

SEA COUNTRY

INDIGENOUS ISSUES OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

NUMBER 10

JUNE 2003

The tenth issue of Sea Country was compiled by staff of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). If you have any questions or would like to go on our mailing list, contact us at the address on the back.

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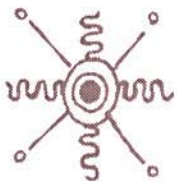
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NOTICE BOARD

A group of eight reefs, 85 kilometres off Cardwell is named the Bandjin Reefs. The Bandjin are the traditional owners of the Hinchinbrook marine region.



Illustrations by Lockhart River Art Gang.

Representative Areas Program Update

The Representative Areas Program (RAP) is the major program being undertaken to increase the level of protection of the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. An expected outcome of the program is an increase in the number of Marine Sanctuaries locally known as "Green Zones," to ensure that the Marine Park remains in as good as condition as possible.

The first formal Community Participation phase for RAP commenced on 7 May and concluded on 7 August 2002. Staff of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the GBRMPA) have now completed a detailed analysis of the 10,190 public submissions that were received.

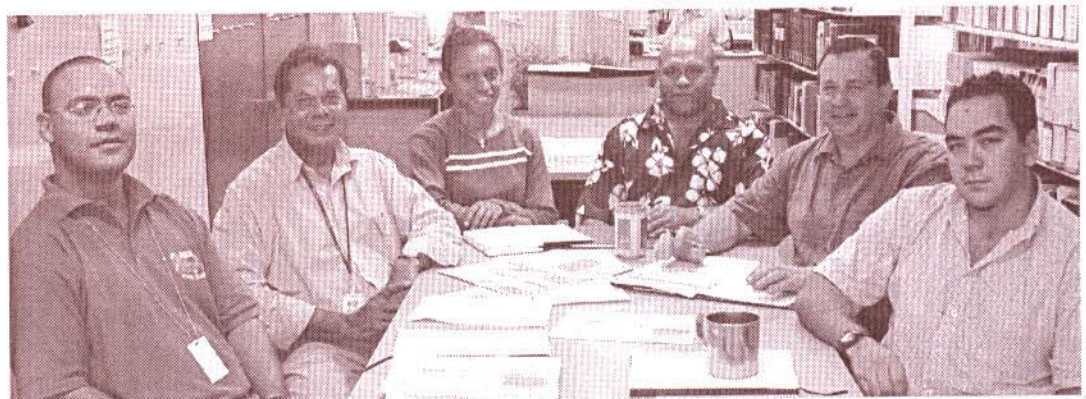
The information from the submissions, along with a wide range of biophysical, cultural and socio-economic information, formed the basis for the development of the Draft Zoning Plan (Draft lines on maps) for the entire Marine Park.

The Draft Zoning Plan is available for comment and is the basis for the second formal Community Information Phase. Submissions from this second phase will be taken into account in the development of the final plan, which will be presented for Ministerial approval. Submissions will be received from the 2 June 2003 until close of business on the 4 August 2003.

Under the GBRMPA's Strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's involvement in RAP, the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit (IPLU) has informed a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, reference groups, land councils, community groups and corporations about the program and how they can get involved.

Staff from IPLU and GBRMPA's RAP Planning Team will be visiting the following communities and coastal centres in June and July to inform them about the Draft Zoning Plan: Sesia, Bamaga, New

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IPLU Staff (left to right) - John Tapim, Tony Kyle, Holly Savage, Chicka Turner, Leon Jackson and Jason Davis will be conducting information sessions in your region.



GREAT BARRIER REEF
MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

SEA COUNTRY

An education initiative from the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit.

Representative Areas Program Update. . . (continued)

Mapoon, Injinoo, Umagico, Thursday Island, Yam Island, Coconut Island, Yorke Island, Warraber Island, Murray Island, Darnley Island, Stephen Island, Mossman, Wujal Wujal, Cooktown, Hope Vale, Laura, Weipa, Napranum, Coen, Port Stewart, Lockhart River, Cardwell, Clump Point, Innisfail, Yarrabah, Gordonvale, Townsville, Magnetic Island, Palm Island, Ayr, Bowen, Proserpine, Mackay, Sarina, Rockhampton, Gladstone and Bundaberg.

If you would like more information on the Representative Areas Program or the visits planned for your region, contact the Representative Areas Planning Team or Manager of the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit at GBRMPA on (07) 4750 0700, email info@gbmpa.gov.au freecall 1800 990 177, write to PO Box 1379, Townsville Qld 4810 or visit our website www.gbrmpa.gov.au

INFO

The Great Barrier Reef Image Collection comprises approximately 60,000 slides, plus 10,000 photographs and negatives. If you need images for a talk or a new publication, contact Julie Jones, our Image Collection Officer, to find out the costs.

Phone (07) 4750 0707 or visit our website www.gbrmpa.gov.au to view the online catalogue.

Lockhart River Art Gang Illustrations this issue:

Cover. David Michael

Page 2. Richard O'Brien

Page 2. Silas Hobson

Page 4. Terry Platt

Page 6. David Michael

Page 6. Silas Hobson

Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit Traditional Hunting News



One of the hardest issues to address in regard to turtle and dugong mortality in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area has been the management of traditional hunting in a way that is both culturally appropriate and ecologically sustainable.

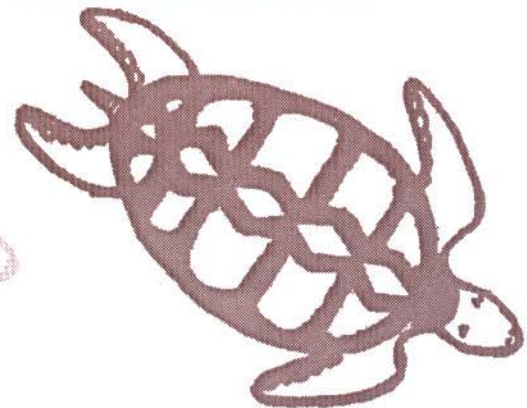
In order to work through such a complex and sensitive issue, GBRMPA's Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit and Species Conservation Unit developed a concept proposal for a Reef Wide Framework for the management of traditional hunting of green turtles and dugongs in the GBRWHA, that is consistent with the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993. The proposals intent is to work through the range of traditional hunting issues in partnership arrangements with Traditional Owners, Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRB's) and the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (QEPA).

On 10 October 2002, a teleconference was arranged with executives of relevant NTRB's along the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park coast, GBRMPA Executive and staff, and Senior Officers of the QEPA. The GBRMPA was given in principle support for the proposal to go to regional workshops so the concept could be discussed with Traditional Owners. To date the unit has co-ordinated over fifty workshops and meetings with Eastern Cape York Peninsula and Southern Great

Barrier Reef Traditional Owners, representatives and QEPA.

The work conducted through the regional Traditional Owner workshops has given the GBRMPA a good insight into developing new ways of future cooperative management business for sea country including the new Reef Wide Rezoning process occurring under the Representative Areas Program.

A key element of the new zoning plans will be the introduction of a provision that allows for Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRA). The TUMRAs are a basic planning tool, which includes a process for making agreements between Traditional Owner groups and the GBRMPA using a similar process to that of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement. The TUMRA process will be released as an Information Sheet in June with the Representative Areas Program.



"MV Doric Chariot" Grounding



"MV Doric Chariot" aground at Piper Reef

The bulk carrier "MV Doric Chariot" grounded on the southeastern side of Piper Reef in the Far Northern Section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park on the 29th July 2002.

The Temple Bay area is important to the Lockhart community for subsistence hunting, fishing and collecting and is the traditional estate of the Kuku-Yau Clan. The Piper Island group is also known as a seabird and turtle-nesting site.

To assist with the emergency response plan, Chicka Turner (Manager, Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit) went to Lockhart River to assist with the on-ground operation. Chicka's role was to work with the Kuku-Yau Traditional Owners and Cape York Land Council to provide advice on the cultural and heritage values held by the Traditional Owners. Alan Boath, Cairns Harbour Master, who was the incident controller, said that it was critical to attain the cultural and heritage values for the grounding site early in the operation so this could be used in planning the removal of the ship.

When Chicka visited the grounding site, it was very useful to have face to face discussions with the Traditional Owners so he could talk about their issues and concerns and how to fit them into the vessel removal plan. As part of these discussions, members of the Doctor, Hobson and Pascoe families were flown up to inspect the site. On recommendation from the incident

controller, Albert Doctor, Gregory Pascoe and Chicka were on board the marine parks vessel the "Kerra Lyn" to watch the ship's removal from the reef.

The "MV Doric Chariot" was successfully refloated on the 6th of August 2002 and the grounding site was rehabilitated in November 2002 to its original structure by environmental salvage contractors. Traditional Owners will visit the site again when the next patrol vessel is in the area.

Even though the operation to remove the vessel was a success, it points out the need for better systems in place to avoid ship grounding in the future.



Kuku-Yau Traditional Owners Albert Doctor and Gregory Pascoe with Chicka Turner en route to view the grounding site.

DID YOU KNOW?

Dolphins sleep?
They sleep with one half of their brain at a time and with one eye closed. They rest this way on and off throughout the day, switching which side of the brain they shut down.

INTERESTING WEBSITES

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

<http://www.aat.gov.au/>

Commonwealth Ombudsman

<http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/>

Freedom of Information Act

<http://scaleplus.law.gov.au/html/pasteact/0/58/top.htm>

National Native Title Tribunal

<http://www.nntt.gov.au/>

Far Northern Section Cruise Ship Anchorages

In the past, cruise ships have visited the Far Northern Section and anchored at the Flinders Island Group and anywhere in the light blue (General Use) zone. Now, the amended Far Northern Section Zoning Plan will generally only allow cruise ships to anchor at cruise ship anchorage areas.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the GBRMPA) has identified nine locations for these cruise ship anchorage areas: Boydong Cays, Piper Islands, Night Island, Morris Island, Creech Reef, Pison Island, Flinders Island Group, Bathurst Bay and Ingram Island. Any cruise ship wishing to visit them will need to apply for a permit from GBRMPA.

One tourism venture Captain Cook Cruises, already visits the Far North and has an arrangement with the Traditional Owners at Stanley Island

in the Flinders Island Group, to provide guides and interpretation on the island.

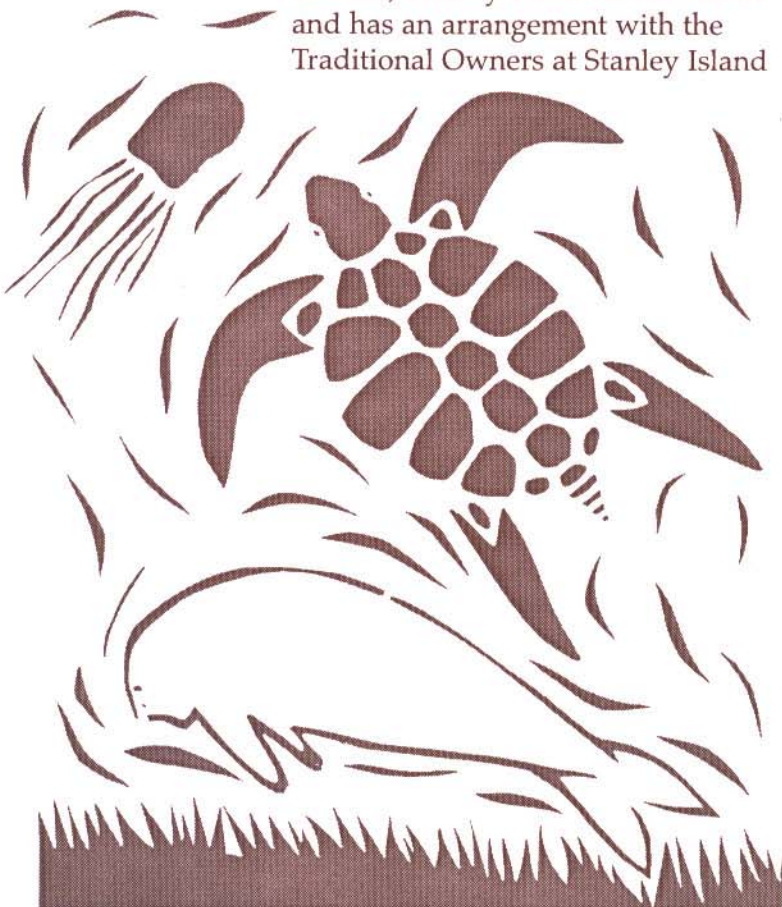
Annalisa Koeman and Vicki Bonanno from the GBRMPA's Tourism and Recreation Group, along with John Tapim from the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit, held meetings in Cairns, Cooktown, Lockhart River and Injinoo in February this year. The meetings were held to discuss the nine anchorage sites and explain the type of cruise ships that were likely to visit the locations. Traditional Owners whilst interested in tourism opportunities, also shared a number of concerns about the use of some locations, islands and cays and how to resolve these issues through management arrangements.

A big thanks to Ted Besley from Cape York Land Council and Chris Roberts from Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation for helping to organise these important meetings on Cape York.

What happens next?

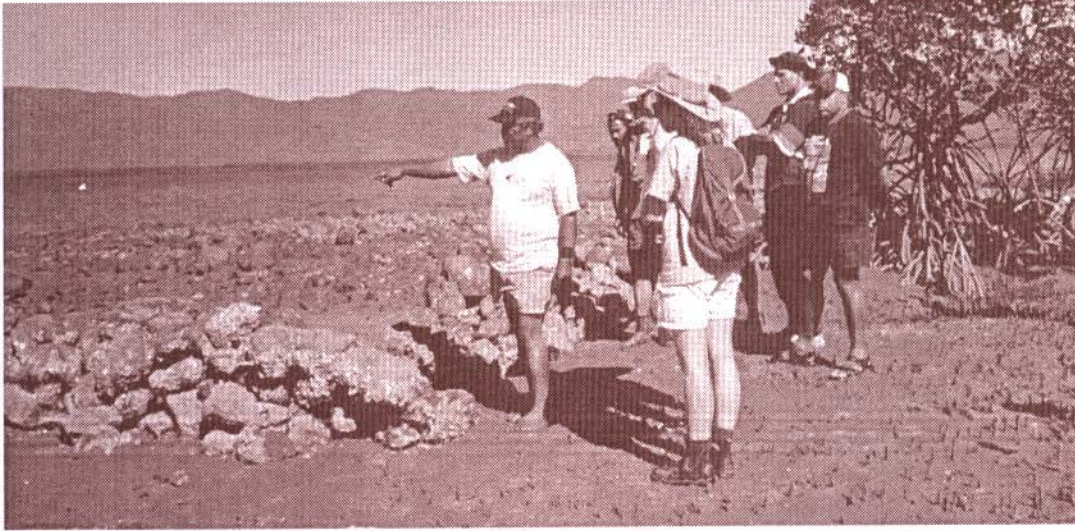
The Tourism & Recreation Group is working with Traditional Owners, the cruise ship industry and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) to jointly develop a code of conduct for cruise ships in the Far Northern Section. This code of conduct will be used to encourage the cruise ship operators to behave in a culturally and environmentally sensitive manner, especially when accessing the islands and cays.

For more information on Far Northern Section Cruise Ship Anchorages, please contact Vicki Bonanno at GBRMPA on 4750 0868 or free call 1800 802 251.



What's happening in Bandjin Country?

Goold Island Cultural Camp



In May last year, the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit held a cultural education camp on Goold Island, 20km off Cardwell. Staff from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the GBRMPA), the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and Giringun Aboriginal Corporation in Cardwell all participated in organising and attending the event.

The camp allowed the GBRMPA staff to gain a better understanding of the culture, rights and interests of the nine Traditional

Owner groups that Giringun represent. Bandjin, Gulgnay, Jirrbal, Nywaigi, Waragamay, Girramay, Warungnu, Djiru and Gugu-Badhun.

The camp succeeded in improving everyone's understanding of the Traditional Owner's aspirations for managing their sea country, and generally learning more about the roles of GBRMPA, QPWS and Traditional Owners in co-operative Marine Park management.



SEA SPY



Leon Jackson a Noongar man, is the new Project Manager in the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit, he was previously GBRMPA's Cartographer for the past 8 years.

Leanne Sommer has taken up a position in Brisbane with the Department of Defence.

A special thanks to the Lockhart River Art Gang for letting us use their artwork in the *Sea Country Newsletter*.

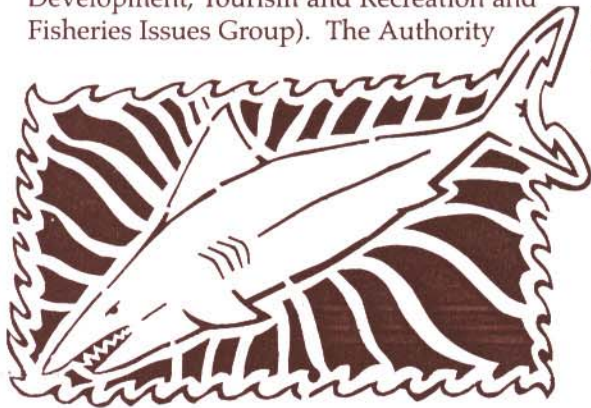
SOMETHING TO SAY ?

We welcome your contributions to *Sea Country* – talk or write to **Holly Savage** at the **Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit**, PO Box 1379, Townsville Qld 4810 Phone (07) 4750 0716

These articles are the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of GBRMPA

Authority – Reef Advisory Committees (RACs)

As part of the restructure of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in 1998, four critical issue groups were established (Conservation Biodiversity and World Heritage, Water Quality and Coastal Development, Tourism and Recreation and Fisheries Issues Group). The Authority



also set up a Reef Advisory Committee (RAC) for each of these groups. Each RAC works closely with staff of the relevant Critical Issue Group to ensure that policy development and strategic direction are developed in consultation with appropriate stakeholders. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members on the RACs are:

- Associate Professor Stephan Schneirer (RAC Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage)
- Mr Chris Roberts (RAC Fisheries)
- Mr Glen Miller (RAC Tourism and Recreation)
- Mr James Epong (RAC Water Quality and Coastal Development)

Lets find out about Vessel Monitoring Systems

Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) work by using a combination of two satellite systems – Global Positioning System (GPS) and Inmarsat-C, providing the capability to track and monitor vessels.

The GPS system provides the positional information (eg time, vessel type, location, speed and course) to be forwarded via Inmarsat and the land earth station to the Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS) VMS which allows them to identify regularly and

initiate appropriate response actions against those vessels operating illegally or acting suspiciously.

VMS are now mandatory on trawlers and vessels commercially collecting sea cucumbers and trochus. The GBRMPA is working with the QFS to investigate the technical feasibility of linking sensors to the VMS system on trawlers to enhance monitoring of fishing activity.

