

Bonye Bu'ru News

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

SUMMER EDITION 2016 NEWSLETTER



*“ Trees are the Earth’s endless effort ...
... to speak to the listening Heaven ”*

Rabindranth Tagore

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A Message from the Chair, Mrs Lurlene Henderson

On behalf of the BPAC Board of Directors, I would like to welcome all our members and readers to join us in creating and supporting positive outcomes for the Bunya vision. Already it seems like this year promises to be yet another exciting and interesting time for environmental and cultural land matters I'm sure. With that being said, the main priority for us (as the BPAC Board Directors) is to strengthen our corporate governance arrangements and maintain our Ranger program links with our people, our partnerships and our public interests. If you are interested in finding out more, please find BPAC Contact Details/BPAC Membership Form on the back page.

BPAC Board of Directors



Chairperson
Mrs Lurlene Henderson



Vice-Chair
Mr Dave Calland



Treasurer
Mr Ara Harathunian



Board Member
Mr Mal Collinge



Board Member
Mrs Florence Bell



Board Member
Mrs Cheri Yavu-Kama-Harathunian

Getting to know our Board

To bring everyone up-to-date, the BPAC AGM was held 14-November-2015 at the Bunyas. The elections were held and the BPAC Board of Directors consist of the following persons and positions as shown.

In understanding that it is important to know who our Directors are, we include a new five minute segment which introduces a snapshot into the lighter yet personal side of who's who on the Board (and Ranger Team). For this edition, we kick start with our Chairperson on page 4

Welcome to 2016



Bunya Cone after dropping from the tree

Photo: Bunya Leaves



Bunya Nuts in Husk



- **International Year of Pulses** '*nutritious seeds for a sustainable future*' The Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) aims to heighten global public awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses (lentils, beans, peas, chickpeas etc) for sustainable food production, food security and nutrition.
- **Chinese Year of the Monkey**

Below: Bunya Cones (Photo Australian Plants Online)



Fire Planning for Russell Park (BPAC Project Initiative)

The Russell Park Fire Project Meeting held 15-16 November 2015 enabled experts and peers to discuss options for an improved monitoring framework within the Russell Park Fire Management Plan. This would involve many things such as re-establishing Aboriginal fire-management practices within the Bunya Mountains. To begin with, the meeting participants went on a field-trip to Munroe's Corner, Fisher's Lookout, Mount Mowbullen and Westcott Balds to see the results and understand what the Murri Rangers have done to rehabilitate the grasslands. The peer group discussed the findings upon the previous research conducted by Rod Fensham and Russell Fairfax which focussed on exploring the use of fire to maintain the grassland balds. Kelvin Quinn presented how Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service implement fire-management activities in the Bunya landscape.

Further presentations and planning sessions were held on day two as follows:

- Oliver Costello presented the cultural values of fire and interesting discussions focussed on the principles for reviving Aboriginal fire management, and ensuring that Aboriginal cultural values are foundational to developing the fire management plan for Russell Park. He also provided some examples of fire management plans developed by Aboriginal groups for country in Northern NSW.
- Jennifer Firn provided a proposed outline to a monitoring framework that has strong potential to become a research scope for a PHD project in the near future. This research would align with the needs of the Murri Rangers activities in rehabilitating the grassland balds.

Actions were identified leading up to the next meeting in April 2016 and these include developing the draft plan, undertaking another prescribed burn in the southern section of Russell Park and continuing to develop the monitoring framework and research scope for the activities. Funded through Burnett Mary Regional Groups' Healthy Habitats Program, the project is to be managed by the Bunya Peoples Aboriginal Corporation (BPAC) and carried out by the Murri Rangers.

The Russell Park Fire Project Meeting participants included:

- Dave Calland (*Bunya Peoples' Aboriginal Corporation*)
- Michael Smith (*Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers*)
- Oliver Costello (*Firesticks Program*)
- Josh Bull (*Firelands Consultancy*)
- Jennifer Firn (*Queensland University of Technology*)
- Coral Pearce (*Queensland University of Technology*)
- Rod Fenham (*University of Queensland*)
- Kelvin Quinn (*Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service*)
- Michael Piper (*Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service*)
- Chris Gaschk (*Western Downs Regional Council*) and
- Paul Dawson (*Burnett Mary Regional Group*)

Russell Park Fire Meeting Participants, 15-16 November 2015





Favourite bush tucker or meal Lilly-pilly Jam also Roasted Garlic Bunya Nuts (Tom’s recipe)

What’s being played in your car Country music (got about 4-5 mixed country CDs for the car)

Best piece of advice ever given Don’t judge someone based on somebody else’s opinion. I believe in being kind, tolerant and respectful because every person is entitled to have their own views and opinions at any given time. And when being tested, perhaps agree to disagree, just as *“Jesus said, Father forgive them; for they know not what they do”*.

What would you do or buy if you won Gold Lotto That’s actually a hard question, but straight up I’d have to bring all my extended family together for one big celebration

What you’d change if given the Almighty Power start changing attitudes by making rich men walk in poor mans shoes (for at least a week). I would cease poverty and starvation

Around the Ridges with the Rangers Update

Feral Pig Baiting Program

In conjunction with Western Downs Regional Council, the Murri Rangers have been implementing a feral pig feeding program to pave the way for the control baiting program that is to follow. Automatic feeders and monitoring cameras have been setup across Russell Park to encourage the pigs to feed from the grain that is time released from the devices. When good numbers of feral pigs are observed on the monitoring cameras, poison bait will be added to the feeders. This will significantly reduce the numbers of feral pigs throughout Russell Park.

Step 1: Ranger Gordy gives the thumbs up that working on country is meaningful



Step 3: Chris Gaschk (Western Downs Regional Council) setting up the trap



Step 2: considering the best place is not always as easy as it seems



Step 4: the end result—the pigs will eat the grain and get ‘punked’ in the process



Did You Know: once the traps have been placed in position, the automatic feeders are filled with non-poison bait. The camera traps monitor the number of pigs attracted to the automatic feeder. This will determine the suitability and positioning of the traps before the poison is added.

BMMR Team



BPAC Project Officer
Paul Dawson



BMMR Business Support Officer
Selina Hill



Murri Ranger Coordinator
Michael 'Mick' Smith



Murri Ranger
Arnold 'Gordon' Collins



Murri Ranger
Nathan Collins

Staff Changes

Just as the welcome of a new year brings change, the kick-start to this year has brought opportunities with the addition of staff to the Bunya Mountain Murri Ranger (BMMR) Team. So with pleasure we announce and welcome Luke Bond and Allysa Brown as Murri Rangers (and if you would like to know a little bit more about them, you can find their intros below). The other bit of goss out of the office, is the return of one of our former employees, Nathan Collins. Nathan was a part of our Team as a Murri Ranger is coming back into this role. So "welcome to the Team" both Luke and Allysa and 'welcome back' Nathan.

Introducing our latest additions

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Luke Bond (*Wakka Wakka descendant*) from Murgon

Luke says that he was happy to get the position and looked forward to joining the Ranger team. Luke believes that it is important to learn about country, teach the children, provide for family and be a good role model.



Allysa Brown (*Wakamudla/Bidjara descendant*) from Roma

Allysa believes respect and cultural identity is important. She is the eldest, grew up around Roma and has a little sister, Camryn (who looks up to her). Her mob is Wakamudla (one of Simpson Desert tribe) and her Dad is Bidjara.

Interesting Facts: The making of the Bunya Mountains landscape

The volcano that made the landscape at and around the Bunya Mountains by Ranger Gordy

FACT: The Bunya Mountain is in fact the remains of a broad dome or "shield" shaped volcano



Studies reveal that 33-34 million years ago, volcanic activities extended north of Toowoomba, from the southern Main Range on the NSW border, northwards of Kingaroy and beyond. As a result, the Bunya Mountains developed due to the numerous layers upon layers of basalt lava flows which built up over such a long period of time.

Out of interest, some other major volcanoes of similar age in the region include the focal peak volcano near Mount Barney and the well known and much larger Tweed Volcano whose remains form the Lamington Plateau and the Border Range.

Watch this space for more on the making of the Bunyas in upcoming newsletters

Seasonal Calendars

First Nations people have developed an intricate understanding of the environment over many thousands of years. One way to build on and share this knowledge is to construct a seasonal calendar to record natural events and make associations between these events. There are patterns in nature that occur around the same time each year, just like the story in the painting below, by our Murri Ranger Coordinator, Mick Smith.



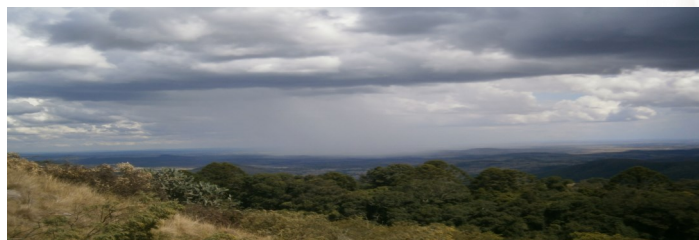
Painting: Relationship between the Turtle and flowering Acacia. **Artist Mick Smith**

It tells us about the Black wattles (*Acacia spp*) producing masses of yellow flower starting as early as June.

When the Black wattle blossoms appear in southeast Queensland, the frosty weather sets in as the winds shift to the south-west and west. The freshwater turtle will be nesting, whilst on the coast the mullet and tailor spawning runs dominate the hunting season.

These events happen every year at roughly the same time. Making associations between seemingly unrelated events provides a greater appreciation of our environment.

Knowledge of these patterns enables Indigenous peoples to predict the occurrence of one event by the appearance of another. There are widespread Aboriginal belief systems whereby a sequence of seasonal changes such as plants flowering, fruits ripening, animals appearing in abundance and seasonal winds arriving, were believed to be all causally inter-related and inter-dependent, one triggering the next (Memmott, P. 2005).



The Australian Bureau of Meteorology has included Indigenous seasonal calendars into their research and an overview of the relationships between language, culture and environmental knowledge is included from the Indigenous Climate, Weather and Culture link on their website http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/climate_culture/index.shtml

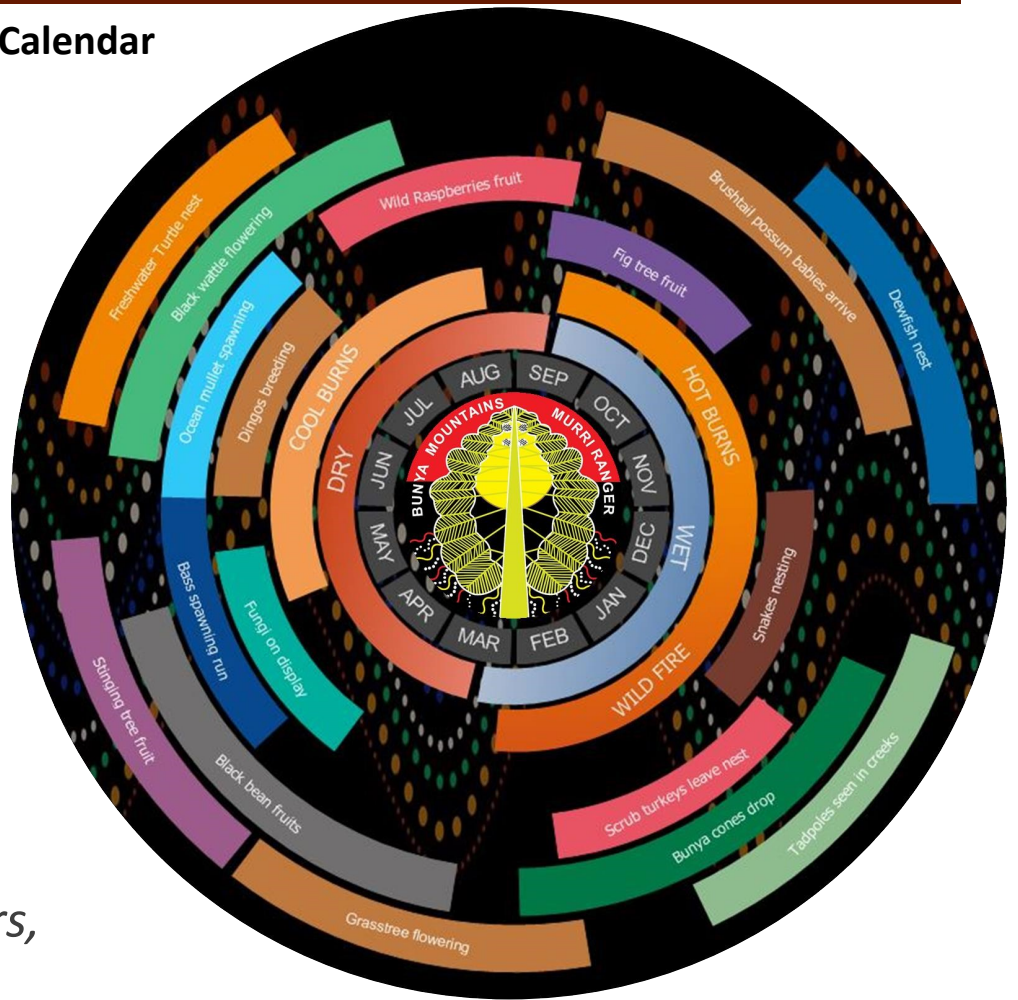
Some language groups had up to eight seasons throughout the year unlike the western philosophy of four. Usually these seasons are named after the resource availability for that period or the weather condition regarding that time of year. Documenting the calendars has informed the scientific understanding of the relationships between people and the seasonal cycles of resource availability. In the future the calendars may provide an important baseline for detecting ecological change associated with climate change. They have also had a positive social benefit by making Indigenous knowledge more accessible to school students and the broader community.

Murri Rangers Seasonal Calendar

Notice the patterns that occur at the same time, for example,

- **the Black wattle flowering occurs the same time as the fresh water turtles nest.**

These occurrences were triggers that would allow indigenous people to know when and also when not to hunt certain animals



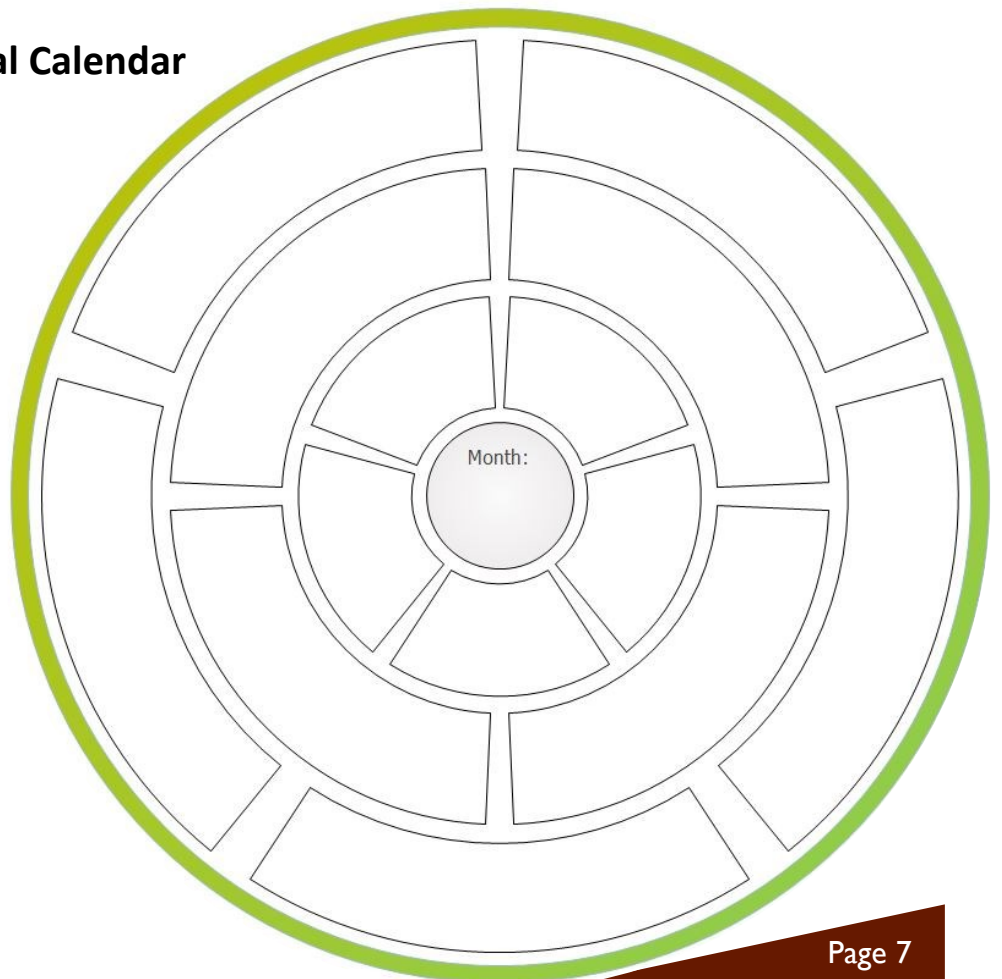
*Now Junior Rangers,
it's your turn*

Create Your Own Seasonal Calendar

Use the circle graph to record observations of the environment around you.

Include:

- Animals observed, for example lorikeets returning.
- Plant response to time of year, for example flowers present, fruit emerging, new growth.
- Non-biological observations for example wind direction, wet or dry, storm season etc..





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:

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)

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