



# 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 18 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](mailto:bradmin@bmr.org.au)

# Bonye Bu'ru News

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

## SPRING EDITION 2016



### A Kind Word Is Like A Spring Day thanks to Google translator

The Ranger Team have been promoting the beauty of the Bunya Mountains National Park on a world scale.

*When Oakey State High School toured with a group of attentive Chinese exchange students, communication was not as difficult as the team thought it may be, thanks to Google.*

Rangers Luke and Nathan were able to communicate effectively thanks to the use of google translator on mobile devices. And word must have got out, we don't know, but then again in August, Toowoomba TAFE toured with a group of new Australians from many multicultural backgrounds. And with the diversity of stories from their homelands, the visitors brought food and the rangers enriched the importance of cultural connections on top of one of the oldest festival venues in Australia, our very own Bunya Mountains.

*For more on the tour adventures by Rangers Luke & Nathan (including messages from the tourists) go to page 7*



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**Plus a lot of more information and updates on the Rangers**

FOR MORE  &   Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/bunyarangers4BPAC>

or visit  [www.bmr.org.au](http://www.bmr.org.au)

## Welcome to our Autumn Edition

### BPAC Update

In order to strengthen the BPAC strategic vision, the BPAC Board of Directors have implemented theme based meetings in addition to the quarterly BPAC Meetings already scheduled. This will enable them the opportunity to workshop and prioritise those board related matters necessary for good governance and form part of the momentum behind reviewing the Strategic Plan which became operational as the *Bunya Mountains Aboriginal Aspirations and Caring for Country Plan* in 2010. If you would like a copy of the Plan, either call the office or view/download it from <http://www.bmrq.org.au/our-programs/>



**Chairperson**  
**Mrs Lurlene Henderson**



**Vice-Chair**  
**Mr Dave Calland**



**Treasurer**  
**Mr Ara Harathunian**



**Board Member**  
**Mr Mal Collinge**

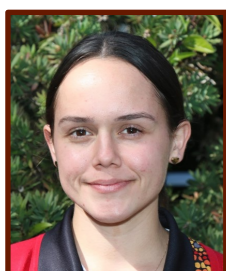


**Board Member**  
**Mrs Florence Bell**



**Board Member**  
**Mrs Cheri Yavu-Kama-Harathunian**

### BMMR Staffing Update

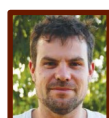


#### Please join us in welcoming Hannah McCullough and Barwoo Fisher to the Bunya Mountains Murri Ranger team!

Hello my name is Hannah McCullough, I am 18 years old and I'm from Wondai. I am employed as the Bunya Mountain Murri Ranger Administration Officer in the Wondai office. I am really enjoying my time here, learning a lot of new things also a lot about my culture. I hope to continue this into the future and create a career for myself.



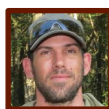
Hello my name is Barwoo Fisher and I'm 19 years old. I grew up in Murgon and was the Vice-Captain during my last year of school in 2014. At the start of 2015, I enrolled in University but came back home after the semester to work as an NRL development officer and play local rugby league. By the end of the same year, I was scouted as part of the Sydney Roosters U'20s squad for 8 months until late May this year when I broke my collarbone. So I left Sydney, came home and landed one of the Murri Ranger positions which was a good outcome for me. During my time here I have learnt a fair bit and enjoyed activities such as the fire workshop in Cape York, fencing up in the Bunyas and conducting burns of the grasslands. I look forward to learning more about culture, country and being a part of the Ranger team.



**BPAC Project Officer**  
**Paul Dawson**



**BMMR Business Support Officer**  
**Selina Hill**



**Murri Ranger Coordinator**  
**Michael 'Mick' Smith**



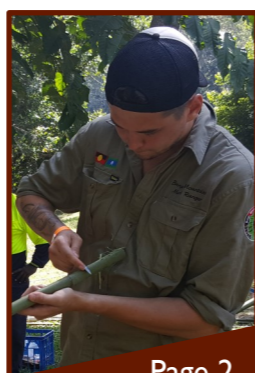
**Murri Ranger**  
**Nathan Collins**



**Murri Ranger**  
**Luke Bond**



**Murri Ranger**  
**Allysa Brown**



## Luke & Nathans' 2016 Bunya Mountain Tour

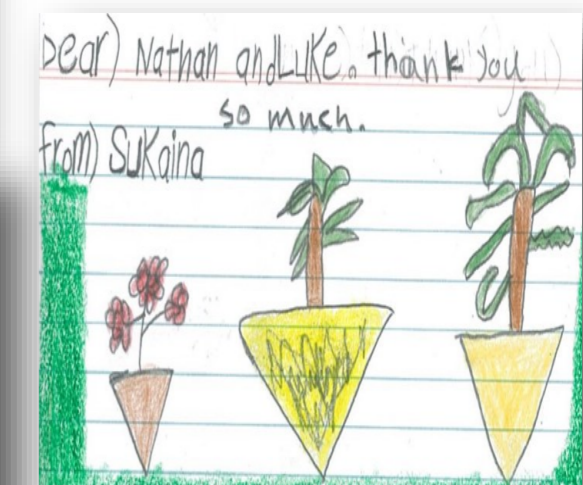
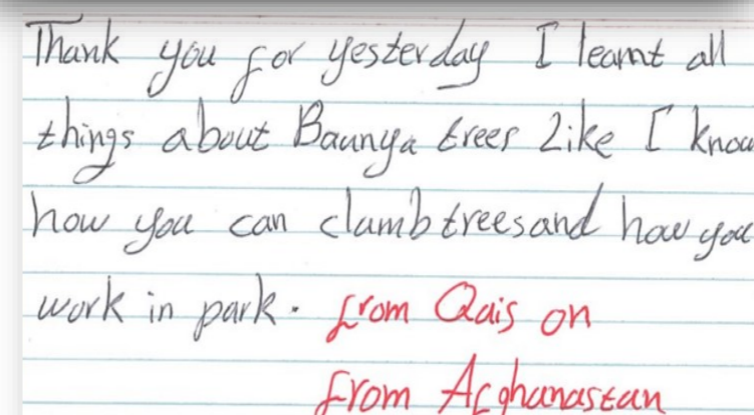
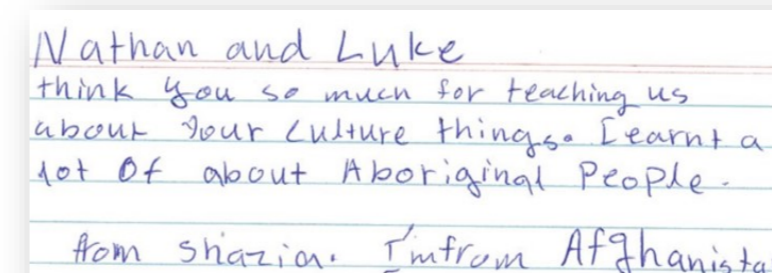
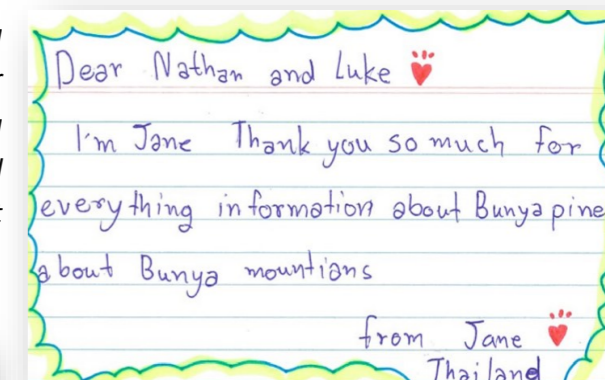
The Ranger Team have been spreading information on a world scale with a number of tours through the Bunya Mountains National Park. When Oakey State High School attended the mountain with a group of Chinese exchange students in August, communication was difficult. However, the students and rangers were able to overcome this setback and communicate effectively thanks to the use of google translator on their mobile devices. Naturally, the students were very appreciative, patient and enthusiastic.



Then again in August, Toowoomba TAFE visited the mountain with a group of immigrants from various cultural backgrounds. The youth aged from 15 to 25 are currently learning English and migrated to Australia from areas such as Pakistan, Congo, Thailand, Afghanistan and Kenya. Rangers Nathan and Luke did a fantastic job communicating with the group and received many thank you notes in the mail for sharing their knowledge. Luke and Nathan also got to try some of the student's native dishes and listened as students shared their cultural connection with the environment from their homelands. Julie Rowe from Toowoomba TAFE was full of praise for our Rangers and impressed with how the students absorbed the information shared by all.



Some of the many thank you cards and messages from our grateful new citizens—thanking the Rangers for their time and sharing of information about Aboriginal culture.



## Stepping-Up Program Update Report by Ranger Allysa Brown

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August I was invited to attend the Indigenous Stepping-Up Program near Cooktown, so I stayed on Melsonby Station which is on Balnggarwarra Traditional lands. I had the privilege of meeting the traditional owners and rangers from Balnggarwarra Melsonby, Balnggarwarra Normanby Rangers and the Cape Tribulation and Cairns area.

On arrival after the meet and greet, we were soon smoked in by Larry one of the rangers, before the Balnggarwarra rangers took us around to rock walls and cave painting's done by their ancestors. Throughout the duration two rangers were assigned to the following field projects:

- 1) Fire: burning near infrastructure and near fence line
- 2) Road signage: clear directions to access sites
- 3) Fencing: new gates to neighboring properties or access tracks to keep cattle n trespassers out
- 4) Road closure: Wetlands, to stop trespassers accessing cultural landscapes and doing damage
- 5) Erosion: creating structure to decrease sediment to the Great Barrier Reef and river systems



Tarquin Singleton (Dawul Wuru Ranger) and I ran the Erosion control project. On commencement of the project there were two areas that we needed to tackle before we started the hard yards. First we had to do planning asking ourselves (where, what, how, why) are we going to tackle this issue. Looking at the structures that were done from last year's Stepping-Up Program gave us good ideas on how we can make things better and more efficient in our designs. After we visited our site we were then able to design our plan to best suit it. When the plan was complete we then had to present it to the Balnggarwarra Traditional Owners and the Rangers to see if the plan meets their requirements. After we got approval we gathered equipment for the next day and awaited for the Green Army to arrive (the Green Army was a group of young student getting a Cert III in Horticulture or Land Management).



## 2016 Indigenous Fire Workshop

*"burning was different.. the vegetation and landscape was a lot drier compared to the grassland balds on the Bunya Mountains"* Ranger Luke

In August, the Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers attended the Annual Indigenous Fire Workshop in Wujal Wujal, a small remote township situated 84km south of Cooktown. Hosted by the Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners, Cape York NRM Body and Victor Steffenson, the event which is in its 8th year, attracted roughly 130 people to the small community. This year, the workshops upheld success with focus on the linkages between fire, climate change and the Great Barrier Reef.

For our Bunya Mountains Murri Ranger team, the workshop proved an invaluable experience as they were privy to enhance their knowledge about cultural fire usage as well as pre and post fire monitoring. As known, passing on knowledge was fundamental in the tribal ways of life, and just as knowledge is power, cultural knowledge remains empowering and the rangers participated in the ancient arts of weaving, spear making and plant usage.



**what Mick (our Bunya Ranger Coordinator) thought about the Indigenous Fire event:**

*'The experience was good. It was useful to see pre and post fire monitoring techniques in one of the workshops that we can implement in similar ways in the Bunya Mountains. Meeting people from different networks and the two hour traditional dance were other highlights for me.'*



**Barwoo Fisher, our newest Ranger said**

*'It was a knowledge building experience—learning culture and how the Indigenous Rangers worked on their country. Also, the kup-murri was a highlight—eating traditional food. The scenery was beautiful as it was my first time up North.'*

**Murri Ranger Luke Bond thought the workshop was an important experience.** *'It was good meeting different mobs from all over and learning their culture. Burning was different. The vegetation and landscape was a lot drier compared to the grassland balds on the Bunya Mountains.'*



**Allysa Brown, our female Murri Ranger said the workshop was a great learning experience.** *'I felt so welcomed by the Traditional Owners. I was also able to catch up with fellow members I attended the Indigenous Stepping-Up Program with. My highlight was speaking on camera with one of the lady Elders while she was teaching me how to weave. From that experience I hope to teach more young women from the knowledge she passed onto me.'*

**The Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers would like to thank** the Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners, Cape York NRM and Victor Steffenson for hosting the event. The Bunya Mountains Murri Ranger team looks forward to continuing and re-establishing Aboriginal Fire Management in the Bunya Mountains through the knowledge gained at events such as this.

## Mount Mowbullan Up In Smoke!

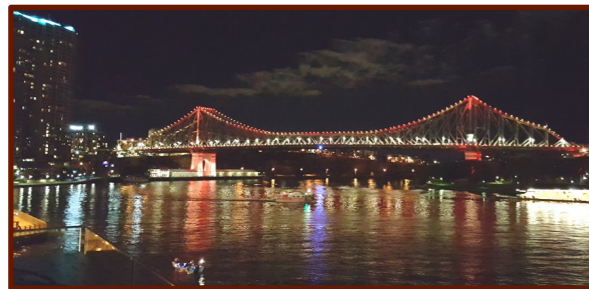
Before trekking up north to the 8th Indigenous fire workshop, the Ranger team managed to get a quick burn in before they left Mount Mowbullan. Working with Ben, Matt and Stu from Fireland Consultancy, the Rangers were able to put fire to ground as the conditions were very favourable.



Mount Mowbullan possesses some difficulties for example, the infrastructure, communication towers and residents being very close to the burn area. Also due to its location and high volume of traffic, Mount Mowbullan unfortunately has a number of environmental problems: with weeds being the number one issue! While the fire went well, visual outcomes on the site may take many years, many more fires and a lot more hard work.

## Celebrating NAIDOC 2016

This year the Ranger team attended NAIDOC celebrations at Cherbourg, Musgrave and also at Kingaroy State High School. Firstly, rain greeted the Cherbourg event, but true to style, the event continued inside the Ration shed and the old boys' dormitory. At our stall, the Rangers partnered up with Bryan and Joel from QPWS (Queensland Parks & Wildlife) as an opportunity to showcase the National Parks in the area and show community the great work that is being undertaken by both the Murri Rangers and QPWS Rangers on the Bunya Mountains.



For the next event, the Rangers travelled to the big smoke to celebrate with everyone in Musgrave Park, Brisbane to mark the 25th year that NAIDOC celebrations had been held at the historically and culturally significant meeting place—and the crowd was out in force to revel in the event. At the stall, the Murri Rangers were quite happy to be joined by Waylon Eggmolesse from the Gidarjil Rangers who added some sea country knowledge to our stall which was warmly received by the crowd. Then once night fell, it was applauding to see the Story Bridge being lit up in Indigenous colours over the week—indeed, quite an inspiring sight.

Last but not least, the Rangers visited Kingaroy State High School whom celebrated their NAIDOC day after school returned from the midyear break. The day was filled with activities for all and the students displayed talent, especially in the Indigenous touch footy match which saw the girls crossing the line for the last try to beat the boys on the day.

## Coolabunia Bora Ground with Murgon State High School

Aboriginal senior students from Murgon State High School have been completing a Cert II in Conservation and Land Management over the 2016 year. One of the units which they have been required to do in their course is to Maintain Cultural Places and Record Information about Country. Thanks to the Bunya Wakka Wakka Cultural and Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (BWWCHAC) the students were able to work in conjunction with the Murri Rangers to help with gaining awareness, knowledge and guidance about the importance of protecting cultural places.



On the 31<sup>st</sup> of August the Students caught the school bus out to the Coolabunia Bora Ring. The students met with the Murri Rangers to discuss the values and threats to the cultural site. The students were given observation sheets to record data on numerous things such as weeds, erosion, structure, hazards etc. After recording their data, the students scored and discussed what the needs were for the site to be maintained and how high the priority was. After completing the observation sheets the students all took turns at



whipper snipping around the barrier to maintain a buffer around the site. The cultural site has a fair amount of maintenance still to be completed for it to be preserved in a culturally sensitive and appropriate manner. **In partnership with the BWWCHAC, the Murri Ranger team** would like to work alongside Traditional Owners in order to help protect cultural sites. The ways in which our Rangers can assist is by helping to look after barriers and erect signage.

## Queensland Rangers Association Muster 2016

The Queensland Rangers Association holds a muster for its members each year and this year the event was held in the Bunya Mountains on 19 July 2016. Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor and Wakka Wakka man, Arnold Murray, welcomed the group onto country. Wakka Wakka Traditional Owners, Norman Bond and Victor Bond conducted the smoking ceremony with messages to provide participants with a safe stay and to contribute clear and positive intentions.

Paul Dawson, BMRG's Indigenous Programs Manager presented an overview of the Murri Rangers progress with Aboriginal fire management practices in Russell Park as well as an update of working in partnership with QPWS (Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service). The Murri Rangers takes this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Wakka Wakka Traditional Owners for their welcome—also a special shout-out to Scott Bolden from QPWS for coordinating the Muster.

