



YOUR WAY FORWARD FOR NATIVE TITLE

MESSAGE STICK

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North Queensland Land Council.

FEBRUARY 2015

YOUR PBC

In this edition we focus in on Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation in Mareeba, one deadly mob doing deadly work on Country.



18



6

NYWAIGI PEOPLE READY FOR BUSINESS

December 18th 2014 was a landmark day for the Nywaigi people. It was the day that they successfully authorised their core country native title claim.

PBC NEWS & SUPPORT

In this edition of Message Stick we introduce our new PBC Pages a new and exciting section of Message Stick aimed just for PBCs



14

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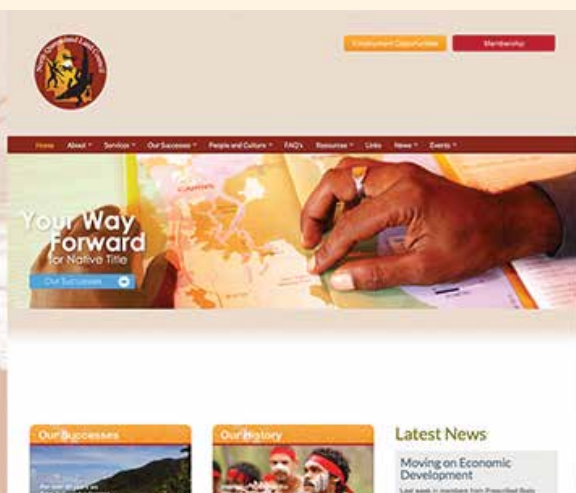
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CONTENT

03

CEO YARN

Native Title - Always Changing

05

NEW STAFF

Welcome to our new staff Kara Dunn, Tahanni Jerrett and Michelle Liddy.

06

READY TO DO BUSINESS

Nywaigi people are ready for business. December 18th 2014 was a landmark day for the Nywaigi people.

08

LAURA ABORIGINAL DANCE FESTIVAL

Help celebrate the world's oldest living culture

09

ONE CLAIM FOR CAPE YORK

Australia's largest native title claim covering much of the Cape York Peninsula was lodged in the Federal Court in Brisbane on the 11th of December 2014.

10

WOMEN POWER IN MACKAY OFFICE

Trish, Chantelle and Natalie tell us about NQLC's Mackay office.

12

FORMER NQLC PROJECT OFFICER MAKES HISTORY

Two Indigenous MPs elected to the QLD Labor Party

14

PBC PAGES

In this new section of messagestick, we will bring you profiles and updates on NQLC's PBC



CEO YARN

NATIVE TITLE - ALWAYS CHANGING.

With many of the claims in the northern part of our foot print having been resolved successfully in recent times, there is now a focus on developing claims in the southern area of our footprint.

We are currently in the research phase with respect to a number of claims.

Whilst the Juru People enjoyed a determination of Native Title which was reported in the December Edition of our Message Stick, there were a number of aspects that had yet to be resolved between the Native Title holders and the State.

NQLC continues to assist Juru People in relation to those aspects and were able to attain certain undertakings for the State, which meant that a costly and lengthy trial due for the end of January was avoided. A final determination for Juru people is now anticipated on those remaining points in June of this year.

A number of new claims are planned to be lodged by June 2015 depending upon the results of anthropological research currently underway.

Whilst the focus has shifted to southern footprint claims, the north has not been forgotten with research underway on a couple of more claims in the north footprint area.

In relation to the Bar Barrum People, the focus for the last 2 years has been on the argument as to whether orders made pursuant to the National Security Act (1939) in the war years allowing the

military to take over and use land had the effect of extinguishing Native Title. Whilst the Bar Barrum People won that argument in the full Federal Court, the State sought, and was granted, leave to appeal to the High Court. The appeal was heard in Canberra on the 2nd and 3rd of December 2014. The High Court had reserved judgement of the matter, meaning that they are taking time to consider their decision and will hand down their written decision at a date yet to be fixed. The question of extinguishment by such orders is not unique to the Bar Barrum claim; it also affects a number of ongoing NQLC claims as well as claims in other parts of the State.

The issue was first raised by "squatters" (people without any lawful authority or proper tenure) who simply took over areas of traditional country, excluding the Native Title holders and in some cases constructing quite substantial houses and other infrastructure. Should the High Court rule that the military orders (which affect the areas where the squatters are) do not create extinguishment of Native Title then the issue of the squatters will still need to be resolved. Squatters also exist in other claim areas, such as Juru country. In Juru, the State asked for more time to negotiate the squatters issue as the State had yet to develop a policy as to how to deal with squatters. The fact that the State has known about squatters in various different areas for many years and failed to take any action (the land involved is state land) is an absolute disgrace and shows the State's contempt for Indigenous rights.

NQLC has been looking at ways of returning lands held in trust into the more direct ownership of Traditional Owners. An example of this is for the Djiru People where Clump Mountain was held under a trust originally created



in the will of a Mr Fenby, but the trustees were based in Sydney. NQLC is assisting Djiru People to have the trust lands returned into their direct control.

In the meantime NQLC has been involved in a number of Projects, one of which is the Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) Toolkit project. NQLC and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) are jointly collaborating to produce a "toolkit". The intention of this toolkit is to be a complete manual for PBCs covering issues commonly accounted by PBCs and their Boards. We hope to have this toolkit finished by June of this year.

NQLC has been active in making submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission about further proposed changes to the Native Title Act. Unfortunately despite it being a topic discussed in Native Title circles for a number of years, there appears to be no willingness by the Federal Government to seriously consider reversing the burden of proof in Native Title matters. No doubt this will continue to be an issue of some debate.

The Campbell Newman LNP Government had been busy changing the laws in relation to pastoral leases so that there is an automatic rolling renewal of the same. These renewals, the State says, will not constitute future acts, so Native Title holders will be given no notice when a particular lease will be renewed and thus no opportunity to put forward any submission as to why the lease should instead be granted to the Traditional Owners of the area in question. NQLC and Queensland South Native Title Services are seeking advice as to the legality of these changes.

In addition, the State government is making it easier for lease holders to seek upgrades to freehold and once again these changes were introduced after only "token" consultation with Native Title holders.

A further area where the Campbell Newman Government had been busy changing the laws to the detriment of Native Title holders includes changes to the Mining Act, which will now essentially do away with prospecting and exploration permits and simply have one form of lease that will cover all aspects of exploration right through to mining. This

will affect any negotiations concerning the grant of such leases by having to take into account the possibility that a full scale mine might eventuate. It will be extremely hard to anticipate what returns the mining company might get for digging up the Native Title country of Traditional Owners at a point where exploration has not been carried out to reveal whether or not there are exploitable quantities of whatever is sought to warrant the expenditure on a mine. This places the Traditional Owners at a disadvantage when trying to negotiate under the right to negotiate provision of the Native Title Act.

The way that Native Title claims are now required by the Federal Court to be run is very different from the way that predominated when I first started to work for NQLC in 2000. Back then it was not uncommon for claims to be lodged with virtually no research, with the research to be done at a later stage. The Court has made it very clear that this is not acceptable at the current time and that they anticipate that a claim will be finished within 18 months of its lodgement. The Court has indicated that if we can convince them at the 18 month point that the claim will finish, a further extension of up to 12 months will be granted. As the heading to this report, Native Title always changing! We have had changes to the way claims run in court, changes brought about at court decisions, changes to State legislation and proposed changes to Federal legislation, there is always something new!

For the last few months Brad Foster and I have been joint Acting CEOs whilst Ian Kuch has been enjoying an extended period of leave. Mr Kuch has now returned and we look forward to being able to hand the reigns back to him. Welcome back Ian!

MARTIN DORE

Acting Chief Executive Officer

STAFF PROFILES

WELCOME SOME OF OUR NEW STAFF AT NORTH QUEENSLAND LAND COUNCIL



KARA DUNN
ANTHROPOLOGIST

Kara Dunn was born in Canada where she completed her Honours Degree in Anthropology at McMaster University. She moved to Australia in 2006 and travelled from northern Queensland to Broome WA where she settled for 6 years. While there she was employed at the Kimberley Land Council for almost 5 years as both admin staff and in house anthropologist. In 2011 she completed a Graduate Certificate in Applied Anthropology in Native Title from the University of Western Australia. While in the Kimberley Kara worked extensively with the Native Title groups in the Fitzroy Valley and saw them receive 2 Native Title determinations and more than 4 whole of country claims registered before she left in 2012. Kara moved to Cairns in 2013 with her partner and young daughter. She is very enthusiastic to meet and work with the people in Far North Queensland.



TAHANNI JERRETT
TRAINEE ADMIN OFFICER

Tahanni Jerrett is part of the Kamilaroi mob down NSW and was raised here in Cairns. Tahanni enjoys travelling and has seen a lot during her travels around Australia. Tahanni is currently completing her Certificate III in Business Administration with the North Queensland Land Council, which is her first of what is hopefully many Indigenous focused roles. Tahanni's long term goal is to use the skills and qualifications she has learned to get a placement as an Indigenous Welfare Officer.



MICHELLE LIDDY
LEGAL SECRETARY

Michelle Liddy is originally from Sydney, having moved to Cairns after falling head over heels for it during a seven month road trip around Australia.

Michelle has been an Executive Assistant for over 10 years across several industries including government, insurance, medical and education. Most recently Michelle was Design Coordinator for the Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy, a not-for-profit education reform organisation led by Noel Pearson, putting to use her Certificate IV in Design.

Michelle is very excited to be back working for the North Queensland Land Council, having temped here in 2012.



WE'RE READY TO DO BUSINESS...

DECEMBER 18TH 2014 WAS A LANDMARK DAY FOR THE NYWAIGI PEOPLE.

It was the day that they successfully authorised their core country native title claim. The claim encompasses the coastal area extending roughly from Taylors Beach in the north, to Paluma Range in the west and Rollingstone in the south.

This has been the culmination of over 20 months of dedicated anthropological research, fieldwork, and consultation, on top of many years of previous work by the Nywaigi claimants and their neighbours within the broader Giringun area.

The meeting was held in Ingham and was attended by over 40 Nywaigi people. Some folks travelled long distances to attend - from Brisbane to Bamaga and many other places in between. The turnout demonstrated a united Nywaigi people and revealed their passion for their country and in turn their shared interest in lodging a native title claim.

The previous day - the 17th of December - was set

aside for the pre-authorisation meeting, which was opened by Victor Bligh, who gave a rousing welcome to country and led a minute's silence for the old people and those who have passed on. Following that, the pre-authorisation meeting saw the group familiarise themselves with the process they were about to undertake, as Legal Officer Cheryl Thomson, walked everyone through a background of native title, the purpose of the authorisation meeting, the role and responsibilities of the claim group and its elected applicants and working group members, and the resolutions that would be put to them the following day. The Nywaigi people in turn discussed what they wanted from a Nywaigi core country native title claim and asked a variety of questions of the claim team. As Uncle John Anderson so aptly put it, "we've come this far, we're ready to do business...it's an exciting time".

When the authorisation meeting commenced the

following day, everyone was clearly ready and eager to work together for the purpose of authorising their claim. There was passionate discussion amongst the group, with a number of heartfelt statements both from elders and from those of the younger generations. Each of the resolutions were passed by a majority of family groups present, with applicants to the claim and their reserve applicants selected. In addition, a working group consisting of the applicants was adopted. The highlight of the day however, was witnessing the Nywaigi people robustly and respectfully discussing and resolving each issue that arose.

Rico Noble warmly concluded by saying "I love you all, we're all family".

At the conclusion of the meeting the claim group braved the heat outside on the stifling hot December day for a group photo, before dispersing for what was for many, the beginning of their summer holidays.

The NQLC would like to congratulate the Nywaigi people on the successful authorisation of their claim.

by: **Sarah Thompson**





LAURA ABORIGINAL DANCE FESTIVAL 2015

COME CELEBRATE THE WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING CULTURE.

The 34th Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival will be held on Friday the 19th June through to Sunday the 21st of June 2015.

The Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival is an exciting biennial gathering in Cape York Peninsula, highlighting the many diverse communities, language, song, dance and stories.

Witness the passing on of culture across the generations, along with showcasing the strength, pride and uniqueness of Aboriginal people.

Over 5,000 people travel to Laura from across the

nation to enjoy this festival for three days; over 20 communities participate across the region, with up to 500 performers.

Come along to share, respect, and celebrate our unity as a nation.

More information and tickets for this years Laura Dance Festival can be found on the festival website at www.lauradancefestival.com.

ONE CLAIM FOR CAPE YORK



AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST NATIVE TITLE CLAIM COVERING MUCH OF THE CAPE YORK PENINSULA IN QUEENSLAND'S FAR NORTH WAS LODGED IN THE FEDERAL COURT IN BRISBANE ON 11 DECEMBER 2014.

During June to November 2014, Cape York Land Council (CYLC) undertook an extensive authorisation process by advertising and calling meetings of people with traditional connection to Cape York. The meetings were held across QLD including Cape York.

Over 550 people attended the meetings and nearly a full majority of those attending the meetings authorised Cape York Land Council to lodge a single native title claim across the entire Cape York.

The claim was lodged on the 11th of December 2014 and registered on 6th February 2015. The claim does not cover determinations of native title or current native title claims.

This means that all Traditional Owners across Cape York have the protection afforded by the Native Title Act 1993 including the right to negotiate for mining

and other matters either because there is a determination of native title or the land is included in the single claim.

The key principle of the claim is that it is the traditional owners of each area that continue to speak and make decisions about country according to law and custom – not the applicants or CYLC.

In 2015 CYLC will be holding a number of workshops across Cape York where traditional owners for each area can discuss and decide how they want to deal with matters affecting their native title like culture and heritage matters, exploration and mining, and developments that affect their native title like tourism and other matters. Also, included in these workshops will be discussions as to the best corporate structure to assist Traditional Owners into the future.



One Claim meeting in Pormpuraaw

+ NO PROBLEMS
JUST SOLUTIONS



WOMEN POWER IN OUR MACKAY OFFICE

NOLC'S MACKAY OFFICE IS LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE QUEST BUILDING, 38 MACALISTER STREET, MACKAY.

NQLC has occupied the premises for approximately 4 years and during that time the staffing of the Mackay office has grown to 3 staff – Trish Holding (Senior Legal Officer), Natalie Harrison (Project Officer) and Chantelle Malayta (Admin/Reception). Natalie is an Eastern Yalanji woman who was raised locally in Mackay and has an administration/ education/ health background. Natalie has been with NQLC for 2.5 years. Chantelle is the newest addition to the team. She is a Darumbal woman who is also locally raised and comes from a business/administration and quality assurance background. Trish has had extensive experience in the native title field having worked for Native Title Representative Bodies in varying roles since 1996. All 3 are part of NQLC's Future Act, Mining and Exploration Unit (FAME).

The Mackay office provides support and assistance to the traditional owner groups in the southern part of NQLC's region who have mining and exploration activity on their traditional country. The Mackay office also provides an important link and resource to the communities in the southern part of our region. It is not uncommon for traditional owners to drop into the office with their queries and the Mackay staff does their best to answer the enquiry or ensure the enquiry is directed to the relevant NQLC staff member in our Townsville or Cairns offices.

During 2014 the activities of the Mackay office have been varied and include providing the following assistance:

- advancing negotiations with a gold miner for an ILUA;
- advancing negotiations with some small scale miners in the region;
- educating newly established PBCs in relation to their rights and opportunities post determination regarding exploration and mining tenements;
- educating Applicants of a recently registered native title application regarding their rights and opportunities in relation to mining and exploration tenements; and the requirements for a Nominated Body;
- providing Mining and Exploration Updates to client groups which summarise the mining and exploration activity within the groups claim/determination area;
- presenting workshops on the procedures and processes under the Native Title Protection Conditions (NTPCs);

- facilitating a Financial Advisory Workshop for a newly established PBC;
- assisting a newly established PBC to establish systems and processes for invoicing and record keeping in relation to the NTPCs;
- assisting a recently established PBC to get up to date in relation to an invoicing backlog under the Native Title Protection Conditions;
- reviewing and summarising ILUAs and Agreements covering the claim/determination areas of several groups within the NQLC region and preparing spreadsheets and summaries as a quick reference guide to the agreements. These summaries and spreadsheets provide the PBC/Applicants with a list of the benefits under the agreement so that they can assess the extent that the ILUA/Agreement has been implemented and the benefits accessed
- Drafting deeds of variation and deeds of assignment in relation to existing agreements so that the benefits/obligations can be assigned post determination to the PBC;
- drafting Cultural Heritage Protocols and agreements;
- reviewing and commenting on the changes to the Old Resources legislation;
- reviewing and commenting on the draft PBC module relating to future acts;

As you can see 2014 was a busy year for the Mackay office and 2015 is already shaping up to be just as busy.

IF YOU'RE EVER IN MACKAY, FEEL FREE TO DROP INTO OUR OFFICE AND SAY HELLO TO OUR FRIENDLY STAFF.



FORMER NQLC PROJECT OFFICER MAKES HISTORY

BILLY GORDON, ONCE A PROJECT OFFICER FOR NQLC, WINS COOK FOR LABOR AND LEEANNE ENOCH, COUSIN OF NQLC DIRECTOR COLIN ENOCH, WINS ALGISTER FOR LABOR. THEY MAKE HISTORY AS THE FIRST TWO INDIGENOUS MPS ELECTED TO QLD PARLIAMENT



New Indigenous Queensland parliamentarians Leeanne Enoch and Billy Gordon, with a portrait of their predecessor, National Party MP Eric Deeral. @LeeanneEnoch/Twitter Photo: @LeeanneEnoch/Twitter. Source: Brisbane Times

BILLY GORDON WAS BORN IN INNISFAIL AND GREW UP IN MAREEBA AND THROUGHOUT THE FAR NORTH AS HIS FAMILY FOLLOWED HIS FATHER WHO WORKED FOR QUEENSLAND RAIL AND IN THE SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY.



Billy Gordon ran for the Queensland State seat of Cook as he wanted to bring a fresh face and new energy to Far North Queensland and believes strongly in Labor policies.

Being a father of five children means Billy understands the needs of Cook families. He wants a better Australia, a future for his children and opportunities for all children to get a good education and jobs.

Billy's other priority is improving our health programs and services and he is alarmed that so many state public servants have lost their jobs in health and other important community services.

Billy Gordon wants to listen, learn and understand what people want at a local level and to get the opportunity to speak up strongly in Brisbane for the people of Far North Queensland.

LEEANNE ENOCH IS A FORMER HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER AND INDIGENOUS POLICY ADVISER, MS ENOCH IS A NUNUKUL-NUGHI WOMAN FROM NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND.



Before the election she worked with the Queensland Council of Unions on its Indigenous Working Party to develop policy and strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Ms Enoch has previously spent a decade as a high school teacher, working in schools in south-east

Queensland and in London. After leaving teaching, she worked for the Australian Red Cross for seven years as the Queensland state director.

PBC PAGES



IN PBC PAGES IS A NEW REGULAR SECTION OF MESSAGE STICK WHERE WE WILL KEEP YOU UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PBC AND ALSO GIVE YOU SOME TIPS TO HELP YOU MANAGE YOUR PBC.

In December 2014 Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) board members attended a three day PBC Toolkit workshop followed by a two day Business & Economic Development Forum at the Cairns Colonial Club. Both the workshop and Forum were well attended and highly successful with strong engagement by participants.

The NOLC received very useful input into the design and structure of the Toolkit and this input is currently being incorporated into the modules.

The Business & Economic Development Forum featured presentations by a number of Commonwealth, State and private agencies which all generated much discussion and thought about future opportunities for the region's PBCs. It was an interesting and successful week.

PBC members who attended last years Business & Economic Development Forum said that it was much needed.



Errol Neal, Chairperson, NOLC with Traditional Owner Darren Kynuna and Michael Guo, CEO of Australia International Trade Association (AITA) and Associates at last year's forum.

PBC FUNDING

Under the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) Land Rights and Economic Development Programme, certain funds may be made available to PBCs who are determined pursuant to the Native Title Act 1993 to hold Native Title on trust or who act as agent for groups who have achieved a determination that Native Title exists.

PM&C makes this funding available by payment of the monies to Native Title Representative Bodies such as the NQLC, which is then responsible to provide PM&C with documented acquittals of the monies made available to each PBC.

PBCs can apply for basic support funding from the NQLC, to run their PBC and the usual amount provided is around \$50,000, depending on PBC needs.

PBC SUPPORT

In January 2015 the NQLC's PBC Support Unit staff, Steve Ducksbury and Chris Richardson, commenced a "road show" of visits to regional PBCs to help and support them - from the PBC Basic Funding Application through to their financial reporting requirements.

It is important that PBCs have the capacity to set up their office and provide these reports from the time they receive funding, and the field trips are for Chris and Steve to touch base in person and provide Directors and staff with relevant information, as well as discussing any concerns or additional needs the PBCs may have.

So far this year Chris and Steve have conducted field trips to Atherton to meet with the Tableland Yidinji PBC Chairperson Ron Turpin and Mary Walker. The PBC seems to be doing well and is establishing processes and procedures to assist with record keeping and reporting. Mary Walker has been doing a great job of preparing financial reports with support from Sharon.

Next they travelled to the Gulf town of Croydon to have a meeting with Tagalaka PBC contact Patrick Wheeler. Patrick has been very busy under extreme circumstances managing the Tagalaka PBC through difficult times. He returned home to Croydon a few years ago after working at Century Zinc Mines and now juggles his own consulting business along with assisting the PBC. Croydon is situated over 600kms from Cairns and Tagalaka is one of the most isolated PBCs in the NQLC region. The town is still on third grade water supply and only started getting rain a few weeks ago. Patrick even thought he may have to move to Cairns for a while but has stayed to help his PBC and members with employment and training opportunities in Croydon and surrounding areas.

This month (or early next) Chris and Steve also intend to visit Tatampi Puranga PBC (Ewamian) in its Mareeba office as well as Choorechillum PBC (Ngadjon-Jii) in Malanda, Wabubadda PBC (Jirrbal) in Atherton, and Muluridji PBC in Mareeba/Cairns, .

In February, we will be driving south to meet with more PBCs, commencing with Djiru in Innisfail and Girramay in Murray Upper (Tully), then on to Townsville to meet with Bulganunna (Jangga), Ngarragooda (Gudjala), Gugu Badhun and Kybura Munda (Juru) PBCs. This will be a one week field trip where we plan to meet with these PBCs to discuss funding issues, reporting requirements and support needs.

The remaining PBCs will be seen in March, being Warrungu in Mt Garnet, Djabugay in Kuranda, Bar Barrum in Dimbulah, Wanyurr Majay in Gordonvale and the Gunngandji and Nguddaboolgan PBCs (Kuku Djungan) in Yarrabah.

It is important that the NQLC provide support and assistance to all the PBCs right across our region and Chris or Steve will be in touch with the above mentioned PBCs shortly to arrange their visits. They look forward to meeting up with you. Of course all the NQLC region PBCs are free to contact our PBC Support Unit (Chris, Steve & Rachel) for assistance any time at our Cairns office on ph 07 4042 7000 or freecall 1800 814 779.

PBC TIPS



FINANCIALS

Keeping financials is one of the hardest things that any organisation or business has to do to keep THEIR operations in a-one-condition. So what are financials and what is important?

As a director together with the other directors, the law makes you personally responsible for keeping proper corporation accounts and records. Directors must ensure the corporation keeps up-to-date financial records that:

What financial records must be kept by the corporation?

As a director together with the other directors, the law makes you personally responsible for keeping proper corporation accounts and records. Directors must ensure the corporation keeps up-to-date financial records that:

- correctly record and explain its transactions (including any transactions as a trustee) and
- explain the corporation's financial position and performance

Even the smallest corporation must have financial records so that:

- true and fair financial statements of the corporation can be prepared if needed
- financial statements can be conveniently and properly audited, if necessary and
- the corporation can obey the tax laws and the laws on superannuation.

What are financial records?

The basic financial records that accountants might expect a corporation to keep are:

- income and expenditure information that records all the corporation's transactions
- cash records—e.g. bank statements, deposit books, cheque butts, petty cash records
- creditor and purchases records—e.g. purchase orders, invoices and statements received and paid, unpaid invoices, a list of all purchases, a list of all creditors and their balances
- wages and superannuation records
- a register of property, plant and equipment showing transactions and balances in relation to individual items
- inventory records

- tax returns and calculations—e.g. income tax, group tax, fringe benefits tax and GST returns and statements
- deeds, contracts and agreements.

Get professional advice if you have any doubt about the content or type of financial records to keep. The list above gives examples only, because the financial records you need will vary from corporation to corporation.

You may keep some financial records electronically, but you must be able to convert them into hard copy so that you can give them to anyone entitled to inspect them.

What if your corporation can't pay its debts? You must stop your corporation trading if it is unable to meet its existing debts. You must prevent the corporation from taking on new debt if that would mean it could not meet that debt and its existing debts. If you have reasonable grounds to suspect that the corporation cannot meet its debts, or won't be able to if you take on more debt, stop and get professional advice.

Your corporation is 'insolvent' if it can't pay its debts.

You would be breaking the law if you let the corporation trade while insolvent. You could be sued personally by a liquidator or creditors for your own assets, not just the assets of your corporation, and you could face civil or criminal action.

Common signs of financial trouble are:

- insufficient cash flow
- problems paying trade suppliers and other creditors on time
- trade suppliers refusing to extend further credit to the corporation
- legal action taken, or threatened, by trade suppliers or other creditors over money owed to them.

If your corporation is having difficulties paying its debts, get professional advice quickly. Don't assume that you will be able to trade out of the problem. Delay could be damaging to the corporation and to you personally.

Source: **Office of the Registrar of Indigenous**

Keeping Track of Your Financials

THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOUR CAN OPTIMISE TRACKING YOUR FINANCIALS. HERE ARE A FEW TIPS THAT MAY HELP.

A strong bookkeeping system can help you keep accurate records for a range of purposes. These include analysing business activities, attracting investors, seeking finance, lodging and paying tax as well as meeting your reporting requirements. Under tax law, you're required to keep records relating to income tax, GST, payments to employees, superannuation, fringe benefits tax, fuel tax credits and business payments.

It can be difficult to set up your own system without a bookkeeping background. So if you need help getting started, contact your accountant, bookkeeper or business advisor. Once your system is set up the right training, effort and discipline can help you take control of your finances.

BOOKKEEPING & ACCOUNT SOFTWARE

XERO ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE
www.xero.com.au

MYOB ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE
www.myob.com.au

The key to keeping track of your organisation's or business's financial records is you. If you don't have the skills yet or the time to do it yourself, seek some advice through your business advisor.

YOUR PBC



EWAMIAN PROFILE

Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation (EAC) was established in 1994 in response to the need for a corporation that was able to apply for grants and undertake activities specifically for Ewamian People, whilst the Ewamian People worked towards having their native title rights and interests recognised.

The Ewamian People's native title determination applications (QUD6009/99 and GUD6018/01) were successfully determined by the Federal Court of Australia at Georgetown on 26 November 2013. The citation of the decision is: Fisher on behalf of the Ewamian People #2 v State of Queensland [2013]

FCA 1249. A process which has taken almost 20 years, through the dedication and commitment of not only the Ewamian People, the North Queensland Land Council and strong relationships held with their stakeholders and people of the Etheridge Shire.

TatampiPuranga Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (TPAC) is the Ewamian People's registered native title body corporate under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) (NTA) for the Ewamian People's traditional country where their native title was recognised. The need for a native title body corporate is a requirement under the NTA - that is why there are now two Ewamian corporations.

TPAC does not hold the native title on trust for the Ewamian People, rather it is their agent or representative in relation to matters that concern the Ewamian People's determined native title. TPAC's role is supported by EAC and the views expressed by EAC can be taken to be those of TPAC.

Traditional Ewamian lands lie primarily in the upper

EWAMIAN ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

The earth is our mother, one must protect our heartbeat. Ewamian culture is here to stay.



Gilbert and Einasleigh River catchments within Etheridge Shire. The area of the claim is over 2.9 million hectares (>29,000km).

The 3 main areas of service that are provided by EAC are:

1. Managing Country through natural and cultural land management practices;
2. Managing Culture through supporting Ewamian People in the protection and promotion of their cultural heritage;
3. Promoting Community by providing a business to support the Ewamian People, by participating in and supporting economic development for Ewamian People and providing training and employment skills opportunities.

A significant achievement for Ewamian People has been the acquisition of Talaroo Station near Georgetown. In 2012 EAC signed a 3 year lease with the Indigenous Land Corporation to manage Talaroo as an Indigenous Protected Area to manage and protect the conservation and cultural values of this property, through weed, pest and fire and cultural management. The Talaroo Hot Springs are a very significant feature of Talaroo and Ewamian people are committed to protecting its natural and cultural value and hopefully one day restore the natural flows of the mounds and run successful tourism operations on Talaroo. Talaroo is managed by 4 Ewamian Rangers who are funded by the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program since 2009. EAC's vision is to provide many employment and training opportunities for Ewamian People on Talaroo in the future.

The activities currently undertaken by EAC are quite diverse and have at times been somewhat challenging but the development of a Strategic Plan in 2009 has provided a foundation and framework in delivering good corporate governance and providing the best suite of service to the Ewamian People. The EAC office is located in Mareeba and staffed by 3 members of the Ewamian community. The organisation is governed by a Board of Directors (7) who represent each of the family groups. The office is managed by the Coordinator who supervises a small team comprised of an Administration Officer and a cultural heritage officer based in the office and a ranger coordinator and 3 rangers who are based at Talaroo.

There are potentially a couple of large scale projects that are proposed for Ewamian Country and we

have not been given a clear process for engagement. These projects have potential to considerably impact on Ewamian cultural heritage and also native rights and interests. It is a priority for EAC to develop these relationships and provide clear and accessible information to proponents and land holders about our Native Title rights and interests and cultural heritage processes and protocols. There around 80 pastoral properties and an estimated 200 exploration and mining leases on Ewamian Country and EAC has the responsibility to manage relationships and administer and facilitate consultations, meetings and agreements with these stakeholders.

Over the next few years EAC aims to:

- strengthen our capabilities in corporate governance;
- provide clear information to people doing business in our country on our native title rights and how we manage cultural heritage;
- to facilitate training and employment of Ewamian People in presenting information on natural and cultural resource management, small business management (our goal is to support Ewamian operated businesses based on country).

Talaroo Station will be gazetted as a Nature Refuge as part of the ongoing and future management process and EAC is working with the Indigenous Land Corporation towards the handover of Talaroo during 2015. This will be a very significant achievement and milestone for the Ewamian People.

If you have any queries or are seeking information about EAC please contact the Coordinator of EAC. Email – admin@ewamian.com.au or contact the office on 4092 2555.



By **Sharon Prior, Coordinator EAC**

