



# TUMRA Newsletter

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## GLADSTONE HEALTHY HARBOUR PARTNERSHIP

In May 2012 the Premier announced that a partnership agreement would be established to monitor and maintain and/or improve the Gladstone Harbour. The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) will include Community, Industry, Research and Government. The purpose of the partnership is to implement an adaptive management framework and deliver a shared vision for a healthy Gladstone Harbour.

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHPP) will focus on best practice collaborative monitoring and management of the Harbour. It is envisaged that community, industry, the Australian Government, Queensland Government, local government, Universities and Research Institutions will partner in investment to agree on the strategic directions and leverage the benefits of streamlined monitoring, targeted management and expert science advice.

Importantly, the Partnership will deliver an annual report card on the health of the Harbour, based on the best available science as well as broad community input.

The pilot report card will be released by the end of 2014 with the first fully integrated report card to be published at the end of

2015. Time is being taken to ensure that the best science is being used for the GHHP report.

The vision for the partnership is Gladstone has a healthy, accessible, working Harbour.

This vision will be used by the GHHP Independent Science Panel for the delivery of an annual report card to the community.

## Gladstone Ports Corporation

We have been invited to sit on the Technical Advisory Consultative Committee for the Gladstone Ports Corporation to give our input into the affects industry is having on the Gladstone and Bundaberg Ports and surrounding area from a Traditional owners point of view. Gladstone Ports Authority have allowed us to erect this TUMRA sign in the Gladstone Marina and are planning to erect one themselves in the park in the Marina.



## Qld Indigenous Sea Country Forum



The Qld Indigenous Sea Country Forum 2013 took place at Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Is) from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2013. The event was an initiative of the Indigenous Sea Country Management Grants Program. The program is administered by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. The project has a number of objectives which are aimed at helping to provide information to Indigenous sea country managers and raise the level of general awareness about issues impacting on management of sea country; and to provide Indigenous sea country managers with information about what tools might be available to help them in this regard. This forum is a major component of the project providing an opportunity to consult with Indigenous Sea Country Managers on a wide range of topics and issues.

The forum was proposed as a means of seeking further input from Indigenous sea country managers regarding the development of an overarching framework for sea country management in Queensland. It is envisaged that a framework of this nature can establish and represent a range of best practice approaches to the management of sea country and the relationships that Traditional Owners have with their sea country estate.

Tony McEvoy set the tone for the forum with a keynote address which focused on the nature of the future relationship that Traditional Owners desired with their sea country. It was suggested that where Traditional Owners aspire to have a more significant role in relation to the management and custodianship of sea country, then Traditional Owners should conduct themselves as if this were already fact. That is, assume that this is already and always has been the case and act accordingly. This is not an aspiration or goal or something to be worked towards. If Indigenous Sea Country managers do not act and conduct themselves with this self-belief then it may be unrealistic to expect others to regard them as such also.



### Sea Ranger Program

We currently are training the rangers in sea country activities which has included general environmental awareness, risk assessment/work method statements and fieldwork planning. The rangers have been trained and are actively engaged in the James Cook University Mangrove monitoring program "Mangrove Watch. They have undertaken mangrove surveys on the Kolan River, and assisted with post-flood surveys on the Burnett River and Burrum River systems.



The rangers are currently involved in turtle monitoring at Mon Repos in conjunction with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service doing shore work involving participation in turtle conservation including monitoring and data collection of nests, moving of nests, checking dog traps baiting feral animals and are actively engaged in habitat regeneration on the shore.

We have a wide range of training proposed to skill the rangers in sea country activities which includes the following.

Water Surface and Marine Monitoring

Water Sediment sampling, Acid Sulphate Soils Monitoring

Sea grass and mangrove monitoring

Boat License

Coxswains License

Introduction to GIS, Field maps

EIS process, Environmental searches.

We have been getting a lot of support from industry and Government backing our plan to have dedicated sea rangers in both Gladstone and Bundaberg. Although our sea ranger program proposal is in-depth and comprehensive we have not been able to secure Government funding to proceed with our proposal.

### Inaugural Traditional Owners Turtle Training Camp

The rangers travelled to Bowen in November to attend the Inaugural Traditional Owners Turtle Training Camp held by the Gudjuda Reference Group and Giringun Aboriginal Corporation. After registering for the three days activities they had a welcome to country by Uncle Jim Gaston Juru Elder. After

morning tea each Ranger group spoke a little about what their respective groups did. There were groups from all over Queensland. On the second day they went out to learn how to capture turtles using the rodeo method. They then returned the turtles to shore where they learnt tagging and weighing methods before releasing the turtles back to sea.



### Mon Repos Turtle program.

As part of the Indigenous Sea Ranger Program Gidarjil in partnership with DEHP have a Sea Ranger based at Mon Repos. The position is based at Mon Repos for the entirety of the turtle season. This program educates Indigenous rangers on monitoring and recording of Marine Sea Turtles research for the purpose of data collection. How to collect data by digging nests, conducting post-hatching egg counts, measuring, tagging, relocating nests. Teach them how to count clutches hatchlings and notching the hatchlings measuring and weighing the hatchlings. Measuring and weighing the turtle eggs. Species identification by tracks and sight of turtle.



The Rangers also learnt about Incubating eggs for experiment of sand temperatures. When an egg is incubated at 24-27 degrees the Turtle will be male between 28 & 34 the Turtle will Be female. The Rangers also learnt how using Ultrasound on the turtles reproductive system it can be seen if the turtle will lay any more that season. There has also been training on GPS tracking via satellite to monitor navigation of the turtles route.



This can determine the lifecycles route of the turtle including laying grounds and courtship area.

#### Mangrove Watch.

This Gidarjil has partnered with James Cook University to continue their Mangrove Watch program. This partnered program involves boat work measuring and recording mangrove health. The recent year floods have severely damaged the mangrove habitats in the Bundaberg area. The mangrove watch program is a continuous program throughout the year. This year the mangrove watch monitoring will include surveys in the Boyne Island area in partnership with the Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre, and further surveys on the Kolan River and Baffle Creek.



#### Revegetation at Mon Repos.

2013 saw Gidarjil partner with QPWS to commence a long term revegetation project of Mon Repos fore shore. This program is designed to replace the existing single species canopy (which has begun to die out) with the original plants that existed before clearing. This will also improve the reduction of city light glow which distracts the hatchlings from finding their way out to sea via moonlight. It will also assist in bringing back biodiversity to Mon Repos Conservation Park.

#### Gladstone Turtle Training

October saw our rangers go to Gladstone for Turtle training. The training was conducted by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and involved identification, threats and habitat degradation. They also learnt of threats from predators on other beaches in Queensland.

#### Tangaroa Blue

January saw Heidi Taylor CEO of Tangaroa Blue do two days training with the rangers on the Australian Marine Debris Initiative. There was a session on data collection and a practical component. The second day was lessons on how to record the data on their website and how to identify the plastics that are ending up in our waterways. This also included comparison data from different parts of Australia. The first two days were attended by two teachers from Kalkie and St. Joseph's Primary School, and Jakanyula's Waylon Eggmoleese. Gidarjil is building partnerships with Jakanyula and the two Reef Guardian Schools to enable the Rangers to undertake Marine Debris surveys with students throughout the year. We also hope to use this initiative to kick start a Gidarjil Junior Ranger Program. Heidi also conducted a third day of cyber tracker training with some of the rangers.

#### LMAC

##### Local Marine Advisory Committees

We have attended two LMAC meetings one in Gladstone and one in Bundaberg.

At both the Gladstone and Burnett LMAC meetings we announced the erection of the TUMRA signs at the marinas in the area. The concept was well received and comments were made on how good the idea was. Gladstone Ports Corporation are erecting another TUMRA sign in the marina in Gladstone.

#### Pilot Turtle and Dugong Monitoring Program

The Gidarjil caring for country program received funding from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection in July 2013 to conduct a pilot turtle and dugong monitoring program in the PCCC region. We are partnering with the University of Queensland to deliver Dugong training and assist with the monitoring program in March

2014, and DEHP will deliver training in May 2014 to enable rangers to assist with boat-based turtle capture and data collection in the Gladstone region. The funding also provides for the training of two rangers to undertake their Coxswains certificate and another two rangers to do their boat license.

#### Meetings attended since last Newsletter

- 10-13 Sept 2013 Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) Workshop
- 11 Sept 2013 Gladstone Ports Corporation Seagrass and Offsets Meeting
- 11 Sept 2013 LMAC Gladstone Meeting
- 19 Sept 2013 LMAC Burnett Meeting
- 24 Sept 2013 WWF and BMRG Meeting
- 27 Sept 2013 Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership Meeting (GHHP)
- 25 Oct 2013 GPC Aurecon Channel duplication EIS Meeting
- 30 Oct 2013 GHHP Management Committee Meeting Gladstone
- 8 Nov 2013 GHHP Management Committee Meeting
- 3 Dec 2013 GHHP Management Committee Meeting
- 21 Jan 2014 GHHP Management Committee Meeting