



E-news – August 2008

North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance

Programs and Projects

Indigenous Water Policy Group

International Water Experts Forum

On August 7-8, 2008 a group of Indigenous representatives from Canada, USA, Guatemala, the Andes and many parts of Australia met in Gulkula, Australia at the site of the Garma Festival in north east Arnhem Land to exchange perspectives on Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and interests in water. This expert exchange was convened by the United Nations University Traditional Knowledge Initiative (UNU TKI) in collaboration with NAILSMA and the welcome and support of the Yothu Yindi Foundation and the Gumatj people of north east Arnhem Land.



The concept for this meeting arose from the discussions of the Indigenous Water Policy Group (IWPG), a regular group convened through NAILSMA, and the UNU TKI. The IWPG identified that access to international experience and perspectives on Indigenous water knowledge and interests would broaden the frame of reference for the group in such a way that would enhance its capacity to identify and advocate Indigenous interests in water, as well as benefiting participants from across Australia and around the world.

Several of the case studies presented during the forum will be compiled as a single publication that will be available for the 2009 World Water Forum and the Eighth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In addition to this, a Declaration is being prepared to also be presented at the World Water Forum.

This meeting was not only a great opportunity to exchange international perspectives but also served as a platform for northern and southern Australians to come together to discuss a common way forward on what is one of the great challenges of this time – water. During the north Australian panel session, the IWPG had the opportunity to premiere its first proposed water policy statement. Australian participants agreed to continue this regional collaboration. A meeting is being planned for later in the year in southern Australia to discuss a national approach to Indigenous water policy on interests and issues and toward Indigenous integrated water planning and management strategies for Australia.

The 7th Indigenous Water Policy Group Meeting

The IWPG met for the 7th time in Darwin on the 1st of July. This meeting quickly followed the 6th meeting to further focus and develop the IWPG policy position on water allocation. The IWPG also focussed on preparations for the event mentioned above, '*An International Indigenous Expert Exchange on Issues and Opportunities arising from Emerging Trends in Mainstream Water Management*'.

For more information about the Indigenous Water Policy Group, please contact Lorrae McArthur (water@cdu.edu.au).

Indigenous Community Water Facilitator Network

Update on the Water Network

Over the last two months Hugh Wallace Smith has introduced himself to a number of Land Councils and partner organisations by attending regional Catchment group meetings. These visits & presentations included the Aboriginal Reference Group for the Daly Katherine region, the Mitchell River Watershed Management Group (at Almaden), the FitzCAM (Fitzroy Catchment Action Mgt Group) at Fitzroy Crossing and an informal meeting with the Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgab Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation and associated Ord River catchment representatives in Kununurra.

The sub-contracts, regional work plans and budgets for regional Facilitators have been prepared and distributed to relevant Land Council organisations and partners for comments and endorsement. The ICWFN will soon have this community based network of six facilitators advancing Indigenous engagement in research and management of tropical rivers, water use and conservation across northern Australia. This will act as a catalyst to ensure that Indigenous interests are articulated, encouraged and incorporated into water policy decisions, management plans and water allocations.

Facilitators will be placed within the Land Council organisations & partners of the Ord and Fitzroy River catchments in Western Australia, Daly River Catchment in the Northern Territory and Gregory, Wenlock and Mitchell River catchments in north Queensland.

For more information about the Indigenous Community Water Facilitator Network, please contact Hugh Wallace Smith (water@cdu.edu.au).

Kantri Laif

Issue 4 out now

The latest issue of the NAILSMA bi-annual newsletter *Kantri Laif* has just been released. This issue features great stories from all over northern Australia including li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers, Yugul Mangi Rangers and the Sea Country Rangers at Dhimurru.

There are also reports on learning how to develop a business based on things from the bush and on a burning for biodiversity project, and lots of other great news.

To receive a hardcopy of this publication, please email kantrilaif@cdu.edu.au or telephone Samara Erlandson on (08) 8946 6882. You can view stories and download a copy of Kantri Laif from the NAILSMA website www.nailsma.org.au

Dugong and Marine Turtle Project

Banksia Award

NAILSMA was awarded top prize in the Indigenous category at the Banksia Awards ceremony in Melbourne in July. The award was presented by the Environment Minister Peter Garrett to NAILSMA Chief Executive Officer Joe Morrison for the Alliance's Dugong and Marine Turtle Project. Mr Garret recognised the Indigenous people driving the project as the 'front-line' managers of the north Australian coast where dugong and turtle remain abundant.

To read the full story of this award download the media release:
<http://www.nailsma.org.au/news/banksia590760.html>

For more information about the award and the DMTP project, please contact Joshua Kitchens (marine@cdu.edu.au).

Indigenous Ecological Knowledge

Funding Grants Available

The IEK grants "Talking Culture on Country" Web Page is now available at <http://www.nailsma.org.au/projects/iek.html>

Please see this page for background information and application forms.

A Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) to review and recommend grant applications has been formed and met on 21 July 2008. Meeting dates are detailed on the IEK web page. Next submission dates are September 15 and October 20 2008. Grants under \$20,000 can be determined as they are received but larger grants up to \$100,000 must be determined by formal TAP meetings and then sent to Natural Resource Management Board NT for final approval. This program services people living in the Northern Land Council, Tiwi Land Council and Anindilyakwa Land Council areas. Applications and enquiries welcome!

There is a parallel grants program operating from the Central Land Council called "Handing Down Knowledge". This program services people living in the Central Land Council areas. The Project officer to contact is Nikki Brannigan phone 08-89505005, email nikki.brannigan@clc.org.au

For more information about the 'Talking Culture on Country' Intergenerational Transfer of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge project, please contact David Wise. phone 08-89467674 fax 08-89467677 (David.Wise@cdu.edu.au) see website at <http://www.nailsma.org.au/projects/iek.html>

Business Enterprise

Aboriginal Bush Traders at the Mindil Beach Markets



The Aboriginal Bush Traders are still in full swing at the Mindil Beach Markets, with a different Aboriginal business selling their products each week, including Larrakia Nation Arts, Beach Hibiscus Florist and Gifts, Kakadu Secrets, Wagiman Bush Medicine Products and Merrepen Arts.

Darwin Regional CDEP Incorporated (a local charitable organisation) and other supporting organisations have sponsored the creation of Aboriginal Bush Traders to promote the products and training opportunities of local Aboriginal businesses and entrepreneurs.

Aboriginal Bush Traders has organised sponsorship of the cost of a permanent stall space on Thursday nights and the purchase of some stall equipment. A range of products have been approved by the Mindil Association for sale at the stall, mostly Arts and Craft items and Body Products.

The initiative gives Aboriginal businesses or individuals the opportunity to have a stall at Mindil in a good spot without having to commit every single week.

So far, there have been a number of Aboriginal business and products that have used the stall and they have been very happy with their sales and the feedback from the public on their products.

We can help you with setting up and can provide tables, lighting and chairs but you will need to be there on the night to sell your own products and provide your own money box etc,

It is possible to view the calendar for the market bookings on www.ironbark.org.au and click on "Aboriginal Bush Traders" link to view the calendar.

For more information please e-mail bushtraders@ironbark.org.au or contact:-
Economic Development Officer
Darwin Regional CDEP Incorporated
GPO Box 2299 Palmerston NT 0831
Telephone:- (08) 8935 1200
Fax:- (08) 89351222

Making Essential Oils from Bush Medicine Plants

Next month there will be an Oil Distillation Workshop for a number of Indigenous enterprise groups who have been using bush medicine plants to produce oils and make a range of body products. The Workshop will be an opportunity for groups to share their knowledge and interests in bush medicine and product development. They will also receive practical training and advice in the production of essential oils from their plant materials. If you are interested in the workshop, please contact us on the details below.

For more information about Enterprise Development, please contact Honorlea Massarella and Melissa Bentivoglio (enterprise@cdu.edu.au)

General News

New staff

TRaCK and Carbon Officer

Christine Michael has started work at NAILSMA as the 'Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK) & Carbon Officer'.

Christine will be supporting the coordination of research under Theme 6 (Sustainable Enterprises) of the TRaCK research hub. This Theme is investigating opportunities for sustainable enterprises, based around river resources and will include a number of case studies focused on the issues and impediments for sustainable water-based developments that exist for Indigenous communities.

Christine will also be supporting NAILSMA's Carbon Abatement Project which is pursuing opportunities for Indigenous people to participate in the emerging carbon economy through fire management activities which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Before coming to NAILSMA, Christine worked as a Fire Project Coordinator at the Kimberley Land Council's Land & Sea Management Unit.

For more information about the NAILSMA TRaCK and Carbon projects, please contact Christine Michael (Christine.Michael@cdu.edu.au)

Recent Events

Coast to Coast Conference

Joe Morrison, CEO NAILSMA, presented at this year's Coast to Coast Conference that was held in Darwin at the Darwin Convention Centre 18-22 August 2008. This conference focused on Collaboration: Crossing Boundaries.

In his presentation, Joe shared his thoughts and aspirations for the north, the current issues, opportunities and the need for a fresh approach through new and essential partnerships. You can download a copy of his presentation from the NAILSMA web site www.nailsma.org.au.

Upcoming Events

KALACC Festival 2008 Gaadmungungardi

This year the Kimberley Land Council and the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre will be holding their annual general meetings at this year's KALACC festival. Every few years KALACC hosts a major regional festival attracting around 3000 people over five days. The festival provides opportunity for public forums on political, social and cultural issues affecting Aboriginal people, as well as opportunities for youth participation in day-time workshops and performance.

This year the KALACC festival is being held in Arnbardah Community (Old Mt Barnett Station) which is located about 310 km east of Derby on the Gibb River road in the Kimberleys of north Western Australia.

Law and culture, land and language still standing strong. For more information, visit the festival website: <http://www.kalacc.org.au/festivals.htm>.

Recent publications:

- NAILSMA (2008) *Kantri Laif*. Issue 4. (Ed) Samara Erlandson. NAILSMA, Darwin August 2008.
- Jann Crase (2008) Indigenous management of marine turtle and dugong: legal and policy opportunities and impediments. NAILSMA, Darwin July 2008.
- Rachel Armstrong (2008) An Overview of Indigenous Rights in Water Resource Management. NAILSMA and Lingiari Foundation Inc., Darwin June 2008.

Recent media:

- Joe Morrison (2008) Wild Australia Program Study. ABC AM, Darwin, 28 August 2008.
- Joe Morrison, Donna Green and Tom Calma (2008) Climate change and Indigenous Knowledge. ABC Radio National Late Night Live, 11 August 2008.
- IWPG (2008) International Experts Water Forum meeting summary. NAILSMA, Gulkula 7-8 August 2008.
- NAILSMA (2008) Banksia Award for Indigenous Land and Sea Managers. NAILSMA Media Release 19 July 2008.
- Joe Morrison (2008) DMTP winning the Banksia Award. ABC NT Darwin, 17 July 2008.
- Savanna Links (2008) NAILSMA Indigenous water and climate policy. Issue 35 Jan-July 2008.

Recent meetings, seminars and conferences:

- Joe Morrison (2008) Australia's tropical coastal marine biodiversity: Opportunities for Indigenous partnerships in the management of sea country. Coast to Coast Conference. Darwin 22 August 2008.
- Joe Morrison (2008) The emerging north: Indigenous aspirations and the dominant paradigm. AIATSIS Seminar Series, Darwin 18 August 2008.
- Desmond Hill (2008) NAILSMA – IWPG - Indigenous Access to Water Policy Development. NRM and Primary Industries Ministerial Standing Committee-Indigenous Working Group. Kununurra 14 August 2008.
- IWPG (2008) An International Indigenous Expert Exchange on Issues and Opportunities arising from Emerging Trends in Mainstream Water Management. NAILSMA & UNU TKI Gulkula, north east Arnhem Land 7-8 August 2008.
- Joe Ross (2008) NAILSMA-IWPG. CSIRO Round Table 1: Science and Indigenous Futures. Broome 25 July 2008.
- IWPG (2008) 7th Indigenous Water Policy Group Meeting. NAILSMA Darwin 1 July 2008.

Recent grants and awards:

- NAILSMA Dugong and Marine Turtle Project (2008) Banksia Award: Indigenous category. 18 July 2008.

For more information on NAILSMA and its programs, visit our website: www.nailsma.org.au