

Bonye Bu'ru News

Reconnecting Country and Culture

Bunya People's Aboriginal Corporation

and the

Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers

Newsletter



Logo artwork by Maurice Mickelo

WINTER EDITION 2015

Making Tracks: Munroe's Walking Track

*'are not only sustainable, but also
flow through the Bunya landscape
and enhance the natural setting'*

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Bunya People's Aboriginal Corporation Board Update

It seems that time is flying with the end of the financial year as there is a focus on completing projects and activities. Nonetheless, BPAC is looking forward to 2015-16 and working with all who are interested in caring for country in the Bunyas.

The Indigenous Language Program project has been completed and some useful and exciting language tools have been developed. BPAC will be seeking further investment to expand the Language Revival Program, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in language activities.

The Murri Ranger program is on track to deliver another successful year of 'caring for country' activity in the Bunya Mountains. BPAC would like to make a special mention of acknowledgement to the Burnett Mary Regional Group, who auspice the project and who have been the key enabler of the award winning Bunya Mountains Murri Ranger Program. BPAC also acknowledges the support from our partners; the Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service, Western Downs Regional Council and Fireland Consultancy for their significant contributions which added success to the Murri Ranger program.

"The BPAC have been steadily building its governance and business development capacity.

At the last BPAC director's meeting, there was extensive discussion about the need to engage Traditional custodians, and Aboriginal people.

*If you are interested in becoming involved, please complete the **membership application** on the back*

IHP : Indigenous Heritage Program

Russell Park is sporting some new signs.

Come and check them out!

The Australian Government, through the Indigenous Heritage Program, funded the Burnett Mary Regional Group and the BPAC to install six new signs on the Bunya Mountains.



Dual-sided Noticeboards can be found at No-Name Park & Fishers' Lookout

Two large signs have been installed at the Russell Park entry in the hope of catching the eye of drivers and enticing them stop. The remaining four signs are on walking tracks and identify significant plants.

All signs highlight the cultural values of the Mountain with Aboriginal people.



Munroe's Walking Track Entrance Sign



another Dual-sided Noticeboard located at No-Name Park Picnic Area

Making Tracks: Munroe's New Walking Track

Over the last month the Rangers have been busy with track management within Russell Park.

Upgrading and maintaining the walking tracks has an emphasis on improving the aesthetics, long-term stability, low maintenance and cost-effective management for the future.



When constructing and maintaining tracks the Rangers goal is to ensure that they are not only sustainable, but also flow through the Bunya landscape and enhance the natural setting. It is hoped that by constructing tracks that are of a high quality and have minimal impact on the environment visitors to Russell Park will have a more enjoyable and natural experience.



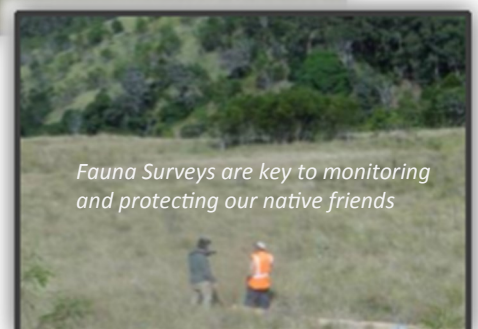
Fauna Survey

Autumn was a busy period for the rangers with many actions completed. One important activity was the completion of fauna survey's around the mountain with visiting Zoologists Jeffery C Smith and Luke Hogan.

Surveys were completed at:

- Mount Mowbullan
- the grasslands at Fisher's Lookout
- the grasslands at Munroe's Corner and
- in the forest entrance at Munroe's track

The survey went for four days and identified a variety of insects, reptiles and small marsupials.



Burning the Grassland Balds

The Rangers have been eagerly waiting for the right conditions to undertake burns on the grassland balds within Russell Park. That is the right weather and ground conditions so that the desired burn can be undertaken.

Planning the burns has been less of a burden this year with Joshua Bull from Fireland Consultancy coming on board to undertake the planning. Fireland will also assist with the on-ground fire activities alongside the Murri Ranger crew. Josh has been working with other Ranger groups and Indigenous communities to apply fire to country, so understands the cultural values of fire management, as well as the ecological and risk management aspects of fire management.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife are also planning burns this year on a number of balds within the National Park. The Murri Ranger team will lend a hand to assist QPWS when required with these fires.

These grasslands have been developed over thousands of years of cultural burning; on one of the largest meeting places for Indigenous people in SE Queensland and beyond.

There are a number of reasons for these fires, including:

- Maintaining the grassland ecosystem from the encroachment of rainforest
- Re-establishing cultural practices of using fire to maintain the grassland balds and
- Eradicating weed infestations on the balds

Keep an eye out around the mountain.



You may catch a glimpse of some smoke plumes coming from the Bunyas!



NCC Bushfire Conference

Ranger Mick had the opportunity to attend the Nature Conservation Council of NSW's 10th biennial Bushfire Conference. The forum was an opportunity for scientists, practitioners and land managers to share new knowledge. Mick made some great connections and will be looking to implement some of the knowledge he learnt.



Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers Staffing News

SAY HELLO :

The BMMR Team would like to introduce our two (2) new Murri Rangers



Ranger Jim

- **Mr Jim Hawkins** and
- **Mr Isaiah Cummings**

BMMR report with pleasure that both have been doing a great job and have adapted quickly to the demands of Ranger work, so *Thumbs Up and Keep Smiling guys!!*



Ranger Isaiah

SHOUT-OUTS :

A special shout-out to **Chantelle Mickelo** on the safe arrival of her beautiful and healthy twins girls. Mum and bubs (and household) doing fine.

Congratulations Chantelle



- and - while Chantelle is on Maternity Leave -



Selina Hill (Wakka Wakka) shall be the BMMR Business Support Officer for BPAC and BMMR.

BMMR TEAM :

Name:	Position:
Paul Dawson	BPAC Project Officer
Shelly Hansen	Bunya Ranger Coordinator
Michael Smith	Senior Murri Ranger
Nick Rodgers	Murri Ranger
Jim Hawkins	Murri Ranger
Isaiah Cummings	Murri Ranger
Maurice Mickelo	Cultural Programs/Knowledge Ranger
Selina Hill	BMMR Business Support Officer

Cultural Plant Use

The **Black Bean tree** thrives in rainforests from northern NSW to northern Queensland. It is a tall tree that grows up to 40m. It displays shiny green leaves on low spreading branches and produces small red and yellow flowers that are often covered by the foliage of the tree. The large seed pods that follow the flowers are usually 15-20 cm in length.

Black Bean (*Castanospermum australe*)



The Black bean seeds are toxic to humans and animals, but with expert preparation the toxins can be removed to make the beans a nutritious food source. Aboriginal people held extensive knowledge in regard to removing toxins from plant foods. This enabled Aboriginal people to have a varied and nutritious diet. Aboriginal people would crack the seeds and soak them in running water for several days, leaching out the poisonous alkaloid. The soaked seeds were then pounded into a type of meal and then roasted. The result, a flat bread or cake of sorts.



WARNING:
If the Black bean seeds are eaten without correct and expert preparation, severe diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal pain and dizziness can occur.

NAIDOC: We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Culture

This year the **2015 National NAIDOC** theme highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' strong spiritual and cultural connection to land and sea. The theme is an opportunity to pay respects to country; honour those who work tirelessly on preserving land, sea and culture and to share the stories of many sites of significance or sacred places with the nation. As the oldest continuing culture on the planet, the living culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is intrinsically linked with these sacred places. Sacred places can be a geographic feature like a river or lake, a beach, bays, inlets, hills or a mountain range or ceremonial grounds, galleries of rock art or engravings or places used for gathering for cultural practices.



Long before European arrival, these places had traditional names - names that now reflect the timeless relationship between the people and the land. Often sacred places are connected with Dreaming stories or tell of the meaning of an area.

Information courtesy: <http://www.naidoc.org.au/about/theme-and-host-city>

Bonye Bu'ru Noticeboard



BPAC BOARD MEMBERS:

BPAC Office Bearers:

Chairperson	Mr Mal Collinge
Vice-Chair	Richard McCarthy
Treasurer	Mrs Lurlene Hendersen

Board Member/Directors:

Florence Bell
Donna Moodie
Dave Calland
Cheri Yau-Kama-Harathunian
Ara Harathunian



the Rangers and the Board: sharing Bunya visions and working in the spirit of respect

Glossary: some of our commonly used acronyms

BPAC (Bunya People's Aboriginal Corporation)

BMMR (Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers)

BMRG (Burnett Mary Regional Group) for Natural Resource Management Ltd

QPWS (Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service)

WDRC (Western Downs Regional Council)



Bunya People's Aboriginal Corporation

Membership Form 2015

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I, (please Print) _____

wish to Apply for Membership of Bunya People's Aboriginal Corporation

Please Print and Complete Your Contact Details below

SURNAME: _____

FIRST NAMES: _____

If you are known by another Name eg Nickname, please include below

ADDRESS: _____

SUBURB/TOWN: _____

STATE: _____

P/CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

MOBILE: _____

EMAIL: _____

I identify as being of Aboriginal descent: Yes No

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the information provided to be true and correct.

Signature

Date: / / 20

Annual Membership Fee

One (1) Year Membership only is open to persons over the age of 25 years.

Membership Entitlements:

- Voting Rights
- BPAC Meeting Notes (electronic access only)
- Promotional Information eg Bonye Bu'ru Newsletter

Payment Options: Cash, Cheque or Money Orders accepted

Amount: \$10:00

For Membership Enquiries

- please contact **(07) 4181 2999** (8:00am-5:00pm, Monday-Thursday)

Office Address: BMMR/BMRG Wondai Office (32 Bramston Street)

Mailing Address: Attention BPAC / PO Box 501 Bundaberg Qld 4670

Email: bradmin@bmr.org.au