

LAMA LAMA

yintjingga

NEWS



September 2012

MARAMBA • YINTJINGGA • YAAKARRU • TUULWA • RINDOPARR



The values that guide us

We respect the land and all of our sacred places. We value our families, our people and our communities. We contribute ideas to each other. We respect our elders. We are proud of our culture and our traditions and we welcome others with pride and with confidence to experience and to respect it.

Lama Lama Vision

Our vision is to be standing on country together as one Lama Lama Community. We are strong families. Proud of who we are. Confident in who we are. Proud of one another.



WIND STORY

is a reminder for Lama Lama people to stand proud on country, to come together to respect and care for our land, sea, families and community ... and to share the importance of our culture and traditional ways.



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This newsletter has been produced with the support of the Queensland and Australian Governments.

Design/Production
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WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE YINTJINGGA NEWS.

Yintjingga News is a Lama Lama Community Newsletter informing our community about the work, activities and achievements of the Lama Lama Land Trust and the Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation.

We are hoping to put this newsletter out four times a year.

Anyone who has suggestions for stories please talk to Alison, Traceylee or Elaine.



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Lama Lama Land Trust

Standing on Country Together

The Lama Lama Land Trust owns land and resources in trust on behalf of the Lama Lama people. The Land Trust's key role is to make decisions about how country is managed and what projects and activities are co-ordinated for the benefit of land, sea and people.

In 2009 the Land Trust co-ordinated an all of country strategic planning process with the Lama Lama community identifying direction and vision for the future. This plan is what we are currently working towards.

The **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** plays a key leadership role for the Trust and consists of:

Chair: Gavin Bassani

Deputy Chair: Karen Liddy

Treasurer: Seppi Bassani

Secretary: Elaine Liddy

Committee Member: Paddy Bassani

Committee Member: Gordon Peter

Committee Member: Keith Liddy

Committee Member: Jim Peter

Public Officer: Alison Liddy

The Lama Lama Land Trust holds regular meetings for its members and all Lama Lama People are encouraged to attend and get involved.



Message from Gavin Bassani

Chairperson of
Lama Lama Land Trust

It is exciting times and busy times. All of our programs and activities are now managed directly by Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation (YAC). This means, YAC now employs our Ranger and Administration Staff and is responsible for delivering a number of Government funded projects. The Land Trust's role remains critical in making decisions related to land use and infrastructure. And in endorsing the projects co-ordinated by YAC.

Some of our recent projects include developing a traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreement and Transitioning the Working on Country Program from Balkanu's management to YAC. We are also looking at economic development opportunities, focusing on the Tourism Market. We have recently purchased a boat that will enable us to patrol our Sea Country. And the Ranger Base is now fully operational with the storage area completed.

Transition

I'd like to talk a little more about the transition. 2011 saw an increase in activity that we have taken on as the Land Trust and also the Corporation. We made a decision to transition the Working on Country program to our management also. From July 2012, we now solely manage and co-ordinate everything related to the Ranger Program. This means employment conditions, wage conditions, vehicles and assets management. We are now fully responsible for getting things done on country, for managing budgets in line with funding agreements and for providing regular reports

back to Government on our achievements. We have employed DFK Kidsons to act as our Financial Managers. They are based in Cairns. We continue to work with Centre for Appropriate Technology for extra project and community development support. In the lead up to the transition they provided support with getting things organised and Cheryl continues to work with us one day a week.

We are also introducing an Infrastructure Support Fund, whereby families can contribute to the costs of maintaining and insuring our infrastructure. In the past, CRAC used to fulfil this role, but it now sits with us and unfortunately we no longer have Government Funding specifically to do this. We are asking all families if they would like to contribute. All full-time rangers and residents on country are asked to contribute twenty dollars per week. Our Trainee Rangers will contribute ten dollars per week. We are asking all other families to voluntarily contribute. This will help ensure that our homes on country are there for everybody to enjoy into the future.

For our workers and our Executives, its time to be serious. We are now fully responsible and accountable. We have to show that we are serious and lead by example, which means strong work ethics and leadership. Its time for all to pull together and support each other.

Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation

Land, Sea and People are core to everything we do

The Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) was formed in 2008 by Lama Lama traditional owners living in Coen and Port Stewart.

YAC is a homelands based, not-for-profit organisation and our objectives include improving the social, cultural, environmental and economic well being of our Lama Lama community.

YAC manages projects on behalf of the Lama Lama Land Trust and Lama Lama people. In doing so, we are committed to our families who we hope to see strong and confident in each other and country, with much of our project work being focused on land and sea management. YAC holds regular meetings for its members. If you are interested in becoming a member, please talk

with Alison Liddy about signing up. All interested people are encouraged to attend meetings and get involved.

THE YAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Karen Liddy, Keith Liddy

Deputy Chair: Gavin Bassani, Paddy Bassani

Treasurer: Seppie Bassani, Bobby Stewart

Secretary: Hazel Peter, Jim Peter

Committee Member: Letisha Spratt, Ella Lawrence

Committee Member: Gordon Peter, Peter Peter

Committee Member: Wilma Kulla Kulla, McGinty Salt

Committee Member: Garry Port, Barry Port

Public Officer: Alison Liddy



Left to right: Paddy Bassani, Daisy Stewart, Olive Barlow, Jim Peter and Bobby Stewart.

Lama Lama Elders

Our Lama Lama elders have worked tirelessly for many years and continue to guide us today. In future newsletters we hope to feature some of their stories and life experiences.

Message from Karen Liddy

Chairperson of Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation



I really value my role as Chairperson for the Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation. YAC is very busy co-ordinating a range of projects across Lama Lama Land and Sea. The role of a leader is never easy, but I recognise how important it is, for people to stand up and work together, to help create a strong future.

Now that we are managing our own business and actively working on country, it is so important that we all work together and support each other. Each of us has a job to play, whether you are a Corporation Executive, a Ranger, a member of the Land Trust or Corporation or family to somebody that is. Our Rangers are now based at Silver Plains and Port Stewart and travel regularly to Running Creek, Lilyvale and Marina Plains. The Transition of the Working on Country Program is exciting, but it also means we are now fully responsible for achieving good results and meeting our funding obligations. YAC is also responsible for providing a good workplace, which means we have introduced new contracts for our workers and developing our Policy and Procedures Manuals which outline how we need to operate, and what is expected.

The Port Stewart Ranger Base is also manned daily from 8am – 5pm. The Coen office is opened daily and I encourage any family with questions to drop by and talk with Alison and Traceylee. We are also looking at options for an office in Cairns. This will enable family in Yarrabah and Cairns to also stay updated on our work.

I congratulate all the young people who have put their hands up to work at Silver Plains under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. I hope they enjoy their introduction to Ranger work.



Lama Lama Rangers

Our hands on the ground

The Lama Lama Rangers were set up with the Running Creek Working on Country Program in 2009. The Ranger team has been working under the management of Balkanu. 2012 sees the transition of this project to the full management to YAC.

The Ranger team are our hands on the ground, working across a number of land management activities, including weeds and feral animal control, visitor management, Sea Country and cultural heritage protection.

Port Stewart hosts the Lama Lama Ranger Base, but fieldwork is undertaken across Silver Plains, Running Creek, Lilyvale and Marina Plains.

The role of a Ranger is important, looking after land and sea country. The Ranger team also play an important role in forging partnership with the wider community, and taking part in community development projects.

THE FULL RANGER TEAM

Gavin Bassani: Operations Manager

Alison Liddy: Team Leader, Administration

Traceylee Forester: Administration Officer

Karen Liddy, Team Leader: Field Operations

Elaine Liddy: Cultural Heritage Ranger

Natasha Spratt: Ranger

Stephen Doctor: Ranger

Steven Peter: Ranger

Peter Liddy: Ranger

Throughout the dry season we are also able to offer casual work to other Lama Lama People. Being a casual ranger is a great way of getting involved on-country for short periods at a time, also gaining experience that may lead to full-time ranger work in the future.



RANGER BASE OPENING

The Port Stewart Ranger Base was opened in September 2011. Full time and casual rangers worked on the project and a fully operational centre now exists at Port Stewart.



Highlights of 2011/2012

APUNIPIMA HEALTH VISITS TO PORT STEWART

2011, marked the first for a number of years in visits from Apunipima Health, hosting clinics at Port Stewart.



EWB CONFERENCE

- Four Lama Lama Rangers attended the EWB conference, where Gavin and Cheryl Prestipino (from CAT) did a presentation on the construction of the Ranger Base and the partnerships with EWB. They spoke to a group of approximately 200 people who were really interested in our work.





TIWI ISLAND TRIP

The TUMRA executive group undertook a trip to TIWI islands to look at Sea Country and Land Management activities co-ordinated on the island.

LILYVALE BASELINE ASSESSMENT

In June 2012, we camped at Lilyvale and undertook a series of assessments to look closer at country. A rare grass species was found and we also undertook our first joint land-based patrol with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.



CULTURAL DATABASE FIELD TRIP

In March 2012, a small group of Rangers travelled to Cairns, Atherton Tablelands and Cardwell to meet with organisations using different mapping and cultural database systems. We are looking at different ways of storing information like photos, land management reports, maps, cultural knowledge and monitoring programs. The field trip included meeting up with the Gurrigan Rangers Group who showed us through their office and ranger base.

Governance

How our business is done

You hear people talk about “Good Governance” and “Good Decision Making” being important to achieving things and getting good results on the ground.

Lama Lama Land Trust and YAC meet regularly. These are opportunities for people to work together and to hear about the work the corporation and Land Trust are undertaking.

The role of an executive of both organisations plays a critical part in leading decision making and conversation. The role of executives is central and they are responsible for ensuring that projects are delivered on time, on budget and meet the objectives of both Lama Lama and our funders. It is also their job to support the staff of Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation and to share the work of both YAC and LLLT with the wider Lama Lama community.

Key Activities of Lama Lama Land Trust

- Joint Management of Lama Lama National Park (CYPAL)
- Joint Management of Marpa National Park (CYPAL)
- Management of Running Creek and Lilyvale Nature Refuge
- Ownership and Management of Property and Infrastructure.
- Endorsing the work of Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation



Key Projects of Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation

- Working on Country Ranger Program – Final Year 2012 – 2013
- Caring for Country – Lama Lama Land Management 2012 - 2014
- Caring for our Country – Community Action Grant – Rehabilitating Running Creek Beach
- Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement (TUMRA) – Development and Community Consultations.
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) – Sea Country Partnerships – Supporting Lama Lama Sea Country Management
- Biodiversity Funds – Enhancing the Biodiversity Values of Lama Lama Country 2012 - 2015



It is important we deliver these projects to a high standard and meet our reporting and budgetary requirements. If we do a good job, we continue to get support. We will be able to offer employment to our people on country. And we continue to look after culture and country.



Planning

Talking about the future

In 2009, the Lama Lama Land Trust undertook a Community Planning exercise to assist Lama Lama people outline what they would like to do or see happen on their traditional country. This process reviewed progress made under the 1997 plan while looking to develop a simple plan to guide the next few years. Many things were talked about to encourage a vibrant sustainable community – one that supports the natural environment; community, culture and tradition; personal wellbeing and economic development.

In particular, we talked about Port Stewart, as a main hub for coordinating Lama Lama Natural Resource Management and Community activities across all Lama Lama Country – Silver Plains (Maramba), Running Creek (Yaakarru), Lilyvale (Tuulwa) and Marina Plains (Rindorparr). Port Stewart (Yintjinnga) is at the centre and most easily accessible from Coen.

Our Plan is focused on four key areas.

Thinking about NATURE and looking after the environment.	<p>NATURE GOAL “To respect and protect our Land, Sea and Wildlife using proven conservation and land management practices creating sustainability for our community and environment.”</p>
Thinking about SOCIETY – ways to deal with social issues and keep culture alive.	<p>SOCIETY GOAL “To create a healthy thriving and sustainable community that acknowledges and embraces our cultural traditions and heritage.”</p>
Thinking about our ECONOMY – ways to create an income, jobs and livelihoods.	<p>ECONOMY GOAL “To continue to learn new skills; create jobs and enterprises for our people and become self sufficient and economically independent.”</p>
Thinking about our WELL-BEING – how to keep people happy, strong, healthy.	<p>WELLBEING GOAL “To promote a healthy lifestyle for our Lama Lama people that is connected to country; culture and tradition.”</p>



Sea Country

For a number of years, we have talked about being further involved in managing our Sea Country. In 2008 Marpa Island National Park was handed over to the Lama Lama people for joint management with the Queensland Government. Since then we have been working on a TUMRA – a Traditional use of Marine Resource Agreement. We are also looking at ways to build up our Ranger team to patrol Sea Country.

What is a TUMRA?

An agreement between Lama Lama and the Government to outline how we plan to manage sea country resources like turtle and dugong etc

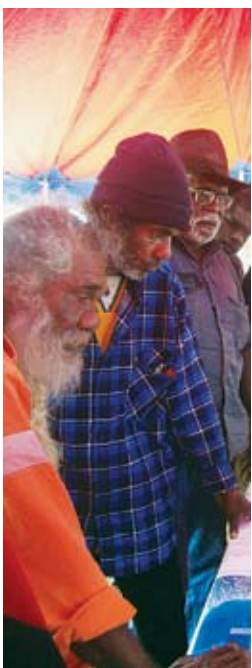
The agreement will identify important areas of Sea Country and place limits on hunting for Lama Lama hunters. Once approved, what is expected of visitors to Lama Lama Sea Country will be made public to neighbouring clans and visitors.

Recently a number of TUMRA meetings were held at Coen and Port Stewart to talk with people about what the TUMRA would involve and how we would manage it. A TUMRA Steering Committee was established. The committee consists of:

Gavin Bassani, Seppi Bassani (Proxy)
 Keagan Graham, Cheryl Graham (Proxy)
 Thomas Lakefield, Davina Lakefield (Proxy)
 Peter Liddy, Ella Lawrence (Proxy)
 Natasha Spratt, Keith Liddy (Proxy)
 Maurice Cedrick, McInty Salt (Proxy)
 Alison Liddy (Contact Officer)
 Elaine Liddy (Culture)
 Karen Liddy (Chairperson of YAC)
 Issac Barlow, Enid Barlow (Proxy)

The TUMRA steering group is working towards the finer details of the agreement and how we will go about managing a TUMRA (Implementation plan). We are looking to introduce a permit system and have agreed on limits. The TUMRA is before the Government for accreditation. We can then apply for funding from GBRMPA to help us manage country. We were recently awarded funding to purchase a boat.

The TUMRA steering group also attended a field trip to Townsville to talk about the prospect of scientific researchers from GBRMPA and James Cook University who are interested in working with us on Sea Grass Monitoring; Mangrove Monitoring; Turtle and Dolphin Research and Crocodile Monitoring.



Land Management Projects



Mustering at Silver Plains.



Beach Rehabilitation at Running Creek.



Weed Control.



Pig Traps.



Setting up a monitoring Point.



GBRMPA Landbased Patrol.

Training Opportunities



LEARN NEW SKILLS

Congratulations to the ten young people participating in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program. As trainees they will be completing Certificate 1 in Conservation and Land Management with a six month training program based at Silver Plains.

Certificate 3 in Conservation Land Management will be offered to our Full-Time Ranger team from funding from Caring for our Country, Biodiversity Fund and Working on Country.

We are also looking for four interested young people aged 14-25 to take part in some paid work experience with the Ranger Group, over a two week period. First team to take part are Malita Sandy and Bobby Peter.

Five Rangers also undertook a Coxswain training course earlier this year. Getting our Ranger team ready for Sea Country Patrolling and TUMRA management.

Culture

Alison Liddy is involved in the Junior Ranger Program at the Coen School. As part of this program she is able to share stories about the Lama Lama Rangers and the important work they are involved in.

Elaine Liddy, Alison Liddy and Karen Liddy have also facilitated some Cross Cultural Training to Queensland Parks and Wildlife staff who work closely with us. This is a good way to share our history and give people a better understanding of our values and connections to country.



Visitors

Visitor Guidelines – YAC has developed some guidelines for people wishing to visit Lama Lama Country. These are available from the Ranger Office. Encourage anyone, including local clans, to find out more information from the Coen Ranger Office.

Brochures – We recently printed brochures to give visitors more information about visiting Lama Lama Country.

Cultural Talks – Some of the Ranger team meet Oz Tours one a month at Port Stewart through the dry season to provide information about Lama Lama History, People and Culture.

Safari Camp – We are applying to Cook Shire to upgrade the facilities at Safari Camp to improve tourism potential.

We have obtained some funds to renovate the interior of the Community Building so that we can bring some of our old photos down to display and also artefacts.

Announcements

Lama Lama Land Trust General Meeting was held on 21 August at Port Stewart. Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation, General Meeting, was held on 21-22 August, Port Stewart. Minutes will be posted to members and are available at the Coen Office.

The next Joint Management CYPAL meetings will be held by in November 2012. Further information will be circulated closer to the date.

Those interested in registering their interest in future employment opportunities with the Lama Lama Rangers, should contact the Coen Office.

The Annual General Meetings of the Lama Lama Land Trust and Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation will be held Tuesday 6 November 2012 at Port Stewart. Current and new members are encouraged to attend.

Please ensure we have your most up-to-date contact details so we can keep you informed. If you are not a member of the Lama Lama Land Trust or Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation, but wish to be, please contact Alison or Traceylee to complete an application form.

Family wanting to voluntarily participate in infrastructure fund should talk with Alison and Traceylee for more information.



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