

Bonye Bu'ru News

Bunya Peoples Aboriginal Corporation (BPAC)
and the Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers (BMMR)

Reconnecting Country and Culture



SPRING EDITION 2015



BPAC 2015 AGM
Members and Guests
at the BPAC AGM held
14 November 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



Pg 2 : BPAC 2015 AGM & Board Update

Pg 3 : Rangers Update & Bald Health & Fire Report

Pg 4 : The Blazing Bunyas

Pg 5 : Woorabinda State School Excursion to the Bunyas

Pg 6 : For the Junior Rangers

Pg 7 : BMMR Staffing News

Back Page: BPAC Membership Form

BPAC 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Update

The Bunya Peoples' Aboriginal Corporation (BPAC) would like to welcome and thank all its members, old and new, for being part of the organisation and sharing its aspirations to reconnect culture and country in the Bunya Mountains.

The BPAC Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held Saturday 14th November at Elz Restaurant on top of the Bunya Mountains. The AGM was a great opportunity for members to elect and engage with the Board and to find out how organisation is progressing, as well as meet and mingle with the Rangers and enjoy a Community BBQ Lunch with the locals.

In summary of the AGM:

- **BPAC Rule Book Change:** the proposed change (regarding membership age criterion) was accepted and passed as a Special Resolution. **Rule 3.3.1, Members Eligibility** shall allow for younger persons *aged 18 years and over* to apply for BPAC Membership
- **BPAC Board Members:** with no new Board members, the size of the Board has reduced, with one Director not re-standing and another resigning earlier in the year.

Details of the BPAC Board Members and their roles are:



Chairperson

Mrs Lurlene Henderson



Vice-Chair

Mr Dave Calland



Treasurer

Mr Ara Harathunian



Board Member

Mr Mal Collinge



No
Image

Board Member

Mrs Florence Bell



Board Member

Mrs Cheri Yavu-Kama-Harathunian

SHOUT-OUT:

BPAC would like to take this opportunity to thank the following persons for their tireless efforts and passion as a part of the BPAC Board towards sharing and advancing the Bunya Visions of 'Reconnecting Country & Culture'

Outgoing Board Members:

- Mrs Donna Moodie
- Mr Richard 'Darby' McCarthy

Special Thanks as well to our BPAC Outgoing Chair, Mr Mal Collinge - your tireless contributions whilst in this position is much appreciated.

- **Ranger Mick** delivered a presentation about the Bunya Mountains Murri Ranger on-ground



works and updates on the Russell Park Fire Management Project (in partnership with the Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

He also provided an update of the cultural activities and provided a demonstration of the Cultural Knowledge Database.

Around the Ridges with the Rangers Update

The Ranger team has had their hands full since July this year

- with a new financial year comes a new scope of works -

and this needs to be implemented in the office and across the Bunya landscape

Construction of new walking track to Fishers Lookout was a main priority before the September holidays break. The team completed this task that included new signage to blend in with the infrastructure that is in place at the lookout.

Along with the revamped Fishers Lookout, the Grassland Bald has received some intensive stick picking activities. This has allowed rangers to clean the area of unburnt material from the prescribed burn that happened in the area a couple of months ago.



The Rangers are working on getting the cyber tracker unit to make it more usable for field staff. This tool will allow staff to capture information more easily and allow the progression of work and other relevant information to be uploaded to our database.

Weed maintenance trials have begun with new techniques such as basal barking and chemicals such as Access being used. The rangers are hoping to see positive results in the coming weeks which in the long term will give a faster and better result on the grasslands.

Bald Health and Fire: a partnership with QUT

The BPAC have been developing a partnership with the Queensland University of Technology to research the effectiveness of the Murri Ranger's management of the grassland balds.



Photos: Firing up the Bunyas

The research will establish monitoring practices to determine any changes in the health of the balds from management techniques such as burning. The project will be overseen by a steering group consisting of experts in fire management. Perspectives from Aboriginal cultural burning and fire ecology will be captured through the steering group.



Below: Rangers Shelly & Mick on the Fire-trail



The Blazing Bunya Balds (Munroe's Bald Report by Ranger Isaiah)

Over the last six months, the Rangers have been preparing a number of balds for burns and on the 29th of July, 2015 a prescribed burn for Munroe's Bald went ahead. The burn was conducted with help from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and for the first time, with Joshua Bull and his team from Fireland Consultancy, a land management company specialising in bushfire management and hazard assessment. The day started at the Bunya Mountains QPWS shed,



where all the firefighting tanks were filled with water and a briefing of what was to unfold throughout the day was issued. Historically, traditional fire management practices sustained ideal habitats for hunting as well as the Aboriginal pathways for the Bunya gatherings. To this present day, fire management practices are used to control the encroachment of invasive weed such as acacia,

Some key animal species such as the black-breasted button-quail and the Bunya Sun-skink (*Lampropholis colossus*) depend on the grasslands and countless other species would not be able to survive if fire practices did not support the habitats within the Mountains. ***Not only are animals reliant on the grassland balds,*** but the ecological health of vegetation species surrounding the 'grassland balds' is important as well.



Lampropholis colossus (Bunya Sun-skink)

“and countless other animals would not be able to survive if fire practices did not support the habitats within the Mountains”.



What this little cutie must be thinking



Black-breasted button-quail

The Bunya Mountains Bluegrass or Satin-top Grass is endemic to the area which means that it is native and occurs only in the Bunyas and a few other locations around them.

Ranger Update: Rangers Mick and Shelly were on the fire line with the rest of the crew whilst



Jim and I were a part of the magical media crew which had the responsibility of recording and taking still shots of the fire burns. The day was successful and provides opportunity for rejuvenation of grass species and removal of smaller weed patches. As part of fire management follow up, weed maintenance is conducted in order to manage the larger problem area patches of weeds.

BPAC & BMMR will keep us updated about the Fire-Management on-ground projects through our Bonye Bu'ru Newsletters, so ... Watch This Space

Woorabinda State School cultural tour with the Bunya Rangers

On the 1st of September the Murri Rangers conducted a tour for the Woorabinda State School, showcasing the cultural and heritage information relating to the Bunya Mountains region. The students ranged from Grades 1 to 7, and were a credit to their parents and their school for the curiosity, enthusiasm and respect ... oh and the Teachers and carers got involved too.

Ranger Isaiah led the tour with assistance from Rangers Mick and Jim and it was agreed that the it was a huge success. The opportunity for the Woorabinda students to engage and connect to some deadly stories and knowledge surrounding this culturally significant area, as well as experience the beauty of the rainforest, was no doubt beneficial and enjoyable for all involved.



Some of the Woorabinda State School students hanging out with Ranger Isaiah at the Bunya Mountains



SHOUT-OUT:



Congratulations Ranger Isaiah

All the best in your future endeavors Mate, and may your time with us be as wind in your sails as you embark on this great new voyage.

From On-ground Works to Sailing the Seven Seas A Message from the Team:

The time is drawing nearer as Isaiah prepares to weigh anchor and set sail on his new career as a [Marine Technician in the Australian Navy](#).

Isaiah has been an integral part of the Murri Ranger Team this year, bringing with him boat loads of knowledge and a wave of new ideas. His enthusiasm and hard work have brought both inspiration and passion to the Ranger Program.



Find-A-Word

W R A S D I N G O
B A T R T R E E T
U U T O O L S R A
N S N E O B A I E
Y D P P R C G V F
A L D E K F A E R
R A O R A C A R O
T B W E I R R L G
W A L L A B Y S L

BUNYA
TREE
CAVE
BALDS
FROG

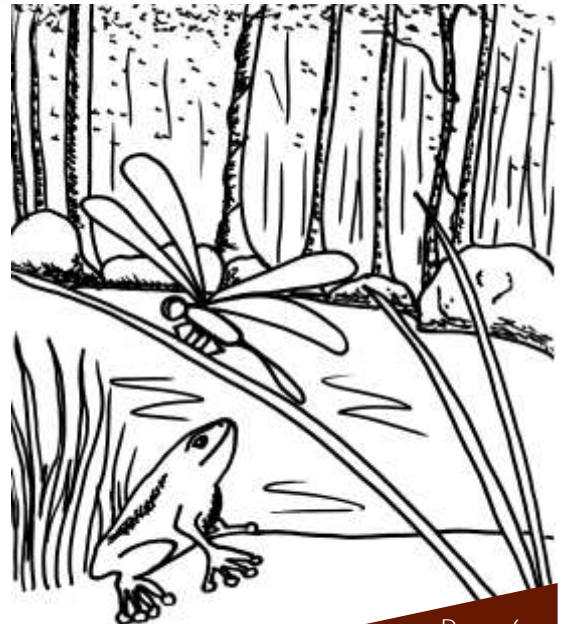
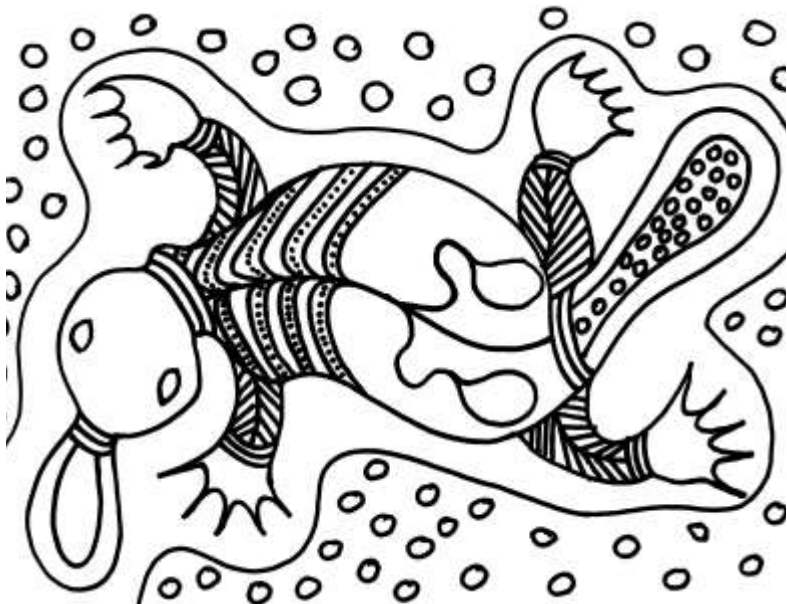
BORA
RIVER
WATERFALL
DINGO
TADPOLE

TOOLS
WALLABY
OWL
ART

NUTS
BIRD
SPEAR
TRACK

Use the left over letters: Who looks after Bonye Bu'ru?

This page kindly provided by the Bunya Mountain Murri Ranger Team (source: Bonye Bu'ru Knowledge Base)



Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers (BMMR) Staffing News

Who's Who in the Team



BPAC Project Officer
Paul Dawson



BMMR Business Support Officer
Selina Hill



Murri Ranger Coordinator
Michael 'Mick' Smith



Murri Ranger
Isaiah Cummings



Murri Ranger
Arnold 'Gordon' Collins



Murri Ranger
Jim Hawkins



to ALL the former
BMMR employees:

Thanks for sharing the
workload, challenges and cheers
throughout the past year
—and— may each and
everyone of you (and family)



Enjoy the Christmas Spirit and
have a prosperous New Year

SHOUT-OUTS:

Special thanks and best wishes to Shelly Hansen, who was our Bunya Ranger Coordinator for the past four years. Shelly's passion and work ethic will be missed by all who had the chance to work with and alongside her.

Congratulations to Ranger Mick (Michael Smith) who has been promoted to the role of Murri Ranger Coordinator. Mick has been with the Ranger team for the last two years and has shown excellent skills, knowledge and passion for the job. He started as a Murri Ranger, moved into the Senior Ranger role and now has the opportunity to lead this fantastic team.

Welcome Ranger Gordy (namely, Arnold 'Gordy' Collins) whom has had a very productive start to his career indeed. Not only is he a new addition to our Team, but he has a new addition to his own family, Issac Alister James Collins born on 23rd November 2015. *Congratulations Gordy & Family.*

*the BPAC Board & Ranger Team
Wish All our Mob: a very safe*



Murri Christmas and see you next year !!



Bunya People's Aboriginal Corporation

Membership Form 2016

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:

Amount: \$10:00

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

Payment Options: Cash, Cheque or Money Orders accepted

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