



**E-news – June 2008**

## **North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance**

### **Programs and Projects**

#### ***Bush Heritage Australia***

Bush Heritage Australia (BHA) is a non-profit, non-government organisation which aims to protect the natural environment through the acquisition and management of land or water of high conservation value or environmental significance. It also builds partnerships with other organisations and individuals to support conservation management of land that is managed by others.



NAILSMA and BHA have entered into an agreement where BHA's newly created position of Indigenous Partnerships Officer for Northern Australia (Lyndall McLean) is hosted by NAILSMA in the Darwin Office.

Lyndall's main roles are to work with NAILSMA and Indigenous people to support the purchase of ecologically and culturally significant country, to support conservation management on land already owned and managed by Indigenous people; and to support the participation of Indigenous people in the management of Bush Heritage reserves. Lyndall's initial focus is on regions and projects where Bush Heritage already works (Cape York and North West Queensland, Kimberley and West Arnhem), but her role is also to work on development of new project areas in collaboration with NAILSMA staff.

More information about Bush Heritage Australia can be found at [www.bushheritage.org.au](http://www.bushheritage.org.au)

*For more information about this project, please contact Lyndall McLean, Indigenous Partnerships Officer ([Lyndall.Mclean@cdu.edu.au](mailto:Lyndall.Mclean@cdu.edu.au) or [lmclean@bushheritage.org.au](mailto:lmclean@bushheritage.org.au))*

#### ***Indigenous Ecological Knowledge***

The NAILSMA 'Talking Culture on Country' program has started. This program will distribute grants to groups and organisations which can run projects which support the exchange of Indigenous knowledge that relates to caring for country. The program is to help Elders pass this knowledge onto younger people.

The NAILSMA project is for the Top End region in the areas covered by the Northern Land Council, Tiwi Land Council and Anindilyakwa Land Council. Grant availability will be publicised widely following the first meeting of the IEK Technical Assessment Panel in late July. The IEK Panel makes decisions on grant applications under \$20,000 and makes recommendations to the Natural Resource Management Board (NT) for grant applications over \$20,000.

The first projects will start this year with ongoing reviewing of applications and grants being given out until the end 2009. Projects must be finished including all the reporting before the end of 2009.

*For more information about the 'Talking Culture on Country' Intergenerational Transfer of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge project, please contact David Wise, the Program Officer. phone 08-89467674 fax 08-89467677 ([David.Wise@cdu.edu.au](mailto:David.Wise@cdu.edu.au))*

## ***Business Enterprise***

### **Aboriginal Bush Traders at the Mindil Beach Markets**



The Aboriginal Bush Traders are 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](http://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](mailto: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

### **Other Initiatives**

The Enterprise Development Project continues to provide practical support to a number of Aboriginal groups in their Enterprise Projects, many of which have now developed professional packaging and are selling their products on a regular basis.

The project is also documenting the processes and issues associated with developing natural resource based enterprises on Aboriginal communities, and developing a number of governance tools to assist with this.

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

## ***Indigenous engagement in water resource management***

### **Katherine Water Allocation Plan**

The Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer in Katherine has been released for public comment. This is the first water allocation plan in the Top End of the territory. The draft document is open to comment until the end of **July 2008**. To get a copy of the plan go to [www.nt.gov.au/kwac](http://www.nt.gov.au/kwac). The plan includes a feedback form at the end of the document.

You can download from the NAILSMA website ([http://www.nailsma.org.au/projects/water\\_policy.html](http://www.nailsma.org.au/projects/water_policy.html)) a publication on Indigenous water values and interests in the Katherine region which was commissioned by the Indigenous Water Policy Group (IWPG) in anticipation of water planning in the Katherine region.

### **The 6<sup>th</sup> Indigenous Water Policy Group Meeting**

The IWPG held its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in Kununurra on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of June. This meeting was supported by the Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation and the Department of Water, Western Australia.



This meeting was aimed at bringing together members of the IWPG with state, territory and federal water agencies to further develop relationships and Indigenous policy positions that direct meaningful integrated Indigenous engagement in water reform. Significant outcomes from the meeting included commitment and agreement on terms for engagement between water agencies, here in called the Policy Engagement Group (PEG) and the IWPG. The meeting was landmark in that the IWPG invited PEG to co chair proceedings in recognition of the new relationship.



Department of Water  
Government of Western Australia

Another significant outcome from the meeting was the IWPG consideration of its first policy position on water allocation.

### **IWPG presence at the ABC North Australia Forum**

Chairman of the IWPG, Joe Ross, presented at the ABC North Australian Forum 'Unlocking the Future' that was held at the newly opened Convention Centre in Darwin on the 24<sup>th</sup> June. The ABC held a free public forum that explored six major themes. Joe Ross presented in the Environment and Water theme on water and development in the north, prospects and pitfalls for the next generation.

To find out more about the forum and its themes go to the ABC website:

<http://www.abc.net.au/darwin/features/naf/>

### **New Coordinator for the Indigenous Community Water Facilitator Network**

Hugh Wallace Smith has commenced as the Coordinator for the Indigenous Community Water Facilitator Network (ICWFN) which is funded by the National Water Commission. The aims of the ICWFN are to establish a community based network of six facilitators to advance Indigenous engagement in research and management of tropical rivers, water use and conservation across northern Australia and to 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 in 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 Water Policy Group and the Indigenous Community Water Facilitator Network, please contact Lorrae McArthur and Hugh Wallace Smith ([water@cdu.edu.au](mailto:water@cdu.edu.au)).*

### ***Dugong and Marine Turtle Project***

#### **NAILSMA DMTP nominated for Banksia Award**

We are very pleased to announce that NAILSMA's Dugong and Marine Turtle Project is a finalist in the Banksia Environmental Foundation's **2008 Banksia Environment Awards—2008 Indigenous Award** Category.

We are honoured to be in the company of the other nominees in the Indigenous Award category; Giringun Aboriginal Corporation, QLD, and Richmond Shire Council, QLD.



The Banksia Awards are prestigious with the Prime Minister as their patron. The winners will be announced at an award ceremony in Melbourne on July 18.

A special thank you to all our project partners, participants, supporters and stakeholders who have contributed to the success of the project.

### **Here's your chance to show your support!**

The NAILSMA DMTP has also been selected as one of nine projects from this year's field of 45 award nominees to be considered for a People's Choice Award by the Banksia Foundation—and we need your help and your vote.

Please take a moment to visit the Banksia Environmental Foundation website to register your vote and show your support. To vote, visit: [http://www.banksiafdn.com/peopleschoice/2008\\_peoples\\_choice.php](http://www.banksiafdn.com/peopleschoice/2008_peoples_choice.php)

You might be interested to know that the NAILSMA Dugong and Marine Turtle Project;

- is the only Indigenous run Natural Resource Management (NRM) project to be nominated for a People's Choice Award,
- is the only NRM project coordinated north of the New South Wales boarder to be nominated for a People's Choice Award,
- is the only NRM project representing WA, NT, QLD and the Torres Strait to be nominated for a People's Choice Award,

### **Voting for the People's Choice Award closes 15th July 2008.**

Your vote will be greatly appreciated. Please pass on to your contacts and get them involved—every vote counts!

*To find out more about the NAILSMA Dugong and Marine Turtle Project, visit [http://www.nailsma.org.au/projects/dugong\\_turtle.html](http://www.nailsma.org.au/projects/dugong_turtle.html) or contact Joshua Kitchens ([marine@cdu.edu.au](mailto:marine@cdu.edu.au))*

### ***Kantri Laif***

#### **Watch this space!!**

Watch this space to find out the release date for the next edition of *Kantri Laif*. To view current and past editions of *Kantri Laif* visit the NAILSMA web site: [http://www.nailsma.org.au/publications/kantri\\_laif.html](http://www.nailsma.org.au/publications/kantri_laif.html).

*If you would like to receive a copy of the next edition, please contact the Kantri Laif editor, Samara Erlandson ([kantrilaif@cdu.edu.au](mailto:kantrilaif@cdu.edu.au)).*

## **General News**

### ***New staff***

NAILSMA welcomes Lyndall McLean, the Indigenous Partnerships Officer for Northern Australia. Lyndall is employed by Bush Heritage Australia and her position is hosted by NAILSMA in Darwin. NAILSMA also welcomes David Wise, Indigenous Ecological Knowledge Intergenerational Transfer Program Officer; Janely Seah, Finance Officer; Hugh Wallace Smith, Coordinator Indigenous Community Water Facilitator Network; and, last but not least, Jessica Lew Fatt, Personal Assistant and Team Administration Support Officer. NAILSMA also welcomes back Lisa Binge, part time Project Support Officer.

Check the NAILSMA homepage for any job postings, [www.nailsma.org.au](http://www.nailsma.org.au)



### **Events**

NAILSMA and the United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) will be co hosting the forum '**An International Indigenous Expert Exchange on Issues and Opportunities arising from Emerging Trends in Mainstream Water Management**'.

The concept for this exchange arose out of the expectation of the IWPG 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 the capacity of the group to identify and advocate around indigenous interests in water. It is hoped that the exchange will serve a similar purpose for all participants from Australia and around the world.

The meeting is being held on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> of August in Gulkula, North East Arnhem Land at the Garma Festival.

To keep up-to-date on this forum, visit the NAILSMA web page ([www.nailsma.org.au](http://www.nailsma.org.au)).

### **Recent publications:**

- David Cooper and Sue Jackson (March 2008) *Preliminary Study on Indigenous Water Values and Interests in the Katherine Region of the Northern..* NAILSMA & CSIRO, Darwin.
- Jon Altman assisted by Virginie Branchut (April 2008) *Fresh Water in the Maningrida Region's Hybrid Economy: Intercultural Contestation over Values and Property Rights.* NAILSMA & ANU, Canberra
- Melanie Durette (May 2008) *Indigenous legal rights to freshwater: Australia in the international context.* NAILSMA & ANU, Canberra.

### **Recent media:**

- NAILSMA (2008) NAILSMA back 2020 Climate Change outcomes. Media Release takes Indigenous positions to the 2020 Summit. Media Release 22nd April 2008
- The Koori Mail (2007) '*Food bowl*' bid blasted. 2 July. P 17. (in regard to ABC North Australian Forum)

### **Recent seminars and conferences:**

- Joe Ross (2008) Water Development in the North, prospects and pitfalls for the next generation. ABC North Australia Forum. Darwin 24 June 2008.

For more information on NAILSMA and its programs, visit our website: [www.nailsma.org.au](http://www.nailsma.org.au)