



Balkanu



# North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance

*Looking after Our Country...Our Way.*

## News Bulletin

June 2010

## Indigenous Community Water Facilitator Network



### Meet two new members of the Indigenous Community Water Facilitator Team



**Jeremy Wilson** joined the team in the Gulf, working with Tonya Murray at the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (CLCAC).

Prior to joining CLCAC, Jeremy was employed by the Century Environment Committee for 5 years through the Gulf Communities Agreement at Century Mine as an Environment Liaison Officer. His role included overseeing the environmental standards and responsibilities of MMG Mining and any dealing with the concerns of community and Native Title holders in relation to all Century mining and port site operations. He answered to Community and Native Title Groups. Prior to that Jeremy worked with in the Gulf Communities as a carpenter and Joiner, building new homes and renovations.

Jeremy is also working with the Gangalidda Native Title Group in planning for an Indigenous Protected Area along the Gangalidda coast. Jeremy also works with the Saltwater People Network and supports the three CLCAC rangers groups with using I-Tracker, the Carpentaria Ghost Nets Program and various other smaller projects being delivered through the Carpentaria Land Council.

**Dean Matthews** has taken up a **Water Facilitator position in the West Kimberley**. He has a background in the Water Information field. After completing a Traineeship and joining the Water Information Branch of the WA Dept of Water (DoW), he gained a lot of valuable experience.

*"My job involved visiting remote Kimberley River gauging stations to downloading annual river and rainfall data collected during the wet season, taking River Flow measurements along the Fitzroy River, groundwater monitoring in Broome and Ord Valley and assisting senior hydro geologists with the Fitzroy River groundwater/surface water interaction project creating a bore data base for the lower Fitzroy River.*

*"I am excited to join both NAILSMA and the Kimberley Land Council and look forward to working with and learning from the Indigenous communities of the West Kimberley. I think I have a lot to offer the Indigenous community, and would like to pass on the knowledge that I have been able to gain while working for the WA Government.*

*"I believe that we Aboriginal People have an inherent right to Land and Water which cannot be separated in the recognition of our Native Title Rights."*

## ***What has been happening in the Regions lately?***

**Water Facilitators** took part in the launch of the Indigenous Water Policy Statement in Darwin in March, working behind the scenes to help deliver this successful event. They also presented updates of their projects to the 11th meeting of the Indigenous Water Policy Group. The Water Policy Statement, the Mary River Statement, and the outcomes of the North Australian Taskforce Report, are now part of the water story they are spreading across north Australia as the foundation for Indigenous involvement in water planning.

### **Sonia Leonard (Water Facilitator – Kimberley region, WA)**

Sonia, now located at Kimberley Land Council in Broome, is maintaining East Kimberley project activities, but taking on a Kimberley wide focus, including will support Dean Matthews in the west Kimberley who has just taken up the position this month. Sonia and Annette Kogolo also participated at the Kimberley Ranger Forum. Sonia and David Newry participated in Climate Change Forum (Traditional Weather Knowledge) in Darwin. A work plan is being developed for the West Kimberley project to incorporate a Community Water Planning (potable water quality) project to work with 20 communities during the next year.

### **Annette Kogolo (Cultural Advisor for Water Facilitators - Kimberley region, WA)**

Annette facilitated the TRaCK 'River Changes' stories and presented at the Commonwealth Environmental Research Facilities conference at Canberra's Old Parliament House. She also had a Kimberley Aboriginal Reference Group (KARG) meeting with representatives from peak Kimberley organisations about Natural Resource Management issues. Annette has restructured her position to a cultural advisor role to support the Kimberley Water Facilitators in interpreting language, presentations, research and project work associated with Higher Education Recognition of Traditional Knowledge Holders (HERTKH).



### **Peter Pender (Water Facilitator - Daly region, NT)**

An internal Northern Land Council (NLC) Water Policy Team has been set up to progress regional strategies and planning. Peter has been involved in Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group (DRARG) meetings, providing updates, guidance and planning workshops. Peter met and liaised with NT Government (NREATAS) Water Planning regional coordinators, and coordinated Ooloo Aquifer and DRARG representatives at a Katherine meeting for Water Allocation Plans. He has also facilitated Mataranka Traditional Owners' meeting, introducing the NAILSMA Indigenous Water Program, Water Allocation Planning and a research proposal by CSIRO and TRaCK.

### **Tonya Murray (Water Facilitator- Gregory catchment/Gulf region, Qld) and Jeremy Wilson - Project Support Officer**

Tonya and Jeremy have had limited community access due to late wet season flooding. Jeremy is liaising and seeking reports from the local mining company in the region. The Gregory River Canoe Race weekend was an opportunity to engage relevant stakeholders. Both Tonya and Jeremy interviewed a number of people with series of six questions. They followed this up by speaking to Traditional Owners family groups around the region. They are currently updating office coordination and planning to visit other communities when accessible.

### **Waubin Richard Aken (Water Facilitator - Wenlock region, Qld)**

Waubin has visited Central Cape York and had workshops with Coen Community and Ranger Group, where he noted a high level of interest in water quality management, including drinking and monitoring. He wants to facilitate training opportunities (or equivalent) to Coen for Community Water Planning. Waubin is currently based in Weipa and has been engaging community participants in planning discussions and held meetings with relevant stakeholders and associated business organisations.

***Photo above: L-R Peter Pender, Annette Kogolo, Waubin Richard Aken, Tonya Murray, Sonia Leonard, (Jeremy Wilson and Dean Matthews appear on previous page).***