

LAMA LAMA

yintjingga

NEWS



MARAMBA • YINTJINGGA • YAAKARRU • TUULWA • RINDOPARR

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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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Welcome

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Yintjingga News.

This edition highlights some of our great work from the end of 2014 till now.

Yintjingga News is for Lama Lama people to stay informed and celebrate our achievements. For those we work with, it offers you a way to find out more about who we are and what we do.

The next newsletter will be out in December 2015. If you would like to contribute, contact Mikayla Down, Engagement Officer at our Port Stewart Ranger Base or email engagement@lamalama.org.au



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Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation



Message from Gavin Bassani Chairperson of Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation

We kick started 2015 with a focus on Compliance.

Compliance is getting out on country and checking that people visiting are doing the right thing. This relates to fishing, camping, and fire management, fire arms, hunting and restricted areas.

We have established new signage across all of Lama Lama Country ready for the dry season. This includes Welcome to Country Signs, Cultural Heritage signs and TUMRA signs.

We have a number of Rangers who have completed eyes and ears training, which helps to give Rangers the confidence to obtain information like names, addresses and number plates when needed. We also have a number of people who have trained to a higher level.

One of our first joint patrols for 2015 involves three Rangers doing a compliance patrol with Marine Parks on the vessel Reef Ranger from Port Stewart to Cairns. This will be a great opportunity to not only see country but also learn from Marine Parks Rangers about the issues facing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and what's involved in undertaking a formal compliance trip.

Over the Easter period we also worked with a combination of service providers, QPWS, Queensland Police Service, and GBRMPA to run a land based patrol with a focus on illegal hunting, poaching, fire arm checks and illegal camping.

We tend to use the term multi-agency patrols or joint patrols a lot these days. These trips involve having all the relevant government authorities on country with the TO Ranger Groups as it provides support for sharing skills, but also having the full strength of the law there with us if we need it to deal with any issues. It also strengthens the legitimacy of our Rangers.

Lama Lama are also happy to hear that GBRMPA will be investing in new positions with a focus on supporting groups like us, on the ground, with compliance activities.

The rest of the year, is jam packed with our usual activities – Baseline Assessments, In-shore Dolphin Research and we have plans to fence off Bull and Goose Swamps this year.



The new Cultural Sign at Bassani Lagoon.

Launching of the Weed Action Plan

The Weed Action Plan is a document developed by the Lama Lama Rangers with support and technical advice from Keith McDonald. It was developed as a guideline for the control and/or eradication of weeds on Lama Lama Country.

The Rangers along with Keith first talked about formalising a Weed Management Plan in 2013 as a way to best manage weeds on country. Every year during our baseline assessments we get a better understanding of what weeds we have, where they are, their populations and also the impacts they were having on native vegetation and animals, important wetlands and cultural sites.

The Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation and the Lama Lama Ranger Service now follow this plan to tackle weeds on our country. A key feature of the plan is a series of posters to help Rangers and the wider Lama Lama community learn about the different weeds found on Country, or weeds we need to keep an eye out for.

A Weed-Dex is also being developed, to provide this information in an easy carry round format for vehicles and backpacks.

In summary, there have been 369 weeds identified in the Cape York Bioregion. These weeds have economic and/or environmental consequences impacting on the landscape and native plants and animals, cattle grazing enterprises and tourism. Weeds are moved in by road machinery, vehicles and equipment, camping gear such as swags and clothing, as well as campervans/ caravans, and by animals such as horses, pigs and cattle.



Kayla and Mikayla treating Rubbervine at Letterbox.

It is unlikely most weeds can be eradicated on Lama Lama Country except when detected at a very early stage of introduction. Control and containment using targeted and planned actions is required to manage the weeds.



Keith showing Trinity and Sterlin how to identify Rubbervine at Nawal.

Weeds Located on Lama Lama Country

Eighty four (84) weeds have been located during biodiversity surveys on Lama Lama Country as of 1 September 2013 with additional areas remaining to be surveyed. These weeds are from 22 families with the most diverse in the Poaceae (grasses) with 21 species, Fabaceae (the peas) 15 species and Asteraceae (daisies) 12 species. There are six species listed as Class 2 weeds and three in Class 3 under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002. No Class 1 weeds have been located to date.





WEED CATEGORIES

We have listed our weeds in five categories relating to Lama Lama Country, depending on their threat and the management actions required to deal with them.

The categories are:

1. **Detection and immediate removal:** weeds which have been identified as occurring external to Lama Lama Country but potentially could occur on country in the near future having significant environmental and economic impact.
2. **Restricted populations:** weeds which are much localised generally around old outstations and current station homesteads but have not become widespread and can be locally eradicated.
3. **Removal or containment of declared species:** weeds listed as class 1 or 2 under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002.
4. **Localised area management of all weeds:** widespread weeds which would take considerable effort to remove or control throughout the area but can be managed around infrastructure, camp ground, roads etc.
5. **Other weed species:** widespread common species found throughout Cape York but not having major impact on natural values, grazing and farming enterprises, and tourism in the Lama Lama country.

Lama Lama Rangers tackle weeds through the Wet Season, before plants have had the opportunity to seed.

Examples of the posters developed to help understand Weed Management on Lama Lama Country.

Lama Lama Land Trust

Standing on Country Together



Message from Karen Liddy Chairperson of Lama Lama Land Trust

I would like to update everyone on the work of the Lama Lama Ranger Program so far this year.

The Lama Lama Ranger Program has taken off to a steady start this year with the rain setting in as expected. Work recommenced as of 19 January 2015 with the usual cleaning and maintenance checks around the work and home environment.

The first couple of months were busy for a few of the younger Rangers as they are doing work experience with various different organisations. Jordon Barlow and Lachlan Bassani were both working with Marine Parks in Cairns for three weeks, accompanying them on patrols out to different areas on the reef and islands. Woibo Lakefield and Leon Liddy spent three weeks with National Parks staff in Tinaroo and getting a feel for working in a different environment. Mikayla Down, our Engagement and Education Officer, will be attending work experience in Atherton with Cape York Natural Resource Management later in the year. These work placements were an excellent follow up activity from the Young Leaders Pathways trip that occurred in December last year. We have received wonderful feedback from both Marine Parks and Queensland Parks and Wildlife about our team.

Apart from that good news, work has commenced as usual with the following jobs:

- Mowing and whipper snipper around Ranger Base, Community Building, Moojeeba and Theethintji, and Safari Camp.
- Weed Control – Spraying of weeds around all living and work areas as well as Cook Shire gravel pits and water plants. Along Whiphandle Creek and Dinner Creek and old portable cattle yard sites, and any short-cut roads.
- Regular checks on already sprayed areas.
- Installation of cultural signs and all other relevant signs.
- Weekly maintenance checks of all vehicles and other equipment such as whipper snippers and mowers.

The Lama Lama Ranger Service is looking forward to a very busy and productive year ahead.

Update From Lama Lama

Turtle Surveys with Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

In September 2014, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Lama Lama Rangers, Junior Rangers and Community members were involved in a ten days scientific survey to catch, tag and release turtles from Princess Charlotte Bay area. We also welcomed Hector, a volunteer PHD student from James Cook University in Townsville and an experienced turtle researcher from Venezuela.

This was both a baseline survey and also introductory training for the Rangers in turtle monitoring methods for science. The trip was highly successful with the Rangers and community members catching and tagging a large number of turtles. A large green male and a female hawksbill.

This project was set up to help find more information about the turtle populations in Lama Lama waters and to kick start an ongoing turtle monitoring program.

The team tagged 42 turtles all together. The smallest turtle was 44.4cm long (carapace/shell length) named Kayak. The largest was a female green sea turtle with a carapace length of 111.6cm long. 34 females and eight males with two sub adults and two juveniles.

Two of the 42 turtles were tagged with satellite transmitters that were attached to their carapace. One was a female hawksbill turtle which has now moved and is staying around Forbes Island and the other was a male green sea turtle who is staying around Princess Charlotte Bay area and seems to be in its home environment.

We also came across a female green turtle who seemed to be very sick. She had a lot of burrowing barnacles and didn't look like she would survive very long. We rang the Yuku-Baja-Muliku Land and Sea Rangers at Archer Point who sent a vehicle to pick up the sick patient and escorted her down to their rehab site. Her name is Princess Charlotte and from what we've heard is doing great and making a speedy recovery.



Satellite tracker is ready to go on to the back of the turtle, Marpa.

A highlight of the project was the Junior Ranger participation. They observed tagging, played some games with Hector, where they learnt all about the different types of turtles, helped to measure out a nest found at Running Creek and cheered as the two Satellite tagged turtles were re-released.

Some of our high school aged Junior Rangers were also able to participate in work experience over the ten days, and gained experience in catch and release methods and tagging along with the rest of the Ranger team.

Rangers



Protecting a nest from traffic, quads and feral pigs.



Measuring notches in the turtles flipper part of the monitoring process.



Preparing glue for the satellite tag to sit on.



GBRMPA dropped by to say hello.

2014 Perth Turtle Symposium



Traceylee Forester and I travelled to Perth last year to attend the 1st Western Australian and 2nd Australian Sea Turtle Symposium. We weren't sure what we were getting ourselves into but thought it would be a great experience to attend.

The symposium lasted three days and was attended by scientists, government and non-government agencies, a politician and traditional owners from Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia.

The talks given had one thing in common and that was the conservation and protection of marine turtles. They discussed various efforts that were being undertaken to protect certain species while others talked about habits in efforts to figure out how turtles lived around development areas such as harbours and ports.

Representatives from mining companies that operate near the sea also did presentations on the plans they had implemented as part of their efforts to protect and conserve the life of marine turtles in and around their docks.

I think the most interesting talk was done by a university student by the name of Takahashi Shimada. He conducted research on turtles that lived in development areas where there are boats coming in and out of the area on a regular basis and found that when a turtle is removed from an area and later released in a different area, the turtle always returned to the site of removal. He wasn't sure how they were doing it but we definitely thought it was interesting and wanted to know more.

Another talk was done by a student doing her honours at James Cook University and was researching the amount of time turtles spent moving around and if it was equal to the amount of time resting. And as it turns out turtles rest as much as they move around. I always thought turtles moved around all the time but apparently not!



This photo is with the display from Russia where there are programs underway to protect the big cats!

Gathering in the Gully Blue Mountains and International Union for the Conservation of Nature World Parks Congress Sydney

by Mikayla Down

One of the highlights of the 2014 was attending the IUCN's World Parks Congress, an event held once every ten years. To say it was an experience would be an understatement. With delegates and VIPS from all over the globe and over 5000 participants, it was an international event with stories and experiences shared from around the world. We were able to take eleven people with us for the adventure with the help of funding from Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Rinyirru Land Trust, and NAILSMA, Working on Country, Lama Lama National Park JM and Biodiversity.

As part of the Congress, a 'Gathering in the Gully' was held in the Blue Mountains just outside of Sydney and Traceylee Forester and myself were able to attend. The Gathering was an opportunity for indigenous people from all over the globe to come and talk about the issues they faced in their parks and Protected Areas but also the efforts they were implementing in their own countries. There were discussions as well as workshops run over three days and the point was to establish outcomes that were to be put forward to the document that was part of the World Parks Congress known as The Promise of Sydney.

The Promise of Sydney is a document that outlines the goals of everyone that attended the WPC. Participants came in from Africa, Canada, North and South America, and different places all over Europe, just to name a few.

When the gathering was over we headed down to Olympic Park in Sydney for the start of the World Parks Congress.

The Congress was set out so that there were sessions running at the same time so nobody missed out on anything. They also had pavilions set up so that they could conduct smaller sessions. They had live entertainment from the Pacific Pavilion and even had a Kava session on the second night we were there.

It wasn't all fun and games though. Part of our sponsorship was to present as part of the team that attended with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. We had to present on our activities regarding compliance on both our land and sea country.

The outcome was great as we got good feedback from participants who attended our session which is always good news for us.

One of the main focuses of the Congress was the Great Barrier Reef. Traditional Owners from up and down the east coast all had a say in its outcome as part of the Great Barrier Reef Long Term Sustainability Plan. The main points for this plan was to stop development on the GBR and surrounding reefs, stop dredging and the implementation of more traditional owner input in any and all development schemes.

Being from a small town in central Cape York and being a part of something so big was a great experience and we only hope ten years from now we can have more input into the World Parks Congress and also have more younger people attending.

Mon Repos Turtle Conservation Park – Monitoring and Tagging



In 2014 we had a lot of training. One of the training sessions that took place was the monitoring and tagging of turtles in Bundaberg at the Mon Repos Turtle Conservation Park.

The Rangers that attended were Jordan Barlow, Lachlan Bassani, Jared McIvor, and Woibo Lakefield.

The boys had a blast learning about turtle tagging, monitoring techniques, how to identify turtles and also the different species of marine turtles that were out there.

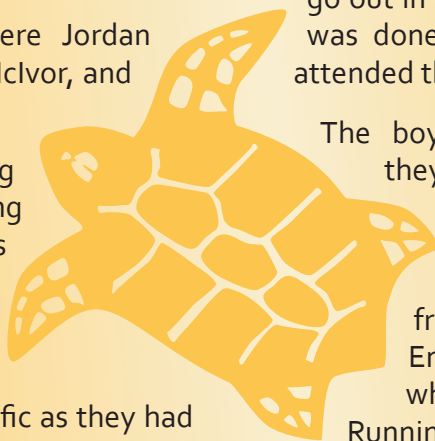
Their work hours were very specific as they had to align with the nesting habits of the turtles that were coming ashore every night and early hours of the morning. They started with lectures that usually ran from around 2pm – 3pm in the afternoon that lead to a session with the rest of the volunteers that were there that started at 4pm. After all that talking and listening their shifts started at 6 pm and went for 6 hours finishing up at 12am. If they were lucky they got the graveyard

shift that started at 12am and finished at 6am.

They started off working with a supervisor who would show them the ropes before being able to go out in pairs without a supervisor. The same was done for the two previous groups that attended the same training.

The boys didn't have trouble though as they had just done training with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection Agency as well as Hector Barrios Garrido from JCU and Belinda Norres from Environmental Heritage Protection who co-hosted a week long survey at Running Creek in Princess Charlotte Bay along with the Lama Lama Ranger Service, Junior Rangers and community members. They got to learn similar techniques but the only difference was this time they didn't have to catch the turtles because they were coming up and nesting on the beach.

The trip was a great success and the only complaint was that they were tired when they returned.





NAILSMA Project Summary

In 2011 the Lama Lama Rangers along with the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance in co-operation with South Cape York Catchments kicked off wetland site assessments of the various lagoons, swamps and creeks that are on Lama Lama Country as part of the commitment to Conservation and Land Management of all Lama Lama clan estate. The project ran until 2014.

The project included the creation of a new rapid wetland assessment tool. Over the years NAILSMA staff, SCYC staff and Rangers worked together to develop this new I-Tracker technique so as to make it easier for Rangers and Traditional Owners alike to use the tool to determine the health of the wetlands as part of a bigger plan to manage weeds and feral animals threats to country.



NAILSMA Staff with Jess Price from SCYC doing a wetland assessment workshop with Rangers from Cooktown, Hopevale, Lakefield and Coen. Accompanied by Team Leader Chris Witana, Jordan Barlow and Engagement Officer Mikayla Down of the Lama Lama Rangers. (2014)

The many hours and days spent in hot conditions to get the information and trial of various drafts paid off with the launch of a new and improved version of a rapid wetland assessment tool in October 2014. We have shared the tool with other Ranger groups, with two workshops been coordinated by NAILSMA. Lama Lama Rangers were able to assist with the presentations in Coen.

Lama Lama Rangers will continue to use the tool to carry out annual monitoring of wetland areas.



Identifying habitats for research strategy plans with SCYC and NAILSMA. (2014)



Leon Liddy getting a refresher on how to use an I-Tracker. (2014)

Rainforest on Lama Lama Country?

Back in 2014, Dr Paul Forster and Keith McDonald visited Lama Lama Country to take a closer look at the Rainforests. They produced a report called Lama Lama Rainforests: a preliminary account of the vegetation and plant life, prepared by the then Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts. It talks about what types of rainforests are on Lama Lama Country and some of the threats or potential impacts on keeping them healthy.

It also talks about the 'regional ecosystems or groups of plants' that can be classified as rainforests, and provides a list of the plants we know about in Lama Lama Rainforests and some suggestions for how we can manage or look after these areas.

One 'regional ecosystem' that deserves a mention is the evergreen notophyll vine forest on beach ridges on the east coast (RE 3.2.13). A fire sensitive regional ecosystem that is also threatened by invasive weeds like hyptis (*Hyptis suaveolens*), lantana (*Lantana camara*) and rubber vine (*Cryptostigeria grandiflora*) and feral animals such as pigs and cattle. This RE has been included in the Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets ecological community protected under the Commonwealth's EPBC act (1999). This means it is a critically endangered on the coastal dunes of Queensland. These systems elsewhere have been cleared or impacted by coastal urban development as well as invasive species, so those remaining areas are very important.

In the report the authors also highlight the cultural significance of species within the rainforest patches. Approximately 34% of the rainforest plant species have some known food and / or fibre use by traditional owners in northern Australia indicating the high cultural importance of these patches to the Lama Lama people.

Rainforests on Cape York Peninsula comprise a broad diversity of plant communities, generally characterised by a closed canopy of trees and shrubs accompanied by vines and understorey herbs. We often just call them 'scrubs'. These areas vary from vine thickets and vineforests, where the canopy can be quite low (under 15m tall), seasonally semi-deciduous (meaning the leaves drop off) and often fragmented with mixed eucalypts, to well developed, evergreen

vineforests up to 3m or more high. How the canopy develops is generally affected by moisture, soil types, winds and exposure to the salt water. So near the coast, the canopy is often quite limited.

So, what do the Rainforests on Lama Lama Country look like?

Lama Lama rainforests are largely typical of those found elsewhere on southern Cape York Peninsula, particularly in the Cape Melville areas. Lama Lama rainforests are predominantly coastal in their distribution. They occur mainly on Lama Lama and Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Parks (CYPAL), Running Creek / Yaakarru and Lilyvale / Tuuwla Nature Refuges.

So, broadly speaking, Lama Lama Rainforest can be classified into three groups:

- 1 BEACH SCRUBS – Most of the rainforest in this area can be classified as vine thicket or vineforest, (for the technically minded "semi-deciduous microphyll to notophyll, occasionally mesophyll vine thicket or vineforest") and occur on stabilised sand dunes running roughly parallel to the coast. Typical examples of these are found on the coastal dunes near to and south of the mouth of Running Creek all the way to Marina Plains.



Beach Scrub – on north – south ridge (Marina Plain).

2 GALLERY SCRUBS – These occur away from the coast along water courses, or adjacent to permanent lagoons. Typical examples of these are found at Scrubby Creek, Dinnerhole Lagoon and Bull Swamp.



Gallery Scrub, Running Creek Nature Refuge.



Gallery Scrub along watercourse adjacent to Scrubby Lagoon.

3 CIRCULAR SCRUBS – These are isolated patches of rainforest (often roughly circular in shape) that occur in sandy country surrounded by eucalypt woodland. They are probably associated with freshwater and can appear as depressions when viewed from above. A typical example of this is the so-called 'Circle Scrub' to the north of Scrubby Lagoon.



Circular Scrub near Scrubby Lagoon.

The rainforests surveyed to date on Lama Lama Country are in good overall condition, at least 170 species of plants were recorded with most stands having between 40 and 80 species present. The Lama Lama Ranger program with the help of Keith and Paul are addressing the key threats – such as weeds (especially lantana), feral animals (mainly pigs) and inappropriate fire regimes and how they may impact on the quality of the rainforests.

Conservation and Land Management Training



The training included the Safe Operations of QUAD Bikes.

Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management training continued in April this year at the Community Building with Northern Skills Alliance.

This training has seen three more employees complete their Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management. Congratulations to Brandon Liddy, Mikayla Down and Lindsay Bassani. Well done.

We will work with Northern Skills Alliance again in 2015, to offer more Certificate III Training. We will also be updating our First Aid training, undertaking Safe Food Handling training and White Card Construction through STAR Consultancy. We will receive more compliance training with GBRMPA.



Junior Rangers

Junior Rangers break-up

The Lama Lama Junior Rangers program came to a close last year with an end of year break-up party that was held at Coen's Dawns Garden across from the Coen Corner Café who catered for the event. The Junior Rangers had a busy year with many activities being conducted during the school holidays so as to cater for the school students coming back from boarding school.

The participants played games, watched a movie and even got presents from Santa. This year the Junior Ranger Program wore their new shirts with style. A great new design with the JR slogan –

*"Our Elders showed us the importance of looking after our land and sea country"
"Our Junior Rangers will continue our lore and ways on Lama Lama Country"*

2014 was a great year for the Junior Ranger program, it is fast becoming one of our favourite activities because of the enthusiasm and enjoyment all the kids bring to learning and enjoying culture and country!

We also get great support from the entire Ranger team, Board of Directors and our funders! A big thank you to GBRMPA and Working on Country who have helped foster the program each year as part of our funding agreements.

And special thanks goes out to all the parents and staff who act as minders and support the kids to get involved! And the hard work of the Alison Liddy (Co-ordinator), Traceylee Forester (TUMRA Co-ordinator), Mikayla Down (Engagement Officer) and Elaine Liddy (Cultural Officer) and Seppi Bassani (Director) who play a key role in organising and facilitating Junior Ranger activities.



Our new t-shirts look fantastic. These photos were taken during beach clean ups.



Young Leaders Pathways Trip

by Mikayla Down, Alison Liddy and Traceylee Forester

TUMRA committee member and YAC Director, Seppi Bassani, asked the TUMRA Committee and GBRMPA to consider funding a trip for Lama Lama Youth to visit different organisations to learn more about job opportunities in the Marine Environment. Great Idea!

In December 2014, this request became a reality. Eleven Lama Lama Youth aged between 18 and 25 and five minders, plus a small contingent of Lama Lama Junior Rangers and their minders, travelled to Cairns, to meet up with GBRMPA Senior Project Officer – Andrew Denzin and the trip kicked off.

The group visited with various agencies, businesses and organisations in the marine environment in both Cairns and Townsville. Traceylee reports the main idea behind the trip was to give the Lama Lama youth an opportunity to meet and speak to people who were involved with environmental work, outside of being a Ranger. "We wanted to highlight that Ranger work, although very important and worthwhile, wasn't the only environmental work available to people, looking to protect and look after their land and sea country".

Mikayla, one of our Young Leaders reported "we were involved in a field-trip that would hopefully open our eyes to the many opportunities available to us in the Land and Sea Management and Tourism industries. As Rangers, we have a lot of skills and experiences to offer and this trip was aimed to show young people future opportunities".

The trip started and ended in Cairns, with a few days spent in Townsville, and ran over a whole week.

The group visited places like the Cairns Marine Aquarium, Hartley's Crocodile Farm, and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority office. Alison reported that the Junior Rangers enjoyed seeing the different fishes and







other marine forms such as corals, stingrays and sharks. And also enjoyed the talk with GBRMPA staff about what they could be when they grew up! There were heaps of ideas to share.

From there, the crew also went to visit the Cairns Marine Park office and got to meet members of the Queensland Water Police and board the Queensland Water Police vessel which was a highlight for most of the crew. The Junior Ranger kids loved it!! A visit to Tjapukai Aboriginal Tourist Park was heaps of fun and a walk with Djunbunji Aboriginal Rangers in Yarrabah was also included. It was great to meet other Rangers working on country.

In Townsville we went to visit Reef HQ. The Junior Rangers were excited to see one of the oldest fish in Queensland. Our Young Leaders also presented to some of the staff of GBRMPA Townsville who were yet to know about our TUMRA and the compliance activities we undertake on country. It was a great achievement as many of the young leaders got to show off their talents and share stories of their experiences and hear stories from the GBRMPA Staff in return.

The highlight for all involved was our Junior Rangers joining in activities alongside our Young Leaders. It was a very worthwhile activity for all involved. Our young leaders really enjoyed being able to teach the kids a few things, and experience the trip together. Feedback from the kids who participated in the trip was very positive and they would love doing it again and having other Junior Rangers who weren't there join in.

We would like to especially thank our hosts for the week: Cairns Marine Aquarium, Old Marine Parks, Djunbunji Land and Sea Rangers, Tjapukai, Hartley Creek Croc Farm, GBRMPA in both Cairns and Townsville and Australian Maritime Safety Authority. Special thanks to Kuyyam Aboriginal Hostel and Iris Clay Hostel for looking after us for the week.

The Junior Ranger would like to say thank you to the Sponsor of the trip and also the minders who attended, Elaine Liddy, Alison Liddy (JR Co-ordinator), Traceylee Forester (TUMRA Co-ordinator), Seppi Bassani (YAC Director) and Jared McIvor who also attended as a participant.

Our Young Leaders would also like to thank the various agencies for hosting them. "We appreciate your time and knowledge to better our understanding of what's out there for us if we so choose a future in these areas".

Finally, we would like to thank the funders and supporters – GBRMPA, ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program, Working on Country and Australian Maritime Safety Authority. This was a very successful program and hopefully we will be able to conduct similar programs in the future. Well done everyone.



Lama Lama TUMRA

Lama Lama TUMRA Hunting Policy Update

by Traceylee Forester

The TUMRA Steering Committee has been working hard on finalising the draft Hunting Policy and we just wanted to let you know about some of the important protocols that Authorised Hunters and family members should be aware of.

Lama Lama Men need to apply to become authorised hunters. Men need to be 18 or older and the authority is valid for one year.

Once you are an authorised hunter, if you wish to go hunting, you will need to fill out a hunting permit form and be issued with the permit before you go out onto the water. Every time.

When out on Princess Charlotte Bay, you will need to carry your authorised hunter's card, the hunting permit and the TUMRA Hunting Kit, which includes the hunting flag that needs to be displayed on the boat.

Hunters need to be aware of the TUMRA Hunting Policy. This policy sets out the guidelines and following are some of the basic procedures that hunters need to know: –

- Have a valid permit and authority for each hunting trip
- No live animals are to be taken from Port Stewart, Marina Plains or Princess Charlotte Bay
- Adhering to the marine resources restrictions.
- Adhering to the Social Media guidelines.
- Compliance Procedures for Breaches to the TUMRA policy.
- Fill out all relevant paperwork – monitoring records, hunting information
- Ensure that hunters operate under the Maritime Safety Obligations.

It is important for all Lama Lama Hunters to become familiar with the TUMRA hunting policy. In the next issue of the newsletter, we will provide more detail of the policy and also follow up on the compliance procedures relating to breaches.

Paintings at Marpa

by Elaine Liddy

In the 1980's our elders past and present with the younger generation visited Ronganhu. They showed and told us about the rock paintings. Over the year's government departments e.g. GBRMPA, QPWS, and Researchers and we, the Rangers, have been monitoring these sites.

In 2012, we visited Ronganhu as part of our patrols, to monitor what's on the island and to collect baseline data e.g. weeds, plants, animals, rock painting etc.

In 2013 during another visit to the islands and while, Keith and Gavin were collecting data on Olilu, myself and two of our Junior Rangers and one younger went looking around the island. I came across some cliff lines, when I had a closer look I found some new rock paintings and some waypoints.

We were able to obtain a report from 1982 that talked about the paintings at that time and through our own monitoring, it's been revealed that some of the cliff side where the paintings are situated are degrading and we are losing some of the artwork on the cliff wall.

Part of our job this year will be to collect as much data as possible and take lots of pictures in case we lose those pieces to the changing environment.

We are planning a trip with Queensland University in August 2015.





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AUSTRALIAN SAWFISH

Common name: Freshwater Sawfish

Scientific name: *Pristis microdon*

DESCRIPTION: The freshwater sawfish is large and has a thick body. It is a yellowish colour dorsally (on top) and a dirty cream colour ventrally (on the bottom). Its rostrum is narrow towards the tip whereas other species have a wider tip. This is characterised by 18-22 teeth extending onto the base of the saw (rostrum). It has a rough skin. Its first dorsal fin is in front of the pelvic fin origin. Its maximum reported size is 700cm (7m) and is commonly caught in rivers up to 250cm (2.5m) deep. They eat mostly prawns and fish.

DISTRIBUTION: The freshwater sawfish inhabits rivers of Princess Charlotte Bay on the east coast and all other major rivers of the Gulf of Carpentaria. It has extremely low abundances on the east coast. It inhabits fresh and estuarine waters as juveniles and marine waters as adults. Adults then come inshore during monsoonal wet season to pup.

HABITAT: Freshwater sawfish prefer muddy bottom of freshwater areas and upper reaches of estuaries. It has been reported to be primarily a marine/estuarine species, that spends its first 3-4 years in freshwater. They move into marine waters after the wet season, and during the wet season they enter estuarine or more freshwaters to breed. They usually occur in water greater than 1m deep but may move into shallow water to feed.

BREEDING HABITS: Freshwater sawfish are viviparous (give birth to live babies) and can have between 1-12 pups. In Queensland pupping occurs at the beginning of the wet season. This is a long-lived species and sexual maturity is reached in about the seventh year. Its life span is then approximately 40 years.

THREATS: The past and current threats to Australian Freshwater Sawfish include:

- Recreational line fisheries and bait collection using small mesh cast nets
- Indigenous net and harpoon fishing
- Illegal gill net and line fishing
- Illegal foreign fishing where they are used for their meat and fins
- Their rostrum is kept as a trophy

WHY IS IT ENDANGERED?

The freshwater sawfish is endangered because of its extreme and continued vulnerability to fisheries (evidenced by serious declines in virtually all known populations), compounded by habitat loss and degradation over most of its range.

Sawfish are accidentally captured as by-catch. In every state in Australia where they are found, it is illegal to take them.

It is listed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List and vulnerable under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999.

Australian Freshwater Sawfish distribution courtesy of www.environment.gov.au

