop dates will be announced soon.

Waratah said that the project was in line with the Thoughtful Travelling Cape York initiative, and plans for the park would have minimal environmental footprint.

"The sculptures will be created from recycled materials like old farm and mining machinery, tyres, corrugated iron or satellite dishes; the building will include recycled materials; and the BBQ areas could be shaded by satellite dishes.

"This park will certainly grab everyone's attention" Waratah said.

Thoughtful Travelling Group Cape York is an alliance of Cape York organisations working together to reduce the environmental impacts caused by people travelling on Cape York - impacts caused by litter, illegal dumping, spreading weeds, unplanned fire and illegal access can all create longer-term problems for the environment and those that manage it.

For more information contact Waratah waratahnicholls@gmail.com

Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd

Board of Directors



Emma Jackson
Chairperson
Primary Industries Sector



Sally Gray
Conservation Sector



Pauline Smith
Indigenous Sector, Zone 2



Currently vacant
Indigenous Sector, Zone 3



Currently vacant
Indigenous Sector, Zone 4



Currently vacant
Indigenous Sector, Zone 1



John Charlton
Tourism, Small Business,
Mining and Other Industry
Sector



Trevor Meldrum
Vice Chairperson
Community Sector



Joseph Elu
Indigenous Sector, Zone 1



Desmond Tayley
Local Government Sector

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