

Ranger Achievements 2017



Australian Government



TSRA
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Torres Strait Regional Authority
Land and Sea Management Unit



Introduction

The Torres Strait holds a unique place in the natural, cultural and social fabric of Australia. The region's spectacular diversity of natural and cultural values, enduring Ailan Kastom and complex jurisdictional and administrative arrangements provides equal measure of opportunity and challenge for the ongoing conservation, management and sustainable use of the region's natural resources.

The TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit (LSMU) is responsible for coordinating the delivery of the Environmental Management Programme under the TSRA Torres Strait Development Plan 2018-2022.

The Regional Goal for the Environmental Management Program is that our natural and cultural environment is 'protected, preserved, and enjoyed through sustainable management'.

The key outcomes under the Development Plan that our programme focuses on are:

- the sustainable use, protection and management of natural and cultural resources;
- community adaptation to climate change, including rising sea levels;
- increasing the uptake of renewable energy; and
- supporting sustainable horticulture in communities.

The LSMU is coordinating the delivery of a range of projects under the Environmental Management Programme and supporting strategies. All projects are delivered through partnership approach with Torres Strait Traditional Owners, communities, all levels of government, researchers and other partners.

LSMU projects include:

- Ranger Programme
- Indigenous Protected Areas
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Dugong and Turtle Management
- Marine Ecosystem Monitoring
- Invasive Species Management
- Biodiversity Planning and Management
- Sustainable Horticulture
- Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience
- Renewable Energy
- Environmental Education
- Future Funding and Investment Prospectus

“ We have inherited traditions of looking after our land and sea from our ancestors and we must teach our children to do the same. We must do more than talk about it; we must practice it. ”

Aven Noah TSRA Member for Mer

The Mura Badhulgau Rangers have been working on many different projects through 2016-2017.

Some of the projects include:

Weed management plan which has been developed with the Land and Sea Management Unit's, Land team and is part of the Island profiles in the biosecurity plan.

The Old Dumpsite/Community Clean-up project was identified in the Mura Badhulgau Working on Country Plan. Our aim and objectives for the project was to remove old domestic household waste and building materials from country to beautify the environment and reinstate its natural look.

Image: TSRA



Old Dumpsite Clean-Up



Image: TSRA

Transporting of old household goods to new local tip

Image: TSRA



Weeding Belly Ache Bush (BEFORE)



Image: TSRA

Weeding Belly Ache Bush (AFTER)

Mura Badhulgau Rangers



Image: Tristan Simpson



Mura Badhulgau Rangers participate in Coral Monitoring with Erubam Rangers



Ranger Stephen Foster – Coral Monitoring

Image: Tristan Simpson

Image: TSRA



Ranger Stephen Foster Spraying Singapore Daisy



Ranger Dick Williams and JCU Researcher on Dauar Island

Image: TSRA

Image: TSRA



Senior Ranger Frank Nona



Ranger Mohamet Ahmat hand pulling juvenile Belly Ache bush

Image: TSRA

MABUIAG

The Mabuygiw Rangers has had a very busy year by participating and hosting many projects.

The Rangers were proud to host the annual Youth Cultural Program and also focus on Pulu Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) project.

The annual Youth Cultural Program has been a very successful project over the years. This youth program is a community base program that runs during September school holidays. It's a community aspirations program for the kids aged between five years and eighteen years, focusing on our culture which has been passed down generation by generation and now passed onto our future generations.

The Mabuygiw Rangers have worked on Pulu in the recent months undertaking IPA activities. Mabuygiw Rangers have involved community members in IPA activities both in planning and on ground activities. Mabuia Rangers travelled to Pulu with Kod Chair to undertake cultural site assessments, TEK Recordings and planning for IPA activities in the coming year.



Image: TSRA

Pulu IPA Visit 1



Image: TSRA

Community meeting for Youth Program



Image: TSRA

Biodiversity survey 1



Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger Willie Babia - Tools Maintenance 1

Mabuygiw Rangers



Image: TSRA

TEK Training with Troy Mallie



Image: TSRA

Ranger Ted Whap – Weed spraying



Image: TSRA

Ranger Terrence Whap – Seagrass monitoring



Image: TSRA

Near Western Rangers January Sea Patrol



Image: Tristan Simpson

Ranger Mohamet and Ranger Willie on Patrol at Warul Kawa



Image: Tristan Simpson

Turtle hatchling on Warul Kawa

The Mua Lagalgau Rangers have hosted and participated in many projects over the last 12 months.

Some of the projects completed include Community Engagement, Cultural Gravesite, Fencing, Feral Pig Trapping, Sea Patrol and Weed Eradication.

Mua Lagalgau Rangers conduct sea patrols covering various tasks e.g. marine animal movement or behaviour and small island beach erosion. Sea Patrols are planned once in every 6 week work plan.

Sea Patrols are one of our priority tasks in our WOC plan. By conducting sea patrols it gives the community outside eyes and ears information of what the sea environment is doing. It also helps them with comparing the changes from “BE PO Time” to present.



Image: TSRA

Ranger Fred Wapau and Senior Ranger John Wigness undertaking monthly sea patrols



Image: TSRA

Mua Lagalgau Rangers erect fencing around remote gravesites



Image: TSRA

Mua Lagalgau Rangers take a well-deserved picture of an erected pig trap



Image: TSRA

Ranger Iona Manas undertaking foliar weed spraying of Brazilian joy weeds

Mua Lagalgau Rangers



Image: TSRA

Hawksbill Consultation community meeting at Kubin



Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger Jackson Ware checking for anything out of the ordinary during the monthly sea patrol



Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger John Wigness maintaining the pig traps



Image: TSRA

Mua Lagalgau Rangers maintain PPE gear after hard work of Leucaena eradication



Image: TSRA

Adult boar eating coconut bait in pig trap



Image: TSRA

Ranger Gayai Uiduldam interviewing Traditional Owner during Mua Land Meeting

BOIGU

Malu Kiai Rangers have undertaken a range of different projects and activities throughout the year. They have participated in the Warul Kawa projects, undertaken training and have completed 7 Sea patrols, conducting marine monitoring within the Boigu management area, surveying for ghost nets, reporting illegal fishing, monitoring hunters, all marine mammal monitoring and mangroves surveys. This is an ongoing activity, there are several other voyage patrols planned for the remainder of the year.



Image: Tristan Simpson

Senior Ranger Nelson Gibuma on patrol at Warul Kawa



Image: TSRA

Swamp patrol on Boigu



Image: Tristan Simpson

Mura Badhulgau Ranger Mohamet Ahmat and Malu Kiai Senior Ranger Nelson Gibuma conduct marine debris clean-up



Image: TSRA

Ranger Arthur Gibuma participating in Refresher training

Malu Kiai Rangers



Image: Tristan Simpson



LSMU Rangers assist on Warul Kawa project

Image: TSRA



Senior Ranger Nelson Gibuma conduct beach patrol on Boigu

Image: TSRA



LSMU Rangers participating in Turtle marine survey



Ranger Ishmael Gibuma and Senior Ranger Nelson Gibuma doing school talks to students of Malu Kiai Campus – Tagai College

Image: TSRA



Ranger Ishmael Gibuma educating students on TEK

Image: TSRA

DAUAN

The Simakal Rangers have participated and hosted many projects over the last year. One of the key projects Rangers have worked on include educating school kids. Rangers visit the local school once a fortnight to conduct various educational activities. Dauan Rangers conducted a school visit to year 1 - 6, conducting cultural education talks around Turtle and Dugong importance and practices. Rangers also talked about their importance in the community and looking after these species. Rangers have scheduled 4 - 6 visits each 6 weeks cycle, engaging with different year levels on various topics.



Image: TSRA

Simakal Rangers participating in school awareness programs



Image: TSRA

Matt Dun with Tagai School children - Dauan Campus



Image: TSRA

Turtle and Dugong sign at Dauan Community



Image: TSRA

Simakal and Malu Kiai Rangers participating in Refresher training

Simakal Rangers



Image: TSRA



Traditional Owner at IPA sign on Warul Kawa



Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger Tenny Elisala conducting turtle survey on Warul Kawa

Image: Tristan Simpson



Tagging Green turtle on Warul Kawa



Image: Belinda Norris

Collecting Marine Debris on Warul Kawa

Image: TSRA



Ranger Laurie Elisala checking equipment before field trip



Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger Tenny Elisala

SAIBAI

During the last year the Mura Buway Rangers have been involved in many different activities and projects. The Mura Buway Rangers were privileged to join the community in the opening of the new sea wall. Implementation of research support have been undertaken, Rangers have been actively participating in various projects in the east, central and western cluster. Rangers will have further opportunities in the future. Regular sea patrols have been undertaken in consultation with Traditional Owners (Mura Buai Prescribed Body Corporate).



Image: TSRA

Opening of the new Sea Wall on Saibai



Image: Matt Dunn

Ranger David and Ranger Stanton participating in Refresher training.



Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger Herbert Warusam



Image: Tristan Simpson

Flatback turtle on Warul Kawa

Mura Buway Rangers



Image: TSRA



Senior Ranger Herbert Warusam address the school



Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger Herbert Warusam recording stats of tagged turtle

Image: Tristan Simpson



Rangers conduct survey on Warul Kawa



Image: TSRA

Sign erected by Mura Buway Rangers

Image: TSRA



Senior Ranger Herbert Warusam on Swamp patrol



Image: Matt Dunn

Ranger Stanton Waia maintaining chainsaw

The Iamalgal Rangers have focused on many different projects and have been assisting the community in many activities during this last year. Rangers conduct ongoing 3 day monitoring survey on Sassie and Gebar of Hawksbill Turtle track count and GPS plotting success nests. Outcome of Hawksbill Turtle nests has impact by Goanna's and Pigs on Gebar Island. Weed infestation on Iama has been identified and mapped within Iamalgal Community.

Image: TSRA



Chemical mixing for spraying weeds around Iama vehicle wash bay

Image: Tristan Simpson



Gebar Traditional Owner Meeting on Feral Pigs

Image: Tristan Simpson



Hawksbill Turtle

Image: Tristan Simpson



Rangers participate in Hawksbill Turtle track survey on Gebar Island

Image: Tristan Simpson



Feral Pig on Gebar Island

Image: TSRA



Iamalgal Rangers Weed work meeting

Iamalgal Rangers



Image: TSRA



Seagrass monitoring at Mabuiag Point - Iama



Image: Tristan Simpson

Senior Ranger David Baragud on patrol at Gebar Island

Image: Tristan Simpson



Ranger Richard Kepa undertaking subtidal survey



Image: Belinda Norris

Senior Ranger David Baragud finishing engine inspection on LSRV7 Malu Urui

Image: TSRA



Rangers conducting survey on Gebar Island



Image: TSRA

Fly River water salinity testing

WARRABER

The Warraberalgal Rangers have worked hard on maintaining and preserving their Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) uninhabited islands over the last year.

Projects that were undertaken included removal of marine debris, Hawksbill track and nest count, Bird watch and Revegetation activities. The Rangers operated both Rangers vessels – Malu Urui and Kuki to complete these projects with the assistance of Iamalgal and Porumalgal Rangers. The IPA areas include; Bini, Bara, Guiya.

Image: TSRA



Revegetation activities on IPA Islands



Image: TSRA

Elliot Trapping on Ulu Island

Image: TSRA



Warraberalgal Rangers survey IPA areas



Image: TSRA

Ranger Young Billy undertaking revegetation on IPA islands

Image: Tristan Simpson



Ranger Aken Baragud conducting survey on Hawksbill turtle



Image: TSRA

Warraberalgal, Porumalgal and Iamalgal Rangers conduct Sea Patrol

Warraberalgal Rangers



Image: TSRA



Acting Senior Ranger Mark Pearson Planting watermelon with Gubau Class – Warraber Ngurpay Lag Tagai College

Image: TSRA



Landcare Facilitator George Saveka and Rangers assist community with Backyard garden

Image: TSRA



Ranger Aken and Ranger Young talk to school kids about marine debris



Ranger Aken, Ranger Young, Acting Senior Ranger Mark and Ranger Richard participate in Coral monitoring project on October 2016

Image: Tristian Simpson



Warraber community members that participated in the Community Clean-Up

Image: TSRA

PORUMA

Porumalgal Rangers have completed many projects throughout the last year. They have focused on their Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), the development and maintenance of food gardens which they have assisted the school in establishing, training and assisting Rangers in other communities. As a result of their hard work the community of Poruma had their Annual IPA Celebration thanking their Rangers for their successful work in their IPA areas.



Image: TSRA

Community March – IPA Celebrations



Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger Freddie David assist My Pathway and TSIRC in community clean-up



Image: TSRA

Rangers work on planter boxes



Image: TSRA

Completed planter boxes

Porumalgal Rangers



Image: TSRA



Ranger Des and Ranger Young assist with Community backyard garden on Warraber



Image: Belinda Norris

Ranger Des David conducting Hawksbill Turtle Nest and Count Survey on IPA islands

Image: Mark Geyle



Senior Ranger Freddie David and Ranger Young Billy setting motion camera on Sassie Island



Image: TSRA

Porumalgal Rangers assist Warraberalgal Rangers with their Community backyard garden project

Image: Tristan Simpson



Ranger Des with Green turtle during Warul Kawa IPA surveys



Image: TSRA

TEK recording with TO Stephen Faid on Yarpur Island

MASIG

During the last year the Masigal Rangers have been very productive – completing training, working on country and assisting other Ranger Groups.

Rangers have implemented a community fruit and vegetable garden at the airport where all community and pilots freely take fruit and vegetables. The rangers' plant in planter boxes and around the waiting shed. The community are free to take what is ripe.



Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger Francis Nai with Rockmelons that were planted in community garden



Image: TSRA

Ranger Loice Naawi and Ranger Edna Nai tend to the community garden



Image: TSRA

Masigalgal Rangers conduct tour with Masig School kids



Image: TSRA

Ranger Edna Nai collect plant specimen

Masigalgal Rangers



Image: TSRA



Rangers participate in Refresher training with Matt Dunn



Image: Matt Dunn

Masig Ranger operating chainsaw as part of refresher training

Image: TSRA



Ranger Edna Nai conducting Mimi Flora Survey on uninhabited islands in the Central Cluster



Image: TSRA

Rangers laying traps on Aureed

Image: Tristan Simpson



Masig Ranger Supervisor Kiwat Lui participating in Marine Turtle survey on Dauar



Image: TSRA

Acting Senior Ranger Mark Pearson, Ranger Loice Naawi and Acting Ranger Laura Pearson conducting Hawksbill survey on IPA uninhabited islands

The Ugaram Rangers have worked this past year to maintain their remote community, undertaking many activities such as working closely with the school, Cultural sites fences have been erected on 2 sites and cleaning is conducted on 5 sites as directed by the Traditional Owners. The Anglican Church yard is regularly cleaned and maintained on a regular basis and regular beach clean-ups have occurred and the community is well aware of the danger of marine debris and how important it is to pick up rubbish on our shorelines and dispose of them correctly via Tangaroa Blue projects.



Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger Noel Baker presenting to Ugaram School kids



Image: TSRA

Ranger Joseph Dorante work with School kids on school garden



Image: TSRA

Rangers erecting Fence



Image: TSRA

Fencing Project

Ugaram Rangers



Image: TSRA



My Pathway participant and Ugaram Rangers maintain Cultural sites

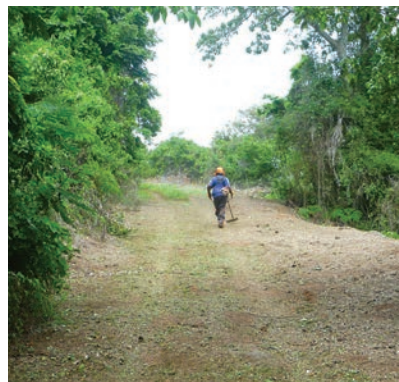


Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger Noel Baker maintaining bush overgrowths

Image: TSRA



Ugaram Rangers with Researchers



Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger Noel Baker participates in school discussions

Image: TSRA



Ranger Joseph Dorante participating Feral Cat survey on Nepean Islet



Image: TSRA

Ranger Joseph Dorante and My Pathway participants

During the past year the Erubam rangers did maintenance /cleaning on the Erub Cultural sites. They had days planned to clean all the cultural sites which they were successful in doing so in preparation of their cultural sites blessing. The Erubam Rangers also participated in other projects around the community from regular community discussions on Dugong and Turtle, Weed management and Sea Country management.



Image: TSRA

Ranger wrap Cultural Site Signs in preparation of blessing



Image: TSRA

Elder giving speech at blessing of Cultural site signs



Image: TSRA

Blessing of Cultural Site signs



Image: TSRA

Elder giving speech and blessing Cultural site sign



Image: Tristan Simpson



Erub Ranger Supervisor Boggo Gela completing form on Coral Monitoring trip



Image: Tristan Simpson

Senior Ranger Aaron Ketchell tagging Green turtle

Image: Belinda Norris



Ranger Kevin Mye digging trenches on Maizab for turtle hatchling survey. Photo courtesy of Belinda Norris



Image: Belinda Norris

Traditional Owner assist/participate in Maizab Turtle Hatchling and Turtle nesting surveys with Rangers

Image: Tristan Simpson



Erubam and Mura Badhulgau Rangers participate in Coral Monitoring survey



Image: Tristan Simpson

Erub Ranger Supervisor Boggo Gela and Ranger Stephen Foster monitoring corals off Mer Island

The Meriam Gesep A Gur Keparem Le Rangers have worked on many different projects through the year. They had focused on the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) system.

Traditional knowledge is collected, collated and shared appropriately according to community wishes utilising the TEK System. The Ranger have promoted the TEK System in community and within school and have delivered lessons on TEK. The Rangers have also met with elders to record stories and songs and develop TEK Resources as per Community and RNTBC directions.

Image: TSRA



Ranger wrap Cultural Site Signs in preparation of blessing

Image: TSRA



Rangers assisting Elders Ron Day and Alo Tapim set up a TEK account

Image: TSRA



Rangers interview Elder Segar Passi on TEK

Image: TSRA



Senior Ranger Aaron Bon teaches school children about birds on Mer after school

Meriam Gesep A Gur Keparem Le Rangers



Image: Tristan Simpson



Mer Ranger Supervisor Kiwat Lui addresses Mer School kids re Turtle Hatchling and Nesting survey



Image: Tristan Simpson

Ranger Appie Thaiday measuring Turtle during Dauar Marine Turtle survey

Image: Tristan Simpson



Ranger Wuni and Ranger Appie participate in Dauar Maine Turtle survey



Image: Tristan Simpson

Ranger Appie Thaiday conducting turtle nest count

Image: Tristan Simpson



Rangers taking GPS markings of Turtle nesting sites



Image: Tristan Simpson

Green Turtle laying eggs

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA (IPA)

Indigenous Protected Areas are voluntarily dedicated by Indigenous groups on Indigenous owned or managed land or sea country. They are recognised by the Australian Government as an important part of the National Reserve System, protecting the nation's biodiversity for the benefit of all Australians.

There are three Indigenous Protected Areas in Torres Strait: Pulu, Warraberalgal Porumalgal and Warul Kawa. Rangers work with Elders to manage these areas in accordance with the Plans of Management that have been developed.



Ranger Ishmael Gibuma, Senior Ranger Herbert Warusam and Traditional Owner Mr Pabai Pabaiat Warul Kawa



Ranger Young Billy undertaking survey on IPA islands



Traditional Owners' TEK meeting on Boigu Island



Image: TSRA

Flatback turtle hatchling on Warul Kawa



Image: TSRA

Ranger Edna Nai conduct Mimi Flora Survey



Image: TSRA

LSMU Staff, Rangers and Traditional Owners conduct IPA surveys on uninhabited islands

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA (IPA)

Warul Kawa Ugul Malu Kawal Surveys – Flatback Turtle Nesting and Hatchling & Foraging Ground Survey

The Sea Team conducted the annual Warul Kawa IPA Surveys – Flatback turtle nesting and hatchling & foraging ground surveys. The Annual surveys of nesting Flatback turtles have been occurring since 2012. Over the last two breeding seasons nesting and hatchling flatback surveys and foraging marine turtle surveys have been completed by the TSRA in collaboration with Traditional Owners. Survey outcomes indicate a healthy and stable flatback nesting population. Foraging ground surveys have been successful, however, more work needs to be completed to assess their health and status. During 2017. The TSRA LSMU and Rangers worked with Maluilgal RNTBC and Traditional Owners from the communities of Boigu, Mabuiag, Badu, Saibai and Dauan to update the plan of Management for Warul Kawa to incorporate the Islands of Awaial Kawa and Norwes Sandbank. The new name for this IPA is Ugul Malu Kawal Indigenous Protected Area.

Image: Tristan Simpson



Warul Kawa

Image: Tristan Simpson



Flatback hatchling on Warul Kawa

Image: Tristan Simpson



Senior Ranger Nelson Gibuma patrolling Warul Kawa



Ranger Mohamet Ahmat and Senior Ranger Nelson Gibuma conduct Tangaroa Blue at Warul Kawa

Image: Tristan Simpson



Green Turtle tagged at Warul Kawa

Image: Tristan Simpson



Ranger Mohamet at Warul Kawa

Image: Tristan Simpson



Central Islands Survey

During the year the Central Islands survey was conducted on the uninhabited islands in the Central Cluster of the Torres Strait. Some of the key objectives of the surveys were to provide information to RNTBC bodies and Traditional Owners on the key biodiversity values of 13 Central Islands (within Wakeyamalgal, Porumalgall and Masigalgall Native title determinations) to provide information to RNTBC bodies and Traditional Owners that will help them to make decisions on the best way to protect and manage these natural and cultural values.



Acting Senior Ranger Laura Pearson on Biodiversity survey on the uninhabited islands in the Central Cluster



Senior Ranger David Baragud along with Botanist David Fell learning language names and history of island from TO Stephen Faud



Common Noddy documented on uninhabited island survey in the Central Cluster



Ranger Young Billy setting motion camera on Aureed Island



Ranger patrol Sassie Island



Group 2 of Biodiversity survey on uninhabited islands in the Central Cluster

TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE (TEK)

The TEK Officer has worked on implementing the recommendation from the 2016 TEK review. The purpose of TEK review was to listen to community about how to improve TEK project into the future and how to better promote and record traditional knowledge within TEK communities.

TEK Project in 2016/2017 focussed on development of discrete TEK Products to facilitate collection of TEK information across the nine TEK communities currently participating in the program.

Some of the key projects for 2016/2017 included the commencement of Seasonal Calendar resources for the communities of Erub and Masig. The Seasonal Calendar concept is an important means of linking all the various elements of traditional knowledge about their land and sea environment into a system whereby Islander communities are better able to pass on their *Ailan Kastom* stories to future generations.

Another key component of TEK in 2016/17 was the development of Language resources for TEK communities and students. The TEK Project team promoted Torres Strait language recording and promotion via:

- Development of the 'Aka Ethel Bob Language Recording Project' with the Warraber ranger team. The Warraber Rangers have been working with Aka Ethel and a linguist to record key language phrases in Kulkulgau Ya, an endangered TS language presently undergoing revitalisation for the communities of Poruma and Warraber.
- The TEK team developed the Language Search and Find' poster and has had this resource translated into all TS languages for school students to learn language names for 46 different local plant and animal species.
- Rangers from Warraber and the TEK team presented to the Torres Strait Language Symposium on the Aka Ethel Language Project where It was widely received.
- There is a growing demand from Tagai College management and Saibai community Traditional owners for more involvement in the TEK Project.

In addition, the TEK team will continue to work with individual TEK communities to focus on the recording of key TEK elements for each community, to train community members in the use of the system and to promote TEK effectively throughout the region.



Erubam Rangers TEK recording at Erub Art Centre



Ranger Laurie Elisala teaching school kids how to make traditional spear

Image: TSRA



TEK meeting at Mabuia Island



Image: TSRA

Senior Ranger Nelson Gibuma and Ranger Arthur Gibuma teach school kids at Boigu how to use the TEK system

Image: TSRA



Ranger Ted Whap and Senior Ranger Willie Babia undertaking TEK refresher training.



Image: TSRA

Masig Elders and Traditional Owners working with LSMU TEK team to compose Seasonal Calendar



Image: TSRA

Mabuygiw Rangers and Troy Mallie conducting TEK recordings at the Dugong Mound on Mabuia Island

DUGONG & TURTLE MANAGEMENT

Green Turtle Nesting, Hatchling Survey and Geomorphology Survey

Annual nesting green turtle surveys have been completed at Dauar since 2006, with hatchling surveys also completed since 2014. For the first time a geomorphology survey was completed by JCU over the 2016-17 breeding season. The assessment was completed to assess any impacts to green turtle nests over the breeding season and the stability of the northern beach, Giar. The outcomes of the surveys will provide information to Traditional Owners that will assisting in informed management decision making.

Image: Tristan Simpson



Rangers participating in Geomorphology Survey on Dauar

Image: Tristan Simpson



Anchoring the Ranger vessel of Dauar Island

Image: Tristan Simpson



JCU Researchers and Rangers participate in school talks at Mer Island

Image: Tristan Simpson



Rangers counting Turtle tracks on Dauar Island

Image: Tristan Simpson



Rangers tagging green turtle

Image: Tristan Simpson



Ranger Appie measuring a Green turtle

Nest To Ocean Project – Hawksbill Turtle Nesting Distribution & Predation Assessment

Hawksbill turtles were recently changed from Vulnerable to Endangered for the Queensland Hawksbill turtle population and are the least surveyed nesting marine turtle in the Torres Strait. Through 'Nest to Ocean Protection Program' TSRA have been completing a Hawksbill turtle nesting and predation distribution assessment, including surveying 56 uninhabited islands over the 2016-17 breeding season. Survey outcomes indicate that the Torres Strait may have the world's largest remaining Hawksbill turtle nesting population. The outcomes will progress a Hawksbill turtle monitoring and predation management plan for the region in collaboration with Traditional Owners.



Image: Belinda Norris

Hawksbill Turtle hatchling



Image: Belinda Norris

Ranger Young Billy measures Hawksbill turtle tracks



Image: Belinda Norris

Central Cluster Rangers participating in Hawksbill Nesting survey



Image: Belinda Norris

Senior Ranger Tenny Elisala and Senior Ranger Jackson Ware conducting surveys on Gebar Island



Image: Tristan Simpson

Hawksbill turtle nesting on Gebar Island



Image: Belinda Norris

Ranger Aken Baragud surveying Hawksbill Turtle nests on uninhabited islands

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

The four major Invasive Species Projects worked on throughout the year involved:

- Warul Kawa invasive Black Rat bait station trials – Trials to select bait station design favoured by rats
- Gebar Feral Pig eradication planning;
- Sassie Feral Cat monitoring; and
- Erub and Mer Lantana projects.

The Rangers have been actively involved in these projects throughout the year.

Image: TSRA



Ranger Supervisor Boggo Gela, and Rangers Kevin and Aaron using Fulcrum to map weeds on Nepean

Image: TSRA



Ranger Young and Ranger Freddie setting Elliot traps for small mammals on Sassie.



Ranger Young and Ranger David assist Researchers in testing Feral Pigs on Gebar Island



Rangers participate in Lantana project on Erub



Sangers Stephen and Alice treating Bellyache Bush weed on Badu



Ranger Young setting motion camera on Sassie

Image: TSRA

Image: TSRA

Image: TSRA

Image: TSRA

Cane Toad

Cane Toad work has been carried out on Moa, Boigu, TI and Horn Island. During the last year there has been more than 500 hours spent on cane toad related activities throughout all four communities. In Boigu, activities included: tadpole searches during the day, mapping water bodies and drainage lines, handing out notices and flyers, installing flyers on notice boards, school talk (whole school 62 children and 4 staff), talk with my pathways (12 participants), installation of three cane toad callers (speakers) and motion cameras, inspection of cargo deliveries by Sea Swift and Mipec. On Moa Island, the Rangers inspected drainage lines, water bodies, installation of three cane toad callers (speakers) and motion cameras, mapping of all water bodies and drainage lines, inspection of cargo deliveries from Sea Swift and Mipec. The Land Team along with volunteers TI and Horn Island conduct a weekly toad bust. There has been successful installation of toad exclusion fence at sea swift Horn Island depot (My Pathways / TSRA).



Image: Matt Dunn

Ranger Supervisor Dimas Toby talking to school kids on Boigu about the threats of Cane Toads



Image: Matt Dunn

Rangers scouting for Cane Toad



Image: Matt Dunn

Installation of toad exclusion fence on Horn Island



Image: Matt Dunn

Matt Dunn set up cane toad trap



Image: Matt Dunn

Motion camera put in place to detect cane toad



Image: Matt Dunn

Cane Toad

BIODIVERSITY PLANNING & MANAGEMENT

Uninhabited Island Biocultural/Biodiversity Survey

Twenty five rangers from the Central and Eastern Clusters and researchers participated in surveys over a 13 day period across 14 uninhabited islands. These surveys provide baseline data on the flora and fauna and invasive species so that Rangers can work with Traditional Owners to manage these islands into the future. Highlights of the trip were that we covered so many islands and achieved all of the objectives including Turtle surveys.

Image: TSRA



Masigalgal PBC John Morris and Ranger Des and Ranger Loice checking traps on Umagar



Vegetation surveys with Botanist David Fell and Rangers Des, Young and Edna

Image: TSRA



Ranger Young Billy spotlighting with Python skin at Yarparr



Senior Ranger Freddie and Ranger Young setting cameras on Sassie

Image: TSRA

Image: TSRA



Image: TSRA

Tern Egg on Yarpar



Image: TSRA

Acting Ranger Supervisor Laura Pearson and John Lynn on Biodiversity survey

SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE – MEKEM GARDEN

The Sustainable Horticulture Project – Mekem Garden Workshop has had consultations in two communities– Erub and Warraber. The Regional Landcare Facilitator (RLF) George Saveka has visited the communities and has had project consultation, follow up visits on backyard gardeners and providing support to backyard gardeners.



The outcome of the community workshops were that 10 home gardeners (household) were nominated by the community to participate and improve available food garden sources for RLF to engage and support these households for accessible and affordable gardens. The benefit is that the 10 home gardeners used as a community pilot project which will allow and benefit other home gardeners in the community to improve and bring back home food gardens as once was an everyday household traditional practice.

Image: George Saveka



Arthur Nai, George Saveka and Erub Ranger Kevin Mye presenting garden equipment

Image: George Saveka



George and Erubam Rangers providing home gardener soil testing kit



Kapua Gutchen presenting his garden to George and the Erubam Rangers



Mekem Garden workshop on Warraber

Image: George Saveka

Image: George Saveka

Image: George Saveka



Rangers demonstrating hand tilling and adding nutrients to garden bed



Rangers delivering garden material to home of gardeners

Image: George Saveka



Ranger Young and Ranger Aken adding a garden edge to the transplanted trees



Rangers guiding Regional Landcare Facilitator in community backyard food garden

Image: George Saveka



Rangers and George demonstrating transplanting in "Mekem Garden workshop"



Rangers prepare to assist community with backyard garden

Image: George Saveka

Image: George Saveka

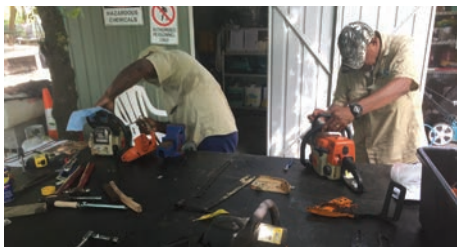
Image: George Saveka

REFRESHER TRAINING

The Refresher training was carried out at Poruma, Masig, Saibai and Boigu with 13 staff attending in total, 4 days at each location. The training involved high risk tasks such as chainsaw and chemical use and operation, plant and equipment maintenance: – pulling apart carburettors, cleaning carburettor jets, checking and replacing parts, checking and replacing seized whipper snipper clutches, equipment parts and maintenance lists, undertaking baseline weed mapping in fulcrum, understanding GPS units and carrying out GPS functions, work health and safety inspections for office and workshop, electrical test and tag, weed priorities list, action report list for islands, Chem Alert –chemical audits. The training was a success with all Rangers completing with competency.

*“The benefit is the understanding I have gained through the training and now I can strip and assemble parts on a little machinery as mentioned above.” - **Senior Ranger Poruma***

Image: Matt Dunn



Senior Ranger Francis and Ranger Supervisor Kiwat taking apart chainsaw to clean

Image: Matt Dunn



Ranger Stanton working on Lawnmower

Image: Matt Dunn



Ranger Arthur and Ranger Nelson maintaining machinery

Image: Matt Dunn



Ranger Nelson Gibuma working on Chainsaw

Image: Matt Dunn



Masigalgal Rangers training in chemical handling

Image: Matt Dunn



Ranger operating chainsaw

COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE WORKSHOP

Community workshops have been held across the region to build local understanding of climate change and what actions can be taken locally to help adapt to projected impacts and build community resilience. The workshops ran over a full day and reviewed what causes climate change and what it means for Torres Strait communities. Participants also consider: how their communities have changed over time, what factors drive change, Key issues for the community and which these factors they have the most control. Participants create images of desirable and undesirable futures. A community resilience assessment is also done to help highlight community strengths and areas for improvement. Rangers participate in workshop logistics as well as participating in the workshop process itself. A local adaptation and resilience plan is developed for each community.

"This conversation affects the whole globe. The strength of language and depth of knowledge is still here, and our future is worth fighting for – for the next generation." - **Herbert Warusam, Mura Buway Senior Ranger**



Image: John Rainbird

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience workshop at Ugar



Image: John Rainbird

John Rainbird and participants attending CC workshop on Saibai



Image: John Rainbird

CC workshop on Ugar Island



Image: John Rainbird

Senior Ranger John Wigness presenting group activity at Climate Change workshop at Kubin

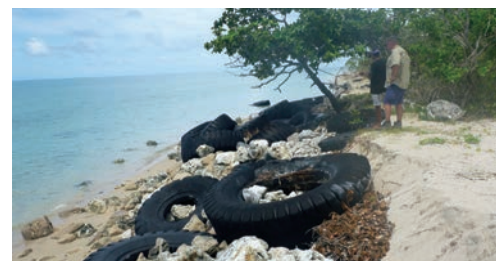


Image: John Rainbird

Erosion site on Warraber Island



Conclusion

This collection of images and quotes provides the reader, as well as our own staff, with an opportunity to reflect on the tremendous positive achievements they have accomplished over the last 12 months.

The LSMU coordinates the delivery of environmental management initiatives across the Torres Strait region through a partnership approach between TSRA, Traditional Owners, all levels of government, research organisations and other stakeholders. The LSMU helps Traditional Owners and communities to access resources and information about the sustainable management of their islands and seas, and to have their say and get involved in caring for the region and its unique values.

The Indigenous Rangers - Working on Country programme is now administered by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Torres Strait Ranger Project is funded under this program until June 2018, with the Australian Government recently committing to continue the program nationally to 2020. Permanent funding for the ongoing employment of Indigenous Rangers is considered essential for land and sea management in the region.

Rangers are responsible for carrying out a variety of on-ground activities, including pest and weed control, marine debris management, surveillance and monitoring, dugong and turtle management, seagrass monitoring, cultural heritage site protection, and traditional ecological knowledge recording and management.

Our vision for Torres Strait Land and Sea Management is:

“Empowering Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples to sustainably manage and benefit from their land, sea and cultural resources into the future, in accordance with Ailan Kastom, Aboriginal Lore/Law and native title rights and interests”.

*Shaun Barclay, Program Manager (Environmental Management),
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