



Territory  
Natural Resource  
Management

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14



**Natural resource management is the responsible use of our land, water, soil, plants and animals to provide a good quality of life for current and future generations.**

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**Australian Government**

TNRM is supported through funding from the Australian Government



**Territory Natural Resource Management is the regional organisation responsible for planning, coordinating and facilitating natural resource management (NRM) activities across the Northern Territory.**

**We support and implement projects and activities that improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural assets of the Territory.**

**We aim to build community capacity to engage in NRM through knowledge sharing, skills development and supporting our partners in caring for our natural assets.**

# ABOUT US

*Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) is an independent not-for-profit organisation working with land managers, Traditional Owners, community groups, industry and government to support the responsible management of our water, land, soils, plants and animals. We work to ensure the community has the best available knowledge (including traditional knowledge) and tools to manage threats and resources, and that our communities can benefit economically and socially from NRM activities.*

We have been operating since 2005 and our members include industry bodies, Landcare and community groups, local government, Indigenous organisations, pastoral companies and local businesses. With offices in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs, our dedicated and professional team of staff work with people across the Territory to identify NRM issues and opportunities, and to plan and implement NRM solutions at a local and regional scale.

## WHAT WE DO

We support the NT community in planning for a sustainable future for natural resources in a way that provides a balance between conservation, opportunity and economic development. TNRM's activities, and the activities we support, are based on priorities outlined by the community in the Northern Territory Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan.



## HOW WE DO IT

### THE INTEGRATED NRM PLAN

The INRM Plan is a community document that identifies and prioritises key NRM issues across the NT as well as the necessary actions to address them.

### LEADERSHIP, PLANNING AND DELIVERY

We help project partners in planning their NRM activities, including catchment and property-wide management plans, setting and reporting on project targets and providing advice and guidance on undertaking their projects.

### PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS

We build and maintain partnerships, increase participation and support the capacity of Territorians to carry out NRM activities.

### INVESTING IN INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

An important part of our role is to collect, manage, develop and share NRM information and knowledge, including Indigenous ecological knowledge. We do this through online resources (such as information databases, web tools and social media), contributing to research and on-ground action (such as field days, training sessions and workshops). We also host or support regular information sessions that focus on specific NRM issues.

### OPPORTUNITIES AND INVESTMENT

We identify and develop opportunities to support investment in NRM in the Northern Territory, including financial and human resources.

*TNRM is one of 56 NRM organisations operating across Australia. NRM regional organisations are governed by Boards of directors that represent the regional community's perspectives and priorities.*

# CHAIR'S REPORT

*After three terms as Chair of TNRM this is my last year. I've learnt so much over this time and been privileged to have this opportunity. TNRM has achieved a remarkable amount, growing in professionalism and impact in the Territory and nationally.*

Natural resource management is complex. Our vocation is about people and country and the tangle of relationships between them, from production to culture, science to spirituality. It moves from the biota in a handful of soil to the changing climatic patterns of our globe. And it touches upon many areas and forms of knowledge – understanding the complex ecology around us and how we affect it; opportunities for Indigenous livelihoods on country; running a successful pastoral business; managing government funds accountably; and prioritising limited investment across a region. One of the attractions of NRM is that it is not ideological or exclusive; it works with all people and country regardless of tenure, land-use, culture – and it works for the benefit of people and country. That makes it messy and hard. There will always be competing goals and world views regarding our resources and country. NRM can help find ways through. Perhaps that's why once you're hooked it's hard to leave!

NRM has been evolving for decades. We have become more sophisticated in what we do and how we do it. We have learnt that to look after our environment and the people and livelihoods that rely upon it we need more than volunteer activities and tree-planting. A planned landscape approach is essential to real and long-term improvement as opposed to a piece-meal unintegrated method; managing individual species and locations is not as effective as managing ecosystems and catchments. We also need a suite of delivery tools not just grants based processes. The Territory has a diverse and growing number of individuals and organisations involved in NRM with Indigenous organisations playing an indispensable role.

## OUR PROGRESS

TNRM has been busy over the last 6 years. I am proud of all we have achieved! We have improved our governance (for example the updated Constitution), program management and business systems, and the way we work with others. We have finalised and evaluated key programs such as Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, designed successful new ones such as Territory Conservation Agreements and Indigenous traineeships, and improved our NRM planning capacity through the open systems planning

framework and with new spatial and mapping capacity. We have initiated and hosted key collaborations such as the northern biodiversity workshop. TNRM is working with even more groups to build capacity in NRM across the Territory, a key role that is often under-recognised.

We have been busy at a national level building strong relationships with our funders the Australian Government. National cooperation between the 56 regions through Regional NRM Australia has grown. We are sharing tools and processes across the country to improve regional NRM bodies, such as the Organisational Performance process and are working towards a set of National Environmental Accounts. TNRM can benefit from working in alliance with other regional NRM bodies across our borders such as the northern Alliance.

Looking back it is scary how many times we have met with new politicians, advisers, and bureaucrats to introduce them to NRM. Each time we start again with a new government or Minister we have to work to ensure that we don't lose what works, often learnt through years of experience and research. National policy and programs have a big impact upon the Territory. Northern Australia and the rangelands need to constantly re-engage with policy-makers or we end up with policies that have been designed for the fringe dwellers of the country, particularly the south-east. Regional NRM groups works to buffer community organisations and individuals from the boom and bust of political and program cycles, from stringent requirements for public funds and to ease some of the transaction costs for small groups.

## WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

We have good foundations to build on. Self-reflection is important for an organisation – are we still working to achieve our goals? Are we doing it the best way and are we achieving them? Are we adhering to our principles?



**STATUS QUO:** Sometimes it is necessary to be stubborn and keep doing more of the same thing, not always a sexy idea, however sometimes we just need consistency

**IMPROVEMENT:** Often we can find ways of doing that same thing better, perhaps more efficiently

**INNOVATION:** At other times we need to find new and different ways of achieving that same goal

**TRANSFORMATION:** And finally, sometime we need to change more fundamentally. There are times when our goals need to change and our culture that creates them.

All of the above sit on a spectrum and there is no clear boundary between them; a healthy organisation may be doing several at the same time. The usefulness of the idea lies in questioning where on the spectrum we are sitting and whether it is appropriate, particularly in a changing biophysical, economic or policy environment. Climate change also poses this challenge. Academics talk of our adaptive capacity, how we respond to change or potential change to maintain our individual, family, or community's well-being. Doing this well is a type of resilience. What would it mean to do more than just respond? Perhaps we can transform.

TNRM still relies entirely upon Australian Government funding. With bi-partisan support for the regional NRM model and a commitment from the current Federal Government for the National Landcare Program this may not be as risky as first appears. Diversifying and increasing investment in NRM in the Territory as a whole (not just TNRM) is a goal the Board and team have been working towards. A lot of the building blocks are now in place for us to achieve this. It is going to be exciting stepping up to this next phase.

We can always improve our knowledge and practice. For example we don't understand the relationship in our environment between altered fire regimes, introduced species and biodiversity loss. There are many similar questions that involve understanding the relationships in an ecosystem, a challenge for researchers and NRM practitioners. Working with researchers to guide investment and research will help us answer key questions and inform our work. Indigenous knowledge is a fundamental part of this yet we are losing Indigenous language and the intricate knowledge it holds at a tragic rate. Can we help re-develop landscape literacy for the north for all of us?

The Territory is facing unprecedented pressures in managing competing land-uses, and the potential risks from differing land-uses. These risks may be long-term and impact negatively upon the future of other industries as well as country. TNRM has a role in helping inform strategic land-use planning and involving communities. A related challenge is how to develop the north for the benefit of all northerners.

What is best for this big bit of country and the people in it, and those yet to be born? We can learn from each other, from the country itself and from different types of knowledge; we can learn from the past for the sake of the future. Working together with our diverse knowledge, values, energies, and good will is essential to creating a sound future. Thank you to everyone I've worked with over that time – on the Board, in the team (with particular thanks to Karen), with partner organisations, government, on the ground, or anyone who shares a passion for what TNRM does. In the end that's what makes it all worthwhile.



Kate Andrews has served as TNRM Chair for the last 6 years and will be moving on from this position in October 2014. Kate's in-depth knowledge of regional and national NRM issues have been a great asset in helping TNRM grow and develop over this time. On behalf of all of the team at TNRM, we wish Kate the very best for her future projects.

# CEO'S REPORT



*In reflecting on this year, and the past few years, one constant in NRM seems to be change. Managing our natural resources responsibly is always a complex and dynamic process, and changes in political and program cycles add to the challenge.*

A role that TNRM tries to take on as a regional NRM organisation is as a buffer to minimise the impact of these types

of cycles to the people and work on the ground. We work hard to support groups, organisations and land managers involved in NRM to do the work that needs doing while supporting the government to achieve its NRM goals. We do this by maintaining key programs and activities that deliver on the priorities of government as well as community and land manager needs. We've continued to provide funding support for the coordination of pastoral Landcare group activities; maintained our Conservation Agreement Program to enable land managers to improve conservation and production outcomes on their land; maintained support for long term projects to reduce the impact of weeds and pest animals; and we've continued activities that support Indigenous people to look after their country and pass on their knowledge.

This year we've also taken on new challenges and projects that build community skills, and help producers and land managers to improve their practices. We delivered a BioChar Roadshow across the NT to provide an opportunity for farmers and land managers to learn more about BioChar technology, and discuss its potential in the agriculture, horticulture and forestry industries.

We built on our commitment to Indigenous employment and capacity development through the launch of our Indigenous NRM Trainee Pilot Program in early 2014, and by May we welcomed our first trainee.

We also started on the review the NT's Integrated NRM plan and we are looking forward to working with people from across the Territory in the development of the 2015 – 2020 Plan. The update of the plan is timely as the Australian Government's new National Landcare Programme seeks to focus more on supporting regional NRM priorities identified in regional plans, rather than just national targets.

For me, the highlight of the year was the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the remarkable efforts of Territorians through the inaugural NT NRM Awards and the NT Landcare Awards, an event attended by over 200 people.

As the regional NRM organisation for the NT, we have the privilege of working in partnership with diverse and dedicated groups, organisations and individuals across the Territory. I'm always impressed by the commitment and hard work of all those we work with. None of the achievements captured in this annual report would be possible without the efforts of our project partners, nor would they be possible without the hard work and dedication of the amazing Territory Natural Resource Management staff team. Thank you all for your hard work and contribution to managing the natural resources of the Northern Territory.

I would also like to thank the Australian Government for support provided to Territory Natural Resource Management, in particular, thank you to staff of the Department of Environment and Department of Agriculture that have assisted us throughout the year.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2013-14

<p><b>Around 1 million ha</b> of pastoral land has been managed for the control of feral animals, including the removal of over 9000 feral vertebrate pests.</p>	<p><b>23</b> pastoral properties (covering nearly 10 million hectares) have adopted practices to improve weed management.</p>
<p><b>43</b> pastoral properties received training or advice associated with best practice NRM and over 120 pastoral landcare group members received information to help in understanding issues and developing best practice.</p>	<p><b>7</b> new Territory Conservation Agreements established across 13,135ha to enable land managers to improve conservation and production outcomes on their land.</p>
<p>TNRM commenced work on the Finnis Reynolds Catchment project. The project site covers 5,500 km<sup>2</sup> and is working to control the invasive shrub <i>Mimosa pigra</i> as well as feral pigs across the high biodiversity value sites of the Finnis River and Anson Bay catchments.</p>	<p>We launched our Indigenous NRM Traineeship Program in early 2014 and welcomed our first trainee to the program in May 2014, with a second application under review by the end of June.</p>
<p>We welcomed 18 new groups, organisations and businesses as Members of TNRM, bringing our Membership to 32.</p>	<p>Representatives from 23 properties attended soil management workshops in the Roper, VRD and Central Australia and 5 properties have adopted practices to improve and maintain ground cover levels.</p>
<p>We supported the NT Farmers Association in outreach programs for Vietnamese farmers through activities and materials that promote best practice integrated pest management. Over 20 property holders (covering nearly 400 ha) in the Greater Darwin Area are now managing their land using these techniques.</p>	<p>We delivered a BioChar Roadshow across the NT to provide an opportunity for famers and land managers to learn more about BioChar technology. <b>9</b> demonstration/trial sites have been set up on properties across the NT.</p>
<p><b>5</b> waterholes/drought refuges were surveyed across the Barkly Tablelands, adding valuable data to the pool of knowledge about these little-studied habitats.</p>	<p><b>154</b> Indigenous people received on the ground training in a range of NRM activities including weed control techniques, equipment training and biodiversity surveys.</p>
<p>Our annual forum in November 2013 was attended by a record 183 people.</p>	<p>We recognised and celebrated the achievements of Territorians at the inaugural NT NRM Awards and NT Landcare Awards, which was attended by 208 guests.</p>

# OVERVIEW OF THE TERRITORY

The Northern Territory is a region of extreme contrasts, with people from many walks of life – including pastoralists, Indigenous groups and urban dwellers – living in a range of different environments. From the extensive and pristine coastal habitats of the Top End to the red deserts of our Arid Lands, the NT is characterised by its vast areas of woodlands, grasslands, escarpments, waterways and wetlands.

The Territory is the second largest jurisdiction and natural resource management region in Australia, encompassing 1,352,176 sq km—or 1/6th of the mainland. However, with only around 240,000 people living in the region, it means we have the lowest population density of any state or territory. The NT’s main population centres are Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. From an economic standpoint, the NT economy is heavily reliant on its natural resources for a range of purposes. Reconciling multiple land use issues is one of the main challenges for our region, from mining to recreational fishing, Indigenous wild harvesting to tourism, there are many voices that contribute to how our land and sea resources are managed.

## KEY RESOURCE USE



**\$347 MILLION**

The combined value of the NT’s agriculture, forestry and fisheries is \$347 million and it is 1.7% of Gross State Product (GSP).<sup>1</sup>

**\$3.8 BILLION**



The mining and energy production sector contribute approximately \$3.8 billion to Gross State Product and represents 18.5% of GSP.<sup>1</sup>

Beef producers in the Northern Territory turn off more than half a million cattle destined for markets in Australia and overseas each year.<sup>2</sup>

**> 500,000**



**\$78.7 MILLION**

In 2012/13, the production value of fisheries in the Northern Territory was estimated to be \$78.7 million with the wildcatch and aquaculture sectors contributing 12.5% of the production value of Territory primary industries.<sup>3</sup>

The Territory’s horticulture industry has been steadily gaining ground in recent years, producing field crops and a diverse range of fruit, vegetables and cut flowers. The current value of this industry is 180 million p.a. from a total of 10,000 ha of productive land.<sup>4</sup>

**\$180 MILLION P.A.**



**\$1.6 BILLION**

The tourism industry is the NT’s largest employing industry while the visitor economy has been valued at \$1.6 billion (Gross Value Added).

Facilitating the sustainable use of native plants and animals represents an important opportunity both for economic growth, employment opportunities and cultural preservation for Indigenous groups.



<sup>1</sup> NT Key Business Statistics

<sup>2</sup> NT Cattlemen’s Association

<sup>3</sup> NT Seafood Council website

<sup>4</sup> NT Farmers ‘Grow NT’ magazine, October 2013



Our native landscapes are still largely intact and have not been subjected to the same pressures of urban expansion or intensive agricultural development as in other parts of our country. However, natural resource management within the NT context is not without its challenges...

TNRM supports and implements projects across the NT and tackles issues across a range of geographic scales—from local to catchment-wide. Because the NT's population is small, we face a number of challenges in carrying out project work, particularly in remote areas.

### **DISTANCE AND CONDITIONS**

Travel within the NT can be expensive and time consuming. Seasonal conditions can hamper access to sites; during the monsoon months in the Top End and Gulf Savanna extensive flooding can cut off roads and floodplains while hot summer conditions in the Arid Lands can pose a risk to people working in the field. TNRM works hard to incorporate these challenges into our project plans to achieve the best possible outcomes.

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC**

Although the Territory is 1/6th of the Australian landmass, we only represent 1% of the country's population and have a population density of 0.2 people per sq km. Consequently there is a strong reliance on a small number of landholders and their associated organisations to manage the majority of the landscape. Around 90% of land ownership is divided almost equally between Aboriginal freehold and pastoral lease and both of these sectors have challenges unique to their situation.

Our Indigenous project partners often face challenges around access to appropriate housing, education and employment prospects in the areas where they live. Many Territorians need to travel extensively to restock supplies, access services or reach decision makers and with industry sites that are far from markets and suppliers, it difficult to achieve economies of scale.

### **COMMUNICATION**

The Territory has a diverse multi-cultural population. This can sometimes prove challenging when implementing best practice management based on information in existing documents. Most NRM documents or best practice guides are written with a highly literate English speaking audience in mind, which can be a disadvantage for people working in NRM from Indigenous or non-English speaking backgrounds.

We work to support the development of communication tools and materials that meet the needs of a multicultural target audience.

### **THREATS**

Though retaining much of their ecological integrity and productivity, Territory landscapes are coming under increasing pressure from disruption to long-standing fire regimes, while exotic weeds pests and diseases have devastating effects on our soil, native vegetation, wildlife, crops and livestock. Some regions have seen a significant decline in biodiversity and while some of the mechanisms behind this decline are understood, we do not yet have a full picture of why this is happening in certain areas. Large tracts of land—namely central Arnhem Land, the Sturt Plateau, the Burt Plain and the Finke—have been identified as some of Australia's least conserved bio-regions.

Prevention and detection of emerging and existing threats is essential in preventing further degradation of Territory environments. In addition to environmental threats, loss of culture and tradition in the Territory's Indigenous population is an ongoing concern. There are over 130 Indigenous language groups across the NT, and the traditional knowledge and practices of these groups are closely aligned with land management activities that have spanned tens of thousands of years.



A scenic sunset over the ocean with a teal text box overlay. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of purple, pink, and orange, transitioning to a clear blue above. The ocean waves are gently breaking on a sandy beach in the foreground. A teal rectangular box is positioned in the lower right quadrant, containing white text.

## OUR REGIONS

Issues and priorities in NRM, along with our capacity to manage them, vary across the Northern Territory. To address these challenges and guide our activities at a local level we work within four identified regions that cover the NT; the Top End, Gulf Savanna, Tablelands and Arid Lands. Our Regional Coordinators work in each of these regions supporting and working with project partners and the community on a range of natural resource management projects and initiatives.



## TOP END

Our northernmost region is characterised by extensive mangrove-lined coasts, wetlands and floodplains. The Top End landscape has been shaped by fire and water, and is dominated by woodland and open forest with small pockets of grassland and monsoon forest. Most of the region is Aboriginal or pastoral land, with the horticulture industry concentrated in the Douglas Daly area. Sites of international conservation significance include the Western Arnhem Plateau (including RAMSAR listed Kakadu National Park), the Howard Sand Plains (located just outside of Darwin) and Groote Eylandt.

The Top End is where around 70% of Territorians reside, and Darwin is the main commercial and administrative centre of the NT with a population (including the city of Palmerston) of about 132,000. Located just 12 degrees south of the equator it has been described as Australia's gateway to South-East Asia. With one eye on the land and another on the sea, Darwin has become the business hub for a range of resource-based industries that are rapidly expanding across the region.

**19** CATCHMENT  
AREAS

**70%** OF THE NT  
POPULATION

**27** SITES OF  
CONSERVATION  
SIGNIFICANCE

**5** SENSITIVE  
VEGETATION  
COMMUNITIES





## GULF SAVANNA

With vast open woodlands and sheer escarpments, the Gulf Savanna region covers 23% of the NT. The coastal region includes the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf and the Gulf of Carpentaria with the Sir Edward Pellew Group containing the most significant islands. There are 30 nationally listed and 50 Territory-listed threatened species in this region—including the Critically Endangered Northern Quoll, Carpentarian Rock-Rat and Fitzroy Land Snail.

Around 66% of the region is pastoral land and 20% Aboriginal land while horticulture is a small but important industry. Vegetation type is mostly woodland/open woodland with smaller areas of grassland and open forest. Home to 9% of the Territory's population its largest town is Katherine (around 11,000 people), situated 320km south-east of Darwin on the Katherine River.

**15** CATCHMENT  
AREAS

**9%** OF THE NT  
POPULATION

**12** SITES OF  
CONSERVATION  
SIGNIFICANCE

**50** NT  
THREATENED  
SPECIES



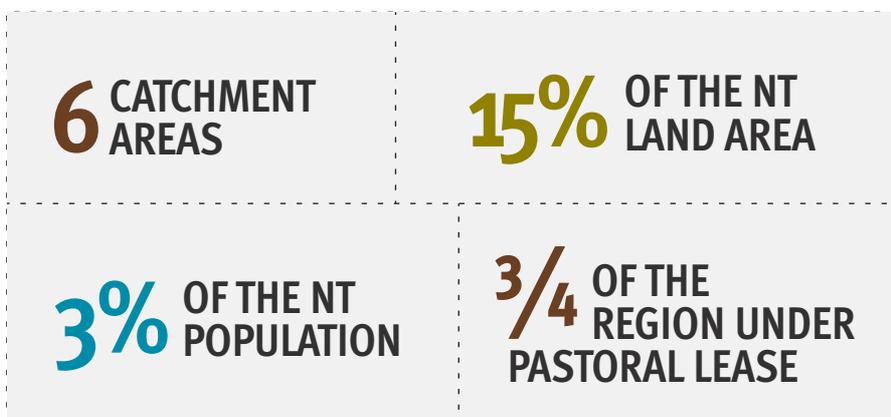


## TABLELANDS

The rolling grass plains of the Barkly Tablelands cover 15% of the Territory. Primarily cattle country, nearly 75% of the region is under pastoral lease, while 17% is Aboriginal freehold. Less than 1% is covered by conservation reserves.

The dominant habitat is a semi-arid savanna of Mitchell Grass, while vegetation is mostly open woodland and grassland with smaller areas of spinifex grassland and woodland. The combined Barkly Lakes (Eva Downs Swamp, Lake Sylvester and Tarabool Lake system) are classified as nationally significant and provide important bird refugia—particularly for migratory species.

With a mere 3% of the NT's population, its largest towns are Tennant Creek and Elliott. Home to a population of approximately 3,600, Tennant Creek is located on the Stuart Highway about 1,000km south of Darwin and 500km north of Alice Springs at the junction of two great arterial roads, the Barkly Highway and the Stuart Highway.





## ARID LANDS

Once covered in rainforests and inland seas, time has transformed the expansive Arid Lands region into the vast tracts of red sand and eroded ranges that we see today. Largest of all the regions, the Arid Lands cover almost half of the Territory, of which about 55% is Aboriginal freehold and 36% pastoral lease. Horticulture is a small, but important industry. The region is dominated by spinifex grassland, open shrubland, and open woodland and there are eight internationally significant conservation sites across the Arid Lands, including the Greater MacDonnell Ranges and the SW Tanami Desert.

Home to 18% of the Territory's population, its largest town is Alice Springs, located 1,500km south of Darwin. This is the NT's largest regional centre (with about 28,600 people) and is the central base for tourism activities around the region. Popular areas for tourists include Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (Ayers Rock and the Olgas), Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon), the Western and Eastern MacDonnell Ranges and Rainbow Valley.

**8** CATCHMENT  
AREAS

**18%** OF THE NT  
POPULATION

**24** SITES OF  
CONSERVATION  
SIGNIFICANCE

**55%** UNDER  
ABORIGINAL  
FREEHOLD



# REGIONAL UPDATES

## TOP END

*Anthony Kerr is the Regional Coordinator for the Top End, based in Darwin.*

It has been a busy year across the Top End, involving activities ranging from the finalisation of projects with Indigenous and pastoral stakeholders, to facilitating workshops in urban and regional areas as well as establishing milestones for upcoming projects in the ever-changing world of NRM.

In the Upper Daly region the TNRM funded Western Top End Fire Management project has been carrying out aerial burning operations on the Daly/Port Keats and Upper Daly Land Trusts in collaboration with the Northern Land Council and NAH Helicopters. Meanwhile, in the remote Crocodile Islands, fire management activities that are making use of traditional ecological knowledge continue to be successful. The Crocodile Island Rangers took home both the Outstanding Territory Ranger Group prize in the NT NRM Awards as well as the Coastcare Award in the NT Landcare Awards held in Darwin last November and will be representing the NT at a national level later in 2014.

In Arnhem Land, Indigenous rangers are working to protect Arenga palm on the Arafura Swamp through the control of feral buffalo. The project, which centres on building the capacity of Indigenous rangers to carry out sustainable NRM activities, has involved working closely with three Indigenous ranger groups and key NLC staff in the Arafura swamp region. A feral animal management meeting, held in June 2014, was attended by nine Arnhem Land ranger groups and allowed for current feral animal management activities and future potential collaborations to be examined.

A partnership with NT Farmers and Department of Primary Industries in relation to sustainable agriculture projects has focused on integrated pest management initiatives with Vietnamese farmers in the Darwin rural region. Funded by TNRM, the translation of a *Field Guide to Pests, Beneficials, Diseases and Disorders of Vegetables* into Vietnamese will assist this farming community with their future land management activities. In addition, TNRM provided assistance to NT Farmers with the recording and production of case study videos of Vietnamese growers. Other training and support in this sector included 24 Vietnamese fruit and vegetable growers completing their farm chemical safety training through AusChem and Smart Train NT while 19 Vietnamese growers attended the on-farm effective air assisted spraying field activity (with collaboration from EE Muirs and Farmworld) where they learned about effective spray application.

In June 2014 we held our Top End Regional Forum; Monitoring and Mapping for Healthy Landscapes which focused on the rapidly evolving world of spatial tools and systems that are available for use in NRM. The forum provided information on best practice spatial data capture and mapping to a variety of Top End land managers. A total of 67 Top End stakeholders attended representing different industries.

Work continues to progress with current TCAs in the Darwin rural region, namely Adelaide River Station and the Darwin River Consortium. The hard-working efforts of landowners in removing invasive weeds from these sites is starting to show some improvements to the condition of native vegetation.





## GULF SAVANNA

*In March 2014 we welcomed new Gulf Savanna Regional Coordinator, Daniel Chapman, who has continued to develop our relationships with existing partners as well as catchment based approaches to regional NRM issues.*

As the post of Regional Coordinator for Gulf Savanna was vacant for a number of months since late 2013, there has been a lot of on-ground work to catch up with since the wet season rains dried up. The Gulf Savanna region has the highest concentration of Territory Conservation Agreements (TCAs) of all four NRM regions and this program has remained popular with landholders over the last year. Several sites including Stapleton, Lonesome Dove, Larrakeyah and Mataranka station were contracted to the program. In total, the number of sites added to the program from the Gulf Savanna region in the last year comprises 10,500ha.

There are also three further properties whose contracts are almost ready to be signed and we have several additional expressions of interest for potential sites in process. These sites are all of high ecological value and range from springs and lagoons through to sections of rivers. Numerous site inspections have been conducted on established TCA sites to assist with yearly reporting. All property owners visited so far have reported an improvement in land condition, which really highlights the value of this program.

Nigel and Jane Fraser of Wangamaty Land Management Group have had a successful year in the Lower Daly Catchment. They have successfully worked with people on both Indigenous land and pastoral property within the area to target the eradication and control of Gamba, Para and Mission Grass as well as Olive Hymenachne.

The Victoria River District Conservation Association (VRDCA) coordinated feral animal project was again a success during the 2013-2014 period. This year saw Rhys Arnott of the VRDCA coordinate 9 landholders within the area to complete both aerial and on ground culling, covering some 9000km<sup>2</sup>. The removal of these animals will reduce the pressure on the landscape and should result in an overall improvement in land condition. The project is set to continue with further culling planned for the future. The next part of the project will focus efforts further to the north which will increase the overall effectiveness of the project and bring benefits to a larger amount of landholders.

With the help of TNRM and staff from the Katherine Weed Management Branch, the Gulf Rivers Landcare group targeted the invasive weed Parkinsonia. The Weed Management Branch identified key areas for treatment and strategic top of catchment locations were addressed as the primary focus. Based on their recommendations nine stations within the Gulf Rivers area received a mixture of herbicide, spray packs and contract spraying. All reports so far indicate that the treatment was highly successful.

Ian 'Rowie' Rowbottom has again had a very successful year coordinating and undertaking a large amount of feral animal, weed, fire and erosion control for Roper River Landcare Group. Rowie has also been responsible for a number of successful workshops and field days in the Roper River area. His successful application for 'Working on Country' funding for three Mangarrayi rangers plus a coordinator will see over 6000km<sup>2</sup> of country once again subject to land management protocols, which is excellent news for the Roper River area.

## TABLELANDS

*In February 2014, Jon Hodgetts joined the TNRM team, after many years working with the Barkly Landcare Conservation Association. Jon is currently overseeing both the Tablelands and Arid Lands regions while our Arid Lands Regional Coordinator is on leave.*

Following a decent wet season breaking two years of low rainfall, the Tablelands region has continued to implement great NRM outcomes over the past twelve months, especially in furthering the control of the three major prickly bush species (Parkinsonia, Mesquite and Prickly Acacia) across the major lake catchments.

With Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association (BLCA) having their staff move on in early 2014, MTP Contracting of Corella Creek community have adopted much of the weed control work across both the Lake Sylvester and Georgina catchments. Founded in 2012, MTP Contracting's weed-spraying arm of their business has treated Parkinsonia on over 35,000ha of the internationally significant Lake Sylvester catchment. They have also continued treatment across the NT portion of the Georgina catchment which takes in the three pastoral properties of Avon Downs, Austral Downs and Lake Nash. In addition to the great work being performed by MTP Contracting, Territory Weed Management did some excellent follow-up work in treating Parkinsonia across parts of the Lake Woods and Sylvester catchments.

MTP Contracting has also been involved in a fish survey of critical drought refuges with the Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM). The first stage of the survey involved monitoring waterholes across the central Barkly lake system—located within 150kms of their home at Corella Creek in the heart of the Tablelands. Dr Michael Hammer of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory was also in attendance and this has resulted in several species being preserved for DNA analysis back in Darwin, creating some of the first formally recorded specimens for the region.

TNRM would also like to extend a warm welcome to Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association's new co-ordinator, Kate Christianson, who joined the organisation mid-year. BLCA have been providing invaluable

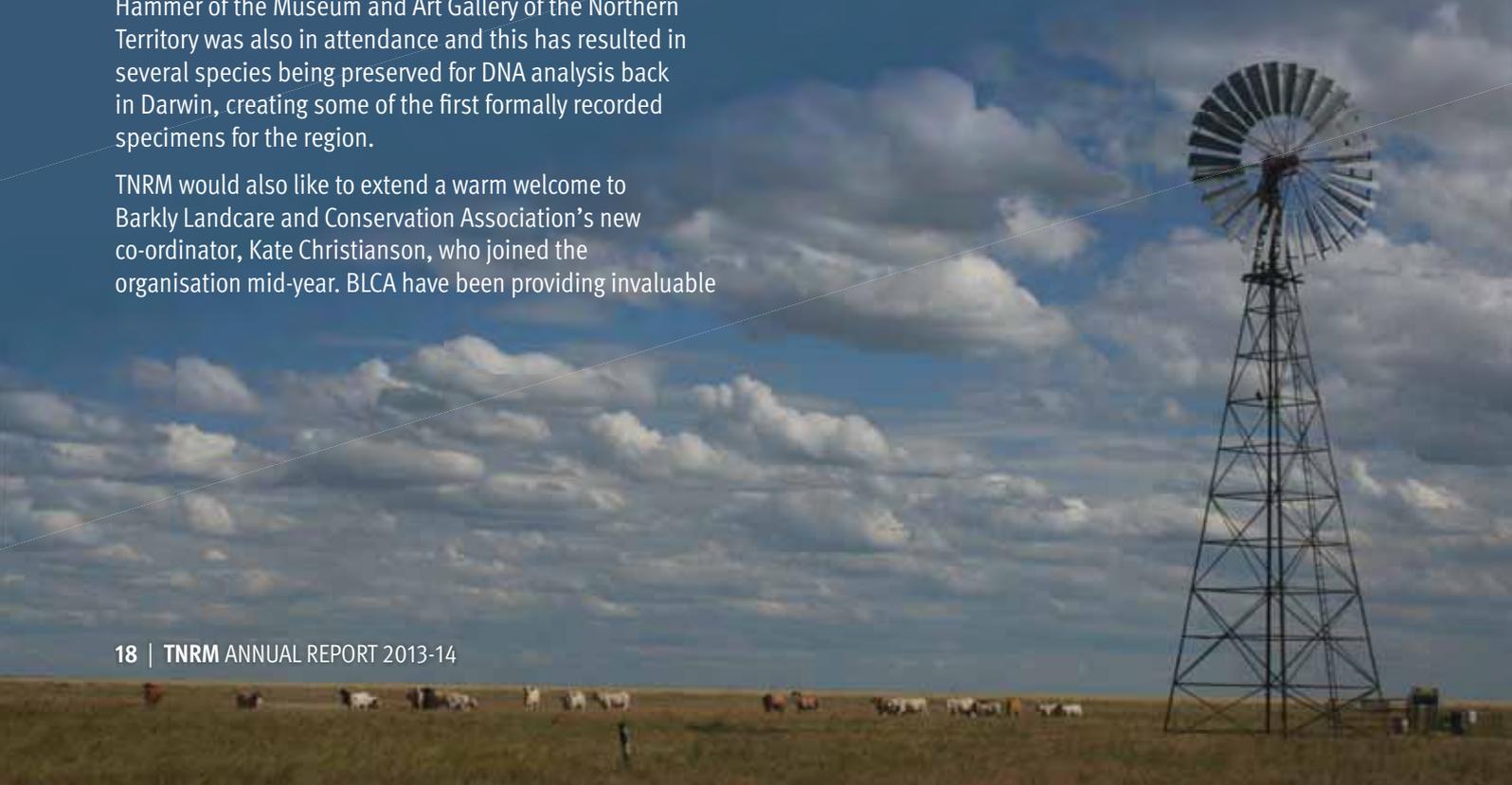
assistance to the pastoral community of the Tablelands since 1995 and with Kate managing to hit the ground running, TNRM look forward to building upon the great partnership that's been in operation for a number of years.

The region has also seen the appointment of two new weeds officers with DLRM. Consequently, a Tablelands Regional Weeds Reference Group is being set up instead of being a sub-group operating under Alice Springs. With representative members from DLRM, TNRM, BLCA and the pastoral community, the group will meet quarterly and advise the Minister's office on weed management priorities for the region.

The Territory Conservation Agreement at NAPCo's Alexandria station is under new management following the retirement of industry stalwart, Ross Peatling. An area of bluebush and Mitchell Grass Downs bioregion is entering its fourth year as a TCA site and will hopefully be joined by others across the Tablelands as TCA engagement continues apace.

With the southern TNRM forum occurring in Alice Springs towards the end of the financial year during busy fieldwork season, it was heartening to see representatives from the Tablelands in attendance. Furthermore, the directors of MTP Contracting, Maxie and Joy Priest, were one of the guest speakers on the day and received excellent feedback from the audience. We look forward to hearing more from them at the TNRM conference in Darwin in November.

Lastly, stakeholder meetings held throughout the year have continued to maintain the strong relationships between all NRM stakeholders as we celebrate each other's successes with the promise of many more to come.





## ARID LANDS

*Heidi Groffen is currently on maternity leave and will return in 2015. Jon Hodgetts is overseeing this role in the interim.*

This past financial year has been topped and tailed by the southern TNRM forum hosted in Alice Springs in July of 2013 and June of 2014. Both events were very well attended and this now well-established forum continues to prove itself as a popular event on the regional calendar. Attendee feedback indicates that there is an appreciation for the diversity of talks presented, giving a platform to individuals and groups to recount their stories to a wider audience—who may otherwise have never had the occasion to hear about these activities.

The Centralian Land Management Association continued their work on soil erosion prevention activities. A field day hosted at Palmer Valley, south-west of Alice Springs, included implementing soil conservation techniques that aided in the protection of a bluebush swamp and redirecting water back to its natural flow. It is anticipated that this in turn will result in reinvigorating coolabah trees that had been suffering from a lack of water.

The Central Land Council has been performing projects at both ends of the region. The first stage of a feral cull on Dagaragu ALT has identified feral animal hotspots.

Aerial and on-ground surveys alongside traditional owners and Indigenous rangers have identified the location of feral horses (primarily) as well as donkeys and camels. In addition, a prescribed burning program in the Simpson Desert has allowed for priority management to be established in protecting and conserving important habitat for Brush-tailed and Crest-tailed Mulgara.

It's been a good year for management and active conservation of many of our smaller native species. Predator control activities have been implemented on the Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Newhaven Reserve by Desert Wildlife Services (DWS). This region provides core habitat for the Great Desert Skink and Brush-tailed Mulgara, yet is prone to predation by feral cats and foxes. DWS have been trialling specific bait and trapping stations designed to target these feral species. Other feral predator projects include the Land for Wildlife project that has been monitoring cat and fox populations around Alice Springs. With engagement from many of their members, awareness has been raised regarding the problems associated with feral predators, building a picture of the extent of the problem at a local level. CSIRO have also been monitoring drought refuges of threatened and near-threatened mammals across the Finke and Burt Plain bioregions.

# THE NT INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010-15

The Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) Plan is a document that has been developed for all Territorians. The Plan offers us a road map for managing the land, water, biodiversity and coastal resources of the Territory while improving peoples' opportunities and quality of life. It has been put together by TNRM with the help of many people and groups involved with natural resource management around the Territory.

The INRM Plan is used for good planning and decision making about natural resource management in the Territory. TNRM funds and supports activities based on the INRM Plan and other organisations also help to meet INRM Plan targets through their activities.

The purpose of the INRM Plan is to:

- Guide NRM funding, support and activities from 2010–15
- Encourage more involvement in NRM in the Territory
- Identify opportunities for new partnerships and investors
- Inform government policies and priorities
- Encourage more funding for NRM in the Territory.

The Plan contains fourteen program areas that are divided into four themes.

## ADDRESSING THREATS

How to tackle the problems of fire, weeds and ferals across the NT.

## SUPPORTING ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

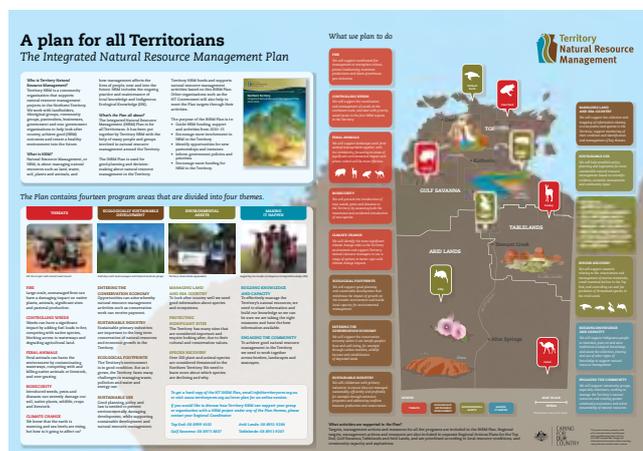
As we grow and develop we face many new challenges in managing our resources. The plan helps to guide future developments so they are as sustainable as possible.

## MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS

We collect information about Territory landscapes, and provide advice on others can collect and use this information. TNRM promotes knowledge sharing between groups working with NRM issues.

## MAKING IT HAPPEN

We help natural resource managers and volunteers put plans into action through business support, identifying funding opportunities, information networks and training.



# UPDATING THE PLAN 2015-2020

*We review and update our plan every five years and are currently working on the next version of the INRM Plan, due in 2015...*

The current Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) plan for the Northern Territory is in the process of being reviewed in order to develop a new 2015-2020 INRM plan. The new plan will set the strategic direction for the next five years of NRM in the NT.

TNRM has received funding from the Australian Government's 'NRM Planning for Climate Change' to integrate climate change information to inform and prioritise NRM actions and targets. This review provides an opportunity to update and realign the document to include the latest scientific knowledge, emerging issues and a changed institutional and policy context. The review process will also focus on making further gains on the current plan in terms of being accessible and relevant to stakeholders, particularly encouraging ownership and utilisation of the plan throughout its lifespan. This is expected to be achieved by;

- incorporating more spatial and visual data,
- focusing on an adaptive management cycle (open standards for conservation planning),

- having a regional focus to be utilised by stakeholders for ongoing review through the regional coordinator networks,
- encouraging greater relevance to non-traditional NRM stakeholders to encourage them to participate and partner on NRM programs, and;
- encouraging further alignment of stakeholders on NRM issues.

TNRM have been working closely with neighbouring NRM groups and research institutions across the Monsoonal North and Rangelands 'cluster' groups. These 'clusters' include the latest regional climate change projections from CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology. Research projects funded through this program are providing specific information on climate change relevant for these regions that NRM groups can incorporate into their NRM plans. This research includes a diverse range of relevant topics that includes the impacts of climate change on fire and drought in the rangelands, impacts on climate change on weeds and feral distributions, social resilience of pastoralists to climate change and Indigenous climate adaptation knowledge.

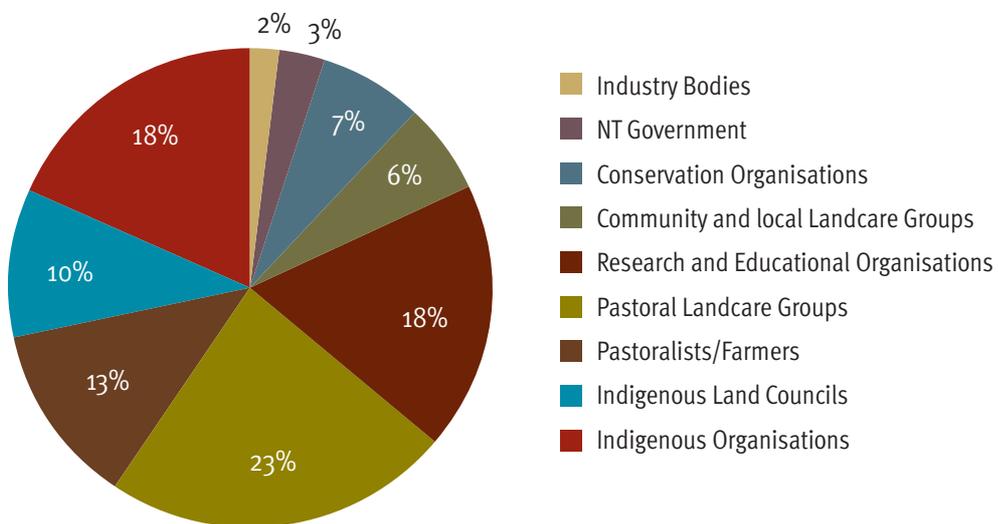


An aerial photograph of a dense green forest. A dirt road winds through the trees, and a shadow of a person is cast on the ground in the foreground. The text is overlaid on a teal rectangular background in the upper right quadrant.

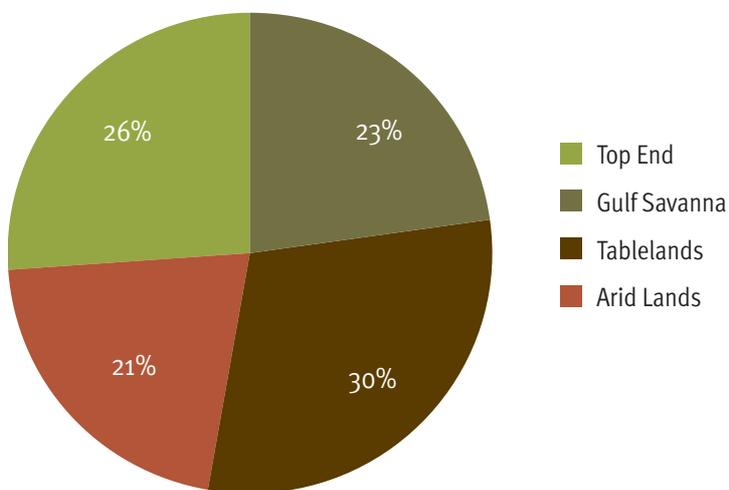
## 2013-14 FUNDING

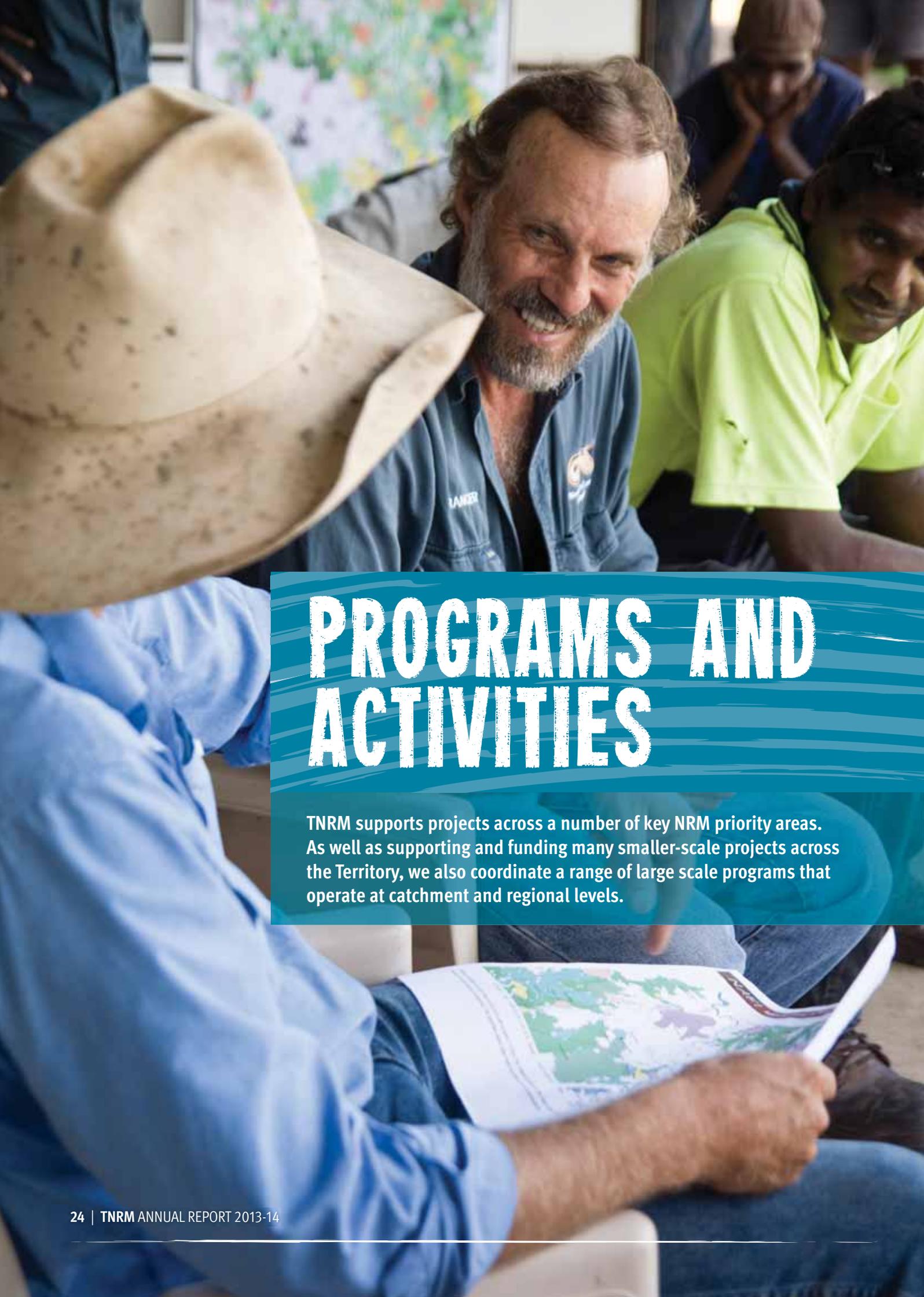
Territory Natural Resource Management is allocated regional base-level funding through the Australian Government to address national environmental and sustainable agriculture targets and outcomes. Where national targets align with regional priorities identified by Territorians in the INRM Plan, TNRM funds and supports on-ground activities as well as engaging and building the capacity of our NRM community to achieve both national and regional targets.

### 2013-14 BASELINE FUNDING ALLOCATION BY ORGANISATION TYPE



### 2013-14 BASELINE FUNDING REGIONAL ALLOCATION





# PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

TNRM supports projects across a number of key NRM priority areas. As well as supporting and funding many smaller-scale projects across the Territory, we also coordinate a range of large scale programs that operate at catchment and regional levels.

# SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

Primary production is one of the main contributors to the NT economy. However, the Territory climate presents many challenges to producers. Not only is the climate harsh and marked by extremes in rainfall, temperature and arid conditions but the natural resource base upon which this industry is founded—namely soil, water and vegetation—is subject to degradation from a range of pressures. Invasive weeds, feral species and soil deterioration all threaten the sustainability of our primary industries. TNRM supports projects that improve management practices that improve the condition of our land and water.

As the Northern Territory continues to expand and develop, our productive systems are coming under increasing pressure and, if they are to remain productive, they must first and foremost be sustainable.



TNRM works with pastoral Landcare and primary industry groups to support sustainable practices and knowledge sharing through on-ground projects and activities such as field days and workshops. We provide funding support for the coordination of the four pastoral Landcare groups in the NT; Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association, Centralian Land Management Association, Roper River Landcare Group and Victoria River District Conservation Association (see page 29 for more detail). TNRM funding also goes towards on-ground projects aimed at addressing the problems of weeds and feral animals, as well as building the capacity of land managers to undertake natural resource management activities and adopt new practices.

Working with NT Farmers and the Department of Primary Industries, TNRM has supported the development of sustainable agriculture projects for Asian farming communities in the Darwin rural region, a sector that accounts for \$30 million p.a. in fruit and vegetable production. The project has focused on integrated pest management initiatives and chemical safety training. TNRM have funded the translation of a *Field Guide to Pests, Beneficials, Diseases and Disorders of Vegetables* into Vietnamese as well as supporting a chemical safety training course with TrainSafe NT for 21 growers (with assistance from translators).

Out in the Lower Daly, TNRM have funded a landscape-scale project that is attempting to curb the impact of invasive grasses in the region. The target species were Gamba Grass, Mission Grass and Olive Hymenachne—species which can contribute to intense and damaging fires that negatively affects biodiversity. Landholders have been receiving training and information on weed eradication techniques as well as strategies for preventing the spread of weeds into new areas. Weeds control has been undertaken over 1,500 hectares and 13 landholders were engaged in weed management activities.

As part of larger catchment-wide projects, representatives from 23 properties attended soil management workshops in the Roper, VRD and Central Australia and five properties have adopted practices to improve and maintain ground cover levels. The removal of weeds and feral species will also have beneficial effects on land condition and productivity.

## TERRITORY CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

*The Territory Conservation Agreement (TCA) program was introduced by TNRM as a way to support landholders to protect areas of conservation importance on their properties through the implementation of a tailored management plan for nominated high conservation value sites. TCAs are a 10 year voluntary agreement between TNRM and the landholder, aiming to encourage innovative multiple-use strategies which can demonstrate production benefits as well as delivering conservation outcomes.*

The first agreement was signed in September 2011 and since then a total of 24 TCAs have been established. Collectively, these sites encompass 21,828ha of ecologically significant habitat, including wetlands and rivers, escarpment country and woodland. Over the 2013-14 period a total of seven TCAs were contracted, adding an extra 13,135ha of land to the program, including the first TCA on Indigenous-owned land.

The TCA program helps to protect special sites that do not fall within the system of nationally protected areas. This is important as it helps to create a network of healthy habitat that is linked throughout the broader landscape, creating 'stepping stones' for plants and animals.

As part of the jointly agreed obligations that make up the TCA between TNRM and the landowner, management actions may include fencing, weed removal, establishing alternative watering points for cattle, removal of feral animals or changes in burning practices.

Follow up activities over the duration of the 10 year contract include monitoring as well as maintaining established infrastructure. The TCA program has been successful largely due to the fact that TNRM make the process as uncomplicated as possible for landholders and aim to provide the best technical advice for each site. As news of the program has spread by word of mouth, Expressions of Interest have become more frequent, and an increasing variety of landscape types are now included within the program.

While TCAs have primarily attracted the interest of pastoralists in the Top End and Gulf Savanna regions, TNRM has been developing the program to include Indigenous-managed areas and we have also been developing TCAs in the Barkly and Arid Lands regions.

A number of TCAs are now entering their second year, and many are beginning to report slow improvements to the condition of their nominated sites.



## A super-sized TCA for the Gulf Savanna

In December 2013, TNRM contracted our biggest TCA to date, with a 9,000ha site at Larrakeyah Station.

Landholder Trudi Oxley commented;

“We run steers here, so we wanted to be able to control the grazing a little bit more. Entering into the agreement gave us a chance to protect the area. Because there’s water in there, we weren’t able to control the access of cattle during the wet-season, and we didn’t want that area over-grazed.”

The landholders are keen to have some small mammal surveys done within the area as part of their TCA management plan. Local resident species include *Livistonia rigida* (a palm species with a restricted distribution), Pig-nosed Turtle (*Carettochelys insculpta*, only found in a few NT localities), a variety of fish (including barramundi, bream, catfish and grunters) and both fresh and salt water crocodiles.

According to the *InfoNet* profiler database, there are nine threatened species that have been recorded in the region, including the Gouldian Finch and Northern Quoll.



## REGIONAL LANDCARE

TNRM supports urban Landcare groups across the NT as well as the four larger pastoral Landcare groups; the Roper River Landcare Group Inc, Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association, Victoria River District Conservation Association and Centralian Land Management Association.



## URBAN LANDCARE GROUPS

TNRM have been supporting NT Landcare groups for several years, facilitating natural resource management activities predominantly in the greater Darwin region, Alice Springs and Katherine. The NT's Landcare groups undertake activities associated with biodiversity protection (particularly remnant habitat in urban areas), weed and feral pest management, fire management, and the promotion and extension of Landcare group activities. A number of urban Landcare volunteers and groups were recognised at the 2013 NT NRM and Landcare Awards (see pages 52-53).

## PASTORAL LANDCARE GROUPS

Nearly 50% of the NT comprises pastoral lease, and the work being done by TNRM can only be effective with a collaborative NT-wide network of information sharing and support. The relationship between TNRM and the NT's pastoral Landcare groups is one example of collaborative NRM; the groups receive funding and support from TNRM, while the pastoral groups facilitate on-ground activities, deliver capacity building initiative and can serve as an intermediary between individual stakeholders and TNRM.

### Roper River Landcare Group (RRLG)

RRLG has continued working on activities to tackle NRM issues across the Roper River Basin. TNRM supported a catchment-wide project aimed at controlling weeds and ferals, erosion mitigation, fire management and protecting habitat for threatened species (the purple crowned fairy wren, in particular). Around 25 properties were involved and baseline activities included weed control (mainly for rubber bush and bellyache bush) over 2,954 ha plus 474 km of aerial spraying along tracks for grader grass. Around 400 feral pigs were removed from across three properties and approximately 380km of erosion control work was carried out across numerous sites. A field day at Lakefield engaged 65 people over 17 properties while an erosion control workshop at Mainoru station engaged with eight land managers. RRLG Group members also received training in First Aid and Smart Chem. including 1080 handling.

### Victoria River District Conservation Association (VRDCA)

Two major projects have been funded with the VRDCA, again with a focus on promoting sustainable land practices at a catchment level to protect threatened species, as well as a targeted control project for feral horses and donkeys. Over 5,000 vertebrate pest species (additionally including camels, pigs, wild dogs and buffalo) were removed over a 9,000 km sq area, while Bellyache bush, Parkinsonia, Prickly acacia, Neem, Mesquite, Grader grass, Mimosa pigra, Devils Claw and Sida were treated across 97,500 ha over multiple stations.

### Barkly Landcare Conservation Association (BLCA)

During the first half of 2013-14, BLCA focused mostly on Australian Government funded projects looking at alternative grazing and pastoral land management approaches with field work measuring changes in land condition, pastures quality and biodiversity values. The association also continued to tackle prickly bush species on the Barkly through its ongoing weed management programs and supported treatment in the Georgina, Sylvester, Lake Woods and Tarrabool catchments as part of a follow up to previous year's investments.

Early 2014 saw BLCA staff move to new roles, continuing to work in NRM in the Territory. In their absence, BLCA members and partner organisations including MTP Contracting continued to maintain a focus on weed management with another round of treatment being carried out in key catchments across the Barkly. A new coordinator joined BLCA towards the end of the financial year and we look forward to developing new projects over the coming years.

### Centralian Land Management Association (CLMA)

Centralian Land Management Association continued supporting soil conservation work on several properties in the region, including the hosting of a field day which demonstrated modern industry practices whilst performing land rehabilitation works. CLMA also worked to develop a new website and continued to support landholders with Ecosystem Management Understanding. With the help of federal funding the CLMA ran a two day "Influential Women" workshop with 19 women. This resulted in the launch of 'Desert Poppies', a network for central Australian women.

## INTRODUCING THE NT REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR PROGRAM

*The Regional Landcare Facilitator program is an Australian Government initiative that provides a Regional Landcare Facilitator within each of Australia's 56 NRM regions as part of its Regional Delivery model.*

Working closely with pastoralists, growers, the primary production industry and Landcare groups, the main purpose of the NT RLF is supporting the adoption of sustainable production and land management practices in the NT. Activities that facilitate this include specialised field days and workshops, allowing producers and land managers to engage directly with industry experts and access the latest knowledge emerging from research programs.

The NT RLF program also works to establish a network of demonstration sites across the NT that provide producers with the opportunity to view practice change in action in the context of their unique local landscape, production system and industry conditions. These sites help drive the uptake of practice change, improving the sustainability of local agricultural production industries.

In a vast region like the NT where communities are spread through remote and diverse landscapes, finding new and innovative ways to connect primary producers, land managers and Landcare practitioners with professional and peer knowledge networks is essential. The NT RLF will continue to support the Landcare NT blog as one

means for stakeholders to access a range of articles and resources, but is also investigating a range of mechanisms to directly connect stakeholders through flexible tools, networks and resources.

The NT RLF provides support to the Landcare community to engage more effectively in Australian Government investment programs. It will also work to strengthen the relationship between the Landcare community and TNRM.

Naomi Wilson joined the TNRM team in early 2014 as the NT RLF and delivered her first round of engagement activities through the BioChar Roadshow and BioChar demonstration sites. The NT RLF program will continue until June 2018.



*Landholders learn about soil management at a grader workshop in the VRDCA.*



# THE FINNISS REYNOLDS CATCHMENT GROUP PROJECT

Project duration: August 2012 – June 2017

Australian Government Funding: \$1,880,200

Estimated In-kind support: \$2,130,000

In 2012 the Australian Government approved \$271 million worth of Biodiversity Fund grants for projects that addressed revegetation and restoration of over 18 million ha of the Australian landscape. The Finnis Reynolds Catchment Group (FRCG) project was one of 317 projects to receive funding and since mid-2013 has been under TNRM management.

The project proposal was put together by R.M. Williams Agricultural Holdings Pty Ltd, who identified the need to control the threat posed by feral pigs and the invasive prickly shrub *Mimosa pigra* across the high biodiversity value sites of the Finnis River and Anson Bay catchments. Over a third of the 5,500 km<sup>2</sup> project area is comprised of pastoral properties under ownership of the Tipperary Group, AACo and Finnis River Station.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

*Mimosa pigra* causes many land management problems in the Finnis and Reynolds River catchments, including reducing the grazing value of pastoral land, blocking access to cultural sites, and reducing the biodiversity value of floodplain habitat. Its water-borne seeds mean isolated plants and small infestations in upper catchment areas can quickly produce huge banks of long-lived seed which spread downstream, infesting lower areas. Feral pig activity also exacerbates weed establishment and spread.

One of the challenges for this project is facilitating landholder engagement and pest management across a 5,500 km<sup>2</sup> area comprised of Indigenous land, pastoral properties, national parks, crown land, weekender blocks, and rural residential blocks. To address this, various groups and organisations have assembled to create a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that supports landholders managing *Mimosa* through aerial spraying and on-ground works across the catchments. Reimbursement incentives

are used to encourage landholders to manage large infestations and quarterly group meetings provide an opportunity for information exchange, as well as an arena where management issues can be raised and turned over to the steering committee for resolution.

The TAG meets following each group meeting, in order to address any issues that have arisen and make decisions that will help landholders to perform better pest management in the catchment.

An end goal of the project is that a FRCG steering committee will provide support beyond the funding period. For this to happen, landholders need to be willing to invest in their catchment community. Therefore, as well as implementing strategic pest and weed control, the project focusses on generating and maintaining good will and collaboration between neighbours and NRM organisations, educating landholders about threatening processes in the catchment and engaging people in community development by being part of something bigger in their neighbourhood.

### TAG MEMBERS:

**Susanne Casanova:** TNRM – Project Officer (Chair)

**Pete Bidstrup:** Aerotech (Aerial spray contractor)

**Colin Deveraux:** Twin Hill Station

**Susie Shearer:** Australia Agriculture Company (AACo)

**Tom Price:** NT Government Weed Management Branch

**Robert Bright:** Coomalie Community Government Council

**Paul Blore:** Outback Helicopters (Aerial spray contractor)

**Len Rule:** Tipperary Group

### Northern Land Council representatives

**Sam Washusen:** NT Government Litchfield National Park

**Keith Saalfeld:** NT Government Flora and Fauna (Feral animal management)



## BIOCHAR

*Healthy, well-functioning soils are essential to sustainable food and fibre production and soil organic carbon (SOC) plays an important role in maintaining this health. When SOC is present in the soil at healthy levels, soil function improves, leading to healthier plant productivity which in turn benefits both our natural and productive systems.*

SOC does this by:

- Making nutrients in the soil more available
- Increasing the capacity of the soils to retain nutrients
- Providing an energy supply for biological processes
- Improving soil stability through an increase in the aggregation of soil particles
- Improving water holding capacity, making water more available to plants
- pH buffering.

Carbon is present in the soil in many different forms. Most of these forms decompose over time and are released into the atmosphere. Because of this, organic matter needs to be constantly added to the soil to maintain effective SOC levels.

NT soils are naturally low in SOC, with most soils in our horticultural production systems having less than 1% carbon in the surface horizon. In addition to this, most of our soils have poor natural fertility and low water holding capacity.

TNRM is providing producers in the NT the opportunity to investigate one option to address this limitation and improve the sustainability of their production.

BioChar is a highly stable form of carbon produced by heating organic material from a range of sources (such as forestry offcuts and domestic greenwaste) in a low oxygen environment. The result is a highly stable and concentrated form of carbon (70-80% carbon in BioChar versus 10-30% in other forms of carbon inputs) that has the potential to remain in the soil improving its health and function for hundreds if not thousands of years.

In addition to providing the health-boosting benefits of SOC discussed above, BioChar has also been shown to support the development of healthy soil microbe communities and may reduce the occurrence of diseases in crops.

*BioChar is a new technology based on an ancient practice developed in the Amazon region. The black soil produced from these techniques is called "terra preta". Modern day investigations have found this highly productive soil is high in soil organic carbon, resulting from the addition of charcoal thousands of years ago. These discoveries have led to the development of modern-day BioChar production techniques.*



## NT BioChar Roadshow

After a well-received demonstration of the potential of BioChar in a Top End horticultural production system at Lambells Lagoon, TNRM has expanded its BioChar program in 2014.

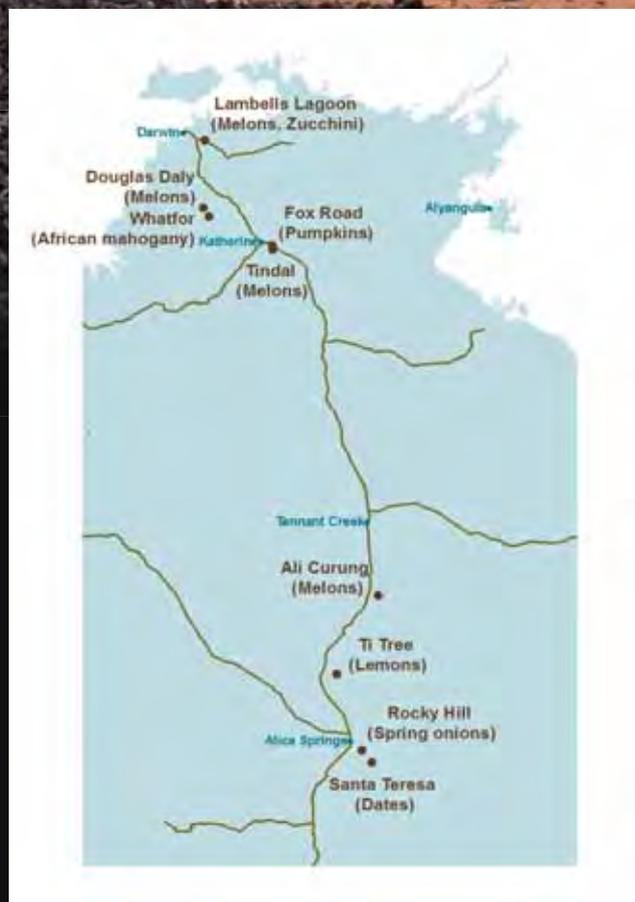
The BioChar Roadshow was delivered in partnership with Earth Systems, a global environmental consulting firm, and brought BioChar technologies to agriculture, horticulture and forestry industries across the NT.

With workshops in Alice Springs, Katherine, Douglas Daly, Darwin and on Groote Eylandt, the roadshow was able to connect with a diverse range of stakeholders from the horticulture, forestry, agriculture, waste management and mining industries, Indigenous land managers, local government and NT Government. The workshops were an opportunity to learn more about BioChar, and discuss its potential in the NT and the current barriers to its adoption.

The roadshow also provided stakeholders with the opportunity to view the operation a commercial scale BioChar machine, the Charmaker Mobile Pyrolysis Plant (MPP20), one of only three in Australia. BioChar was produced at Alice Springs Waste Management Facility, African Mahogany Australia's plantation in the Douglas Daly and at Litchfield City Council's Humpty Doo Transfer Station.

The BioChar produced by these demonstrations was then used to establish a network of BioChar soil application demonstration sites across the NT. The sites, established in a diverse range of landscapes and production industries, will provide future opportunities to better understand the role of BioChar in NT production systems. These sites include:

- Santa Teresa – a date plantation 70km south of Alice Springs
- Rocky Hill – a spring onion crop 40 km east of Alice Springs
- Ti Tree – a newly planted lemon orchard south of Ti Tree
- Ali Curung – a melon crop 170km south of Tennant Creek



- Tindal – a melon crop 40km south west of Katherine
- Fox Road – a pumpkin crop 30 km south of Katherine
- Douglas Daly – a melon crop in the Douglas Daly region
- Whatfor – an African Mahogany plantation near Douglas Daly
- Lambells Lagoon – a melon and zucchini crop 30km south of Darwin

Baseline soil samples have been collected and will be used to measure changes over time in soil function including water holding capacity, nutrient availability and diversity of microbe populations. Changes in productivity as a result of the BioChar treatment will also be observed.

TNRM will continue to work throughout 2015 with producers at all of these sites to observe the performance of BioChar and to engage more broadly with local communities and industries to explore the potential for BioChar to support sustainable production in the NT.

A woman with reddish-brown hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is crouching in a field of tall, dry grass. She is looking down and handling a white bag or piece of fabric. The background shows a clear blue sky and some sparse vegetation.

*Jane Addison from CSIRO doing small mammal monitoring on Andado Station in Central Australia*

## PROTECTING HABITAT AND SPECIES

The Territory boasts a stunning array of habitat types. The tropical monsoonal north is subject to seasonal downpours, and has extensive freshwater systems and a long and rugged coastline. Moving further south, the habitat gradually changes from open savanna woodlands and escarpment country, then to grasslands and finally to the arid red deserts of central Australia. Although the NT has not been subject to the same level of development as many of Australia's more populated regions, we are now beginning to see more marked growth and expansion within our region – including urban expansion in our major population centres. TNRM supports projects across the Territory that help to keep our habitat in good health, and that can also help to boost productivity; from research projects that help manage threatened species, to activities that tackle land management activities such as weed infestation and feral species control.



Dhimurru rangers taking a break from Coffee Bush control work on Dhambaliya.



Weed control work in the VRDCA.

## MANAGING WEEDS

*Weeds can have a significant detrimental effect on the environment and production values by adding fuel loads to fire, competing with native species, blocking access to waterways and degrading agricultural land.*

Exotic plants are now a major component of some of our Territory environments. There are 61 identified weeds across the NT, of which 17 are classified as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS). A plant is classified as a WoNS when it has the potential to be highly invasive, the capacity to spread over a wide area and is likely to have negative economic, social and environmental impacts.

Work to contain the spread of grassy weeds (particularly Gamba Grass) in the Top End covered nearly 6,000 of land and involved 770 properties in the greater Darwin region (details about this project overleaf) —including extensive aerial surveys over eight days in the Coomalie region. In the Gulf Savanna, an additional 1,500ha of grassy weed control was carried out over the past year.

Other surveys included weed mapping in the Gulf catchments. This aerial survey, areas of the Limmen, McArthur River and Calvert River catchments was carried out by TNRM in conjunction with the and Weed Management Branch. There was inadequate data regarding weed distribution in this area and this survey aimed to establish a baseline for the fledgling Gulf Rivers Landcare Group to use to identify outlier populations and the source of weed spread in the region. The most commonly located and mapped weeds were Parkinsonia

and Neem. The data collected from this work has allowed for a more informed overview of weed distribution in the area, which in turn is now being used to assist in strategic implementation of weed management programs at the catchment scale.

In the VRD and Roper catchments, 12 stations were involved in weed management activities over 64,500ha. Target species for management were primarily WoNS-classified prickly bush species.

MTP Contracting (Corella Creek) have continued managing weeds across the Barkly Tablelands, treating over 35,000ha of Brunette Downs—including the entire Prickly Acacia infestation on the property, a weed that is new to MTP. MTP directors spoke at the southern TNRM forum about their weed spraying operations, and it was one of the best received presentations on the day.

**Across the NT, 23 pastoral properties (covering nearly 10 million ha) have adopted practices to improve weed management.**

A close-up photograph of several long, green coffee bush seed pods (siliques) hanging from a branch. The pods are filled with seeds and have a slightly textured surface. The background is filled with green foliage, including fern-like leaves.

## Controlling Coffee Bush Sites on Bremer Island

*Courtesy of Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation*

Out on Dhambaliya (Bremer Island) Dhimurru and Parks and Wildlife Rangers have spent the last six weeks controlling coffee bush and have so far carried out two trips to revisit nine previously controlled sites as part of their ongoing weed management program. The ongoing work that started in 2011 has greatly reduced levels of infestations at the nine sites. Only two of the sites had significant regrowth while the others had mainly seedlings.

Gutjanan community members assisted the rangers by identifying a new infestation on the island and the rangers also found and controlled another site (while controlling a known site) as it turned out to be not too large and easily accessible. The site the community members found was not controlled due to limited accessibility to the site and available time. Community members will carry out burning on the sites to reduce the likelihood of regrowth and seedling germination in the next few weeks.

Work carried out during these trips also included beach clean-ups of marine debris. Due to the prevailing winds there was little or no rubbish found on the western beaches while the eastern beaches had a considerable amount. The rangers and community members put in a great effort and removed two trailer loads over two days. The rangers are likely to return to Bremer Island later this year to continue the control program.

This program has been largely successful due to the support and funding by TNRM, which has assisted in getting rangers and equipment to the island.



## TNRM GRASSY WEEDS PROJECT

*The aim of this project was the control of invasive introduced grass species in order to conserve and protect native species and ecosystems in strategic locations across the Top End. The project mainly focused on Gamba grass, an introduced species found in the NT's northern regions that produces dense, clumping stands with the potential to cause intense and damaging fires. Around 1-1.5 million ha of land is affected by Gamba grass in the Darwin and Katherine regions, and TNRM (in collaboration with a number of organisations) supports several projects to help to control its spread.*

TNRM consulted with Bushfires NT and the DLRM Weed Management Branch to identify the project's main targets and strategies and to establish where support for grassy weed management might be best utilised. Priorities for grassy weed management included;

- Engagement with rural land holders to increase their involvement with the Gamba Grass assistance Program
- Engagement with non-English speaking growers in the Top End horticultural industry, in order to convey Gamba management messages
- Support for research into Gamba grass spread in the Coomalie region
- Provision of weed spraying equipment to distribution points in the rural area to facilitate weed management for land holders

Overseen by Grassy Weeds Project Officer Susanne Casanova, TNRM established a presence at a number of rural market stalls during the early months of 2014. These information-based stalls served to make weed management advice and resources more readily accessible to rural residents and was proven to be an effective way to better identify and understand the needs of property owners. The market stalls were well supported by staff from the DLRM Weed Management Branch, who provided resources such as potted weed specimens as well as weed management and ID information. Over the course of several market days, TNRM staff surveyed people about the management activities they performed on their properties and their opinions about grassy weed management and fire threats.

The Gamba Grass assistance program was promoted by signage and on some market days Weed Management staff were present to enrol program participants and provide herbicide for collection. Weed spray equipment purchased for landholder use included 6 x 100L and 4 x 200L spray units. These were made available for hire free of charge at existing distribution points of the Gamba Grass Assistance Program (Fred's Pass, Coomalie, Territory Wildlife Park, Batchelor, Cox peninsula and Dundee Beach). After a slow start in the initial months, participation levels increased to become the largest ever at 770 properties (a total area of 5,628 ha), with on-ground weed treatment occurring on an estimated 2,500 ha of this (figures from DLRM Weed Management Branch).

In addition to providing advice and equipment, at the start of the year TNRM also supported a course run by TrainSafe NT for a group of 21 Vietnamese growers. This chemical use workshop educated participants about Gamba grass and its management and while information and resources were delivered in English, a translator was used to convey messages in Vietnamese and to help get questions about weed management answered.

In May 2014, TNRM provided contributory funding to a Gamba grass aerial survey in the Coomalie region, in conjunction with funding from the National Environmental Research Program (provided by Charles Darwin University) and expertise and resources from the Department of Land Resource Management and NT Parks and Wildlife Commission. The purpose of this survey was to collect information about the density and distribution of Gamba grass, evaluate management outcomes since Gamba grass was made a declared weed in 2010 (and the subsequent release of the initial Gamba Grass Management Plan), and guide future decision making for managing this species.

Over the course of the project it became evident that while people are generally in favour of managing weeds, they would like more support along with easier access to resources and advice. Overall, the project served to fill some gaps in a cohesive weed management strategy, including increased engagement of people and support for the practical aspects of weed management. Management practice changes were partly brought about by increasing education and awareness relating to grassy weed management.

## FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

*There are 28 feral species listed as occurring in the NT, of which 15 are mammal species. Feral animals can damage the environment by competing with native species for food and water, spreading weeds, contaminating waterways and degrading the production values of agricultural land. TNRM supports activities that strategically and humanely manage feral species at the landscape scale to protect our environmental assets such as our water resources, soil and native wildlife.*

Over the last year, there have been a number of projects targeting predator species—predominantly cats and foxes. These predator species have a direct and devastating impact on populations of small mammals and reptiles across the Territory. On West Island—part of the Sir Edward Pellew Islands group – extensive aerial and ground baiting was carried out by Desert Wildlife Services in collaboration with the li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers. In the 8 years prior to this project, which started in 2011, no small mammals had been found during any of the biodiversity surveys. However, following extensive baiting across the island,

there has been a resurgence in populations of Delicate Mouse (*Pseudomys delicatulus*). Desert Wildlife Services have also been working on a predator control project at Newhaven Sanctuary to control foxes and cats (see the following page for more details).

Other feral animal management projects over 2013-14 have been targeted towards feral livestock species, notably buffalo, horses, donkeys and pigs.

Djelk Rangers at Maningrida worked on a project to control buffalo numbers in a bid to restore and maintain the coastal environment contained within the Djelk IPA which ranges from Cuthbert Point to Cape Stuart. By the end of the project, 835 buffalo had been removed from across 2,500 ha.

Overall, approximately 9,000 feral vertebrate pests have been removed from across the NT during the last year and close to 1 million hectares of pastoral land has been strategically managed for feral animal control.



## Predator control at Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary

Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary, a 261,000 ha property north-west of Alice Springs that is managed by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), is an important area for the nationally threatened Great Desert Skink (*Liopholis kintorei*). With support from TNRM, a collaborative project between AWC and Desert Wildlife Services is trialling control techniques to reduce predation by cats and foxes on Newhaven's Great Desert Skink population.

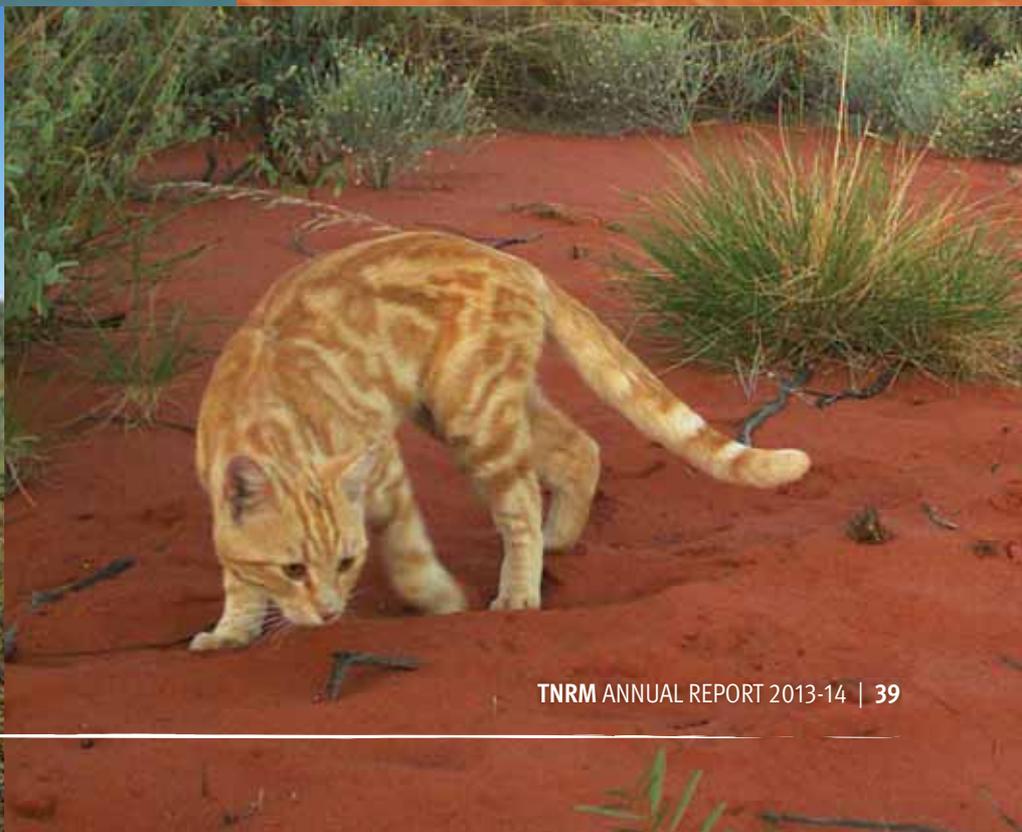
Predator control methods being trialled include fox baiting (using a fox-specific bait station), cat trapping and employment of trackers to locate cats which can then be dispatched by rifle. Methods have been designed to avoid impacting on the dingo population as, although dingoes may prey on Great Desert Skinks, they are also an important predator of feral cats in the Tanami Desert. Predators are being monitored by recording footprints and analysing images from camera traps.

The first two months of research have revealed regular cat and dingo activity at the three study sites but only occasional signs of foxes. The first cat removed from the study area (found by expert trackers from Nyirripi Community) contained the remains of at least two Great Desert Skinks in its gut and a high proportion of cat faecal pellets were found to contain Great Desert Skink remains.



© J. Schofield – courtesy of AWC

Christine Michaels setting up a bait station at Newhaven Sanctuary.



## COASTAL ENGAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION

### DHCU

The fourth annual Darwin Harbour Clean Up took place on the 12th July 2013. This year's event, organised by the NT Seafood Council through funding from the Australian Government and TNRM involved 140 participants and 12 boats working across multiple land and sea sites around the harbour. A staggering 4.5 tonnes of rubbish was collected, bringing the total amount of rubbish gathered from around the Darwin Harbour in the last four years to over 12 tonnes.

Plastic drinks bottles, aluminium cans and glass bottles formed the bulk of rubbish, with less than half the amount of plastic drinks bottles and plastic bags recorded compared to 2012. As always, the clean-up was strongly supported by seafood suppliers, private businesses, community groups, government agencies, non-government organisations and the general community. It provided a great opportunity to raise awareness about the sources and effects of rubbish ending up in the sea and to encourage everyone to 'bin it or take it with you.'



Dhimurru Rangers cleaning up the beaches on Bremer Island (Dhambaliya).

### TACKLING MARINE DEBRIS

Although the NT is the most sparsely populated region of Australia, we are not immune to the issue of marine debris. Some of our most remote areas are subject to prevailing currents that bring debris from south-east Asia. While a range of objects can end up in our seas, discarded or abandoned nets—known as ghost nets—are of particular concern as many species can become entangled in them.

Anindilyakwa Rangers on Groote Eylandt have been working to clean up many coastal sites and have used planes, four-wheel drives and boats to locate and remove as much debris as possible—also often rescue marine wildlife that has become entangled in nets. Students at each of the four schools assisted and the schools have now incorporated ghost net removal into their curriculum. The local kids worked hard with the rangers and their efforts at removing ghost nets at Bustard Island were highlighted in a documentary "Move it mob Style" that was shown all over Australia on NITV.

On Vanderlin Island, senior Traditional owners and *li-Anthawirriyarra* rangers have all been involved in hands on clean-up activities. Their work has provided an important reference point for future management planning, giving an insight into priority areas for debris accumulation and the adaptation of appropriate disposal techniques.

### COASTAL REHABILITATION

TNRM has been supporting weed control work by Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation on Tree Point Conservation Reserve to help restore the coastal vegetation in this area. The project was a follow on from previous work that had been done at the site clearing a major Poinciana infestation that had overrun the monsoon vine forest. Revegetation was done across 0.5ha to prevent erosion and prevent a re-emergence of the problem. Sixteen Larrakia rangers were involved with this project.



RAAF Darwin Base  
Personnel at work  
during the 2013 DHCU.

**6.9 BILLION** NUMBER OF  
PLASTIC BAGS  
AUSTRALIA USES IN A YEAR, OF WHICH  
3.6 BILLION ARE PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS.

**60-80%** OF AUSTRALIAN MARINE  
DEBRIS IS FROM LAND  
BASED SOURCES

**PLASTICS ONLY**

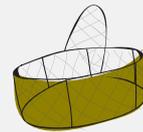
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TROLLEYS



## FIRE MANAGEMENT

*Large scale, unmanaged fires can have a damaging impact on native plants, animals, significant sites and pastoral production. TNRM supports coordinated fire management to strengthen culture, protect biodiversity, maximise production and abate greenhouse gas emissions.*

Managing fires across Territory landscapes is a complex process, from planning annual burns to accessing remote sites that have been incorporated into fire management plans. Fires can be used for many reasons—as a way to manage biodiversity, control weeds or simply reduce fuel loads in case of any late dry season fires. TNRM have funded a number of fire management projects over the last year as well as lending support to a number of planning events. At a landscape scale, our two main funded projects are the **Western Top End Fire Management Project**, as well as the ongoing **Simpson Desert Fire Project**.

The **Western Top End Fire Management Project** is a result of collaborative efforts from The Northern Land Council (NLC), TNRM and The Nature Conservancy, with assistance from Bushfires NT, NAILSMA, Savvy Community Development and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. Building on funding acquired by the NLC for a Western Top End Carbon Capacity building project, consultation with Traditional Owners at four communities took place leading up to a Regional Fire Management Meeting in Daly River in April 2014. In June 2014, TNRM funded aerial operations commenced in this region, along with a series of collaborative activities between partner organisations.

TNRM also supported regional planning in the CALFA region in Arnhem Land. In April 2014 a meeting that included relevant Ranger Groups and communities was held to discuss regional fire management planning. Discussions also took place on the expansion of boundaries of the Western Arnhem Land Fire Abatement project.

The **Simpson Desert Fire Project** is being managed by the Central Land Council (CLC) who are engaging with Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers to identify fire management actions and priority areas to protect and conserve important habitat for the Brush-tailed and Crest-tailed Mulgara in the Simpson Desert. One of the project's main aims is to ensure that large areas of mature Spinifex are not subjected to extensive wild fire and that prescribed burning is applied in a way that preserves habitat. The project has undertaken planning 355,900ha of habitat under management and 34 Traditional Owners involved in either on-ground or planning works (26 employed of which three were Rangers and the remaining eight were volunteers). This has resulted in improved interest and action in undertaking further land management practices.



## Fire management on Crocodile Islands

*The Crocodile Islands Rangers (CIR) are based on Milingimbi Island and work across Northeast Arnhem Land. Their land management activities include assisting Traditional Owners with burning activities on the islands and nearby mainland areas. As some of the islands are no longer regularly inhabited, the Rangers' assistance is valuable in ensuring burning is achieved at the right time. The major goal of this burning is to reduce the extent and intensity of late dry season wildfires.*

The Rangers have also been collecting and recording Indigenous Ecological Knowledge of burning for these areas, which they are incorporating into their "Fire, Indigenous Ecological Knowledge and Management Plan for the Crocodile Islands".

In 2013, with funding from the Working on Country program and support from TNRM, the CIR planned, conducted and documented early dry-season on-ground burning on Milingimbi, Murrungga and Gurriba Islands. Using drip torches and matches, the CIR carried out burning activities on foot and using quadbikes around Milingimbi and the islands. By using devices such as the I-Tracker, they kept a close record of where the fires were lit and used Google Earth and the NAFI website for recording and mapping. At the same time, they carried out on-the-job training and mentoring, including a how-to on the use of ignition tools.

At least two fire management planning sessions took place with consultations occurring between Rangers, Traditional Owners and the CIR Executive Committee prior to burning. An additional 2,500 ha of burning has been identified and planned for Rapuma Island.

## PROTECTING THREATENED SPECIES

Increasing the area of well-managed native habitat and vegetation is an important step in conserving our native species. Across the NT there are 90 nationally-listed and 157 Territory-listed threatened species. There are 17 Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) and 52 Territory-declared weeds. Introduced animal pests include cane toads, rabbits, foxes, cats, camels, horses, donkeys, goats and buffalo.



Many of the projects that are supported by TNRM include some component of threatened species management, often as an outcome of managing threatening processes such as weed or feral animal control. For example, weed and feral control projects across the VRD and Roper River catchments were in part targeted towards preserving habitat for purple-crowned fairy wrens, while the feral cat and fox control project in Newhaven was aimed at protecting Great Desert Skinks.

Out on the Barkly Tablelands, TNRM – in collaboration with the NT Government and MTP Contracting of Corella Creek Community worked with key stakeholders from the Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association to survey native fish species in drought refuges across the Barkly Tablelands. A number of species were collected and catalogued, and this project will help expand the knowledge about the range of species present in these little-studied habitats.

In Arnhem Land, the internationally significant Arafura Wetlands are under threat from the effects of feral animals; buffaloes and pigs in particular. These species cause damage to the floodplains by disturbing and compacting the soil and are responsible for spreading weeds into new areas as well as affecting how water moves through the floodplain. This is epitomised by the vulnerability of *Arenga australasica*, a species of palm tree endemic to this area. As part of a project to protect this plant, five monitoring points were established in areas where buffalo activity is ongoing. Fencing has been constructed to prevent access of feral vertebrates into areas where *Arenga* palms are present.

Central to the success of this project was a feral animal management meeting held in Ramingining that examined current management activities across Arnhem Land. This was well attended by 45 rangers from nine local Ranger Groups as well as several industry experts. As part of the project, three local ranger groups received firearms training which will allow them to continue culling feral buffalo and pig numbers and maintain their populations at manageable levels.

In collaboration with CSIRO, TNRM supported a project to survey and monitor drought refuges of three nationally threatened species (Kultarr, Sandy Inland Mouse, Stripe-faced Dunnart and Plains Mouse) and a suite of near threatened mammals in the southern region of the NT. Fifty land managers were engaged through the project and approximately 1,000 ha covered during the refuge surveys.

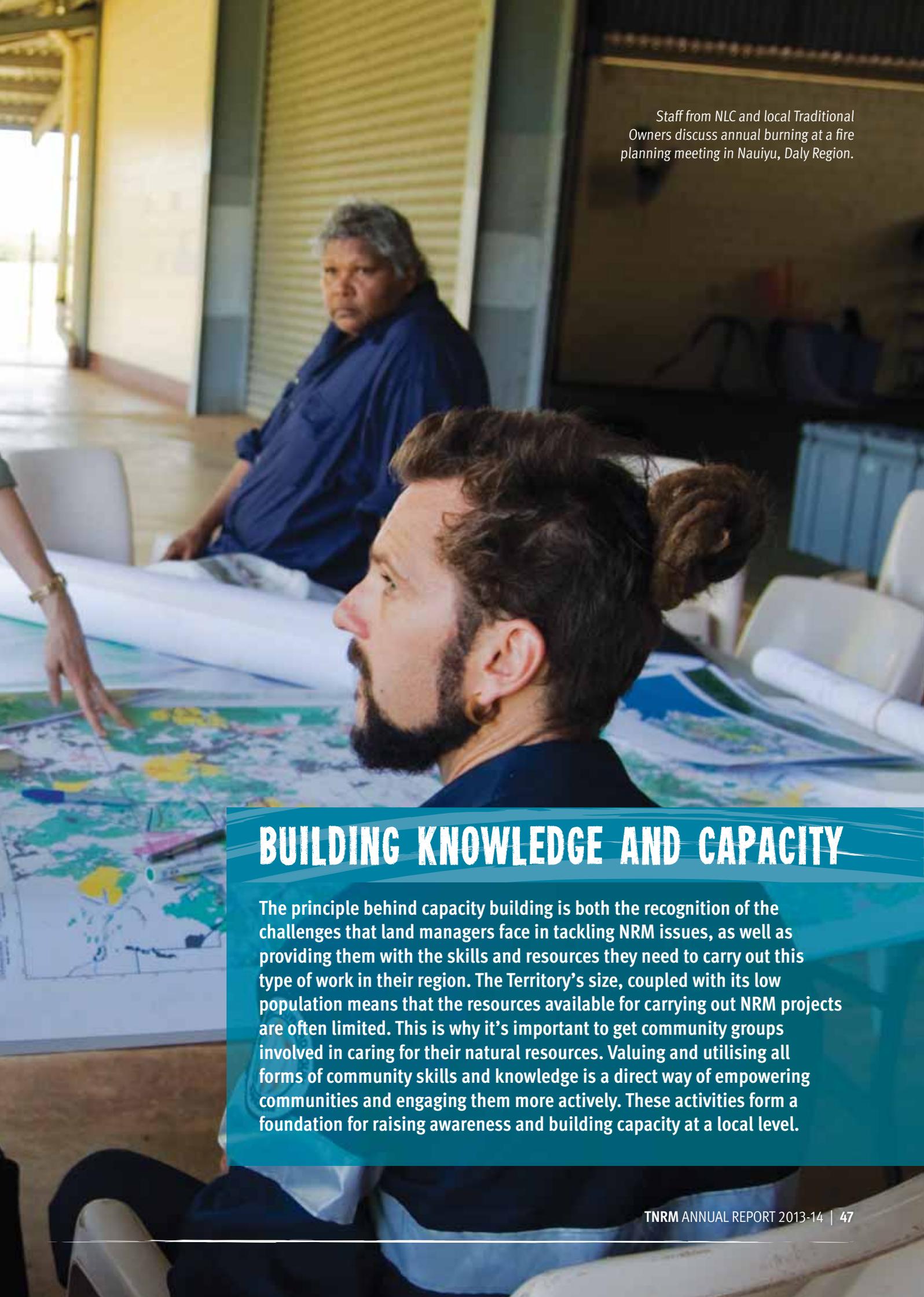


## Camera Traps

Camera traps are a silent and unobtrusive tool in monitoring wildlife at a research site. This technology is a great way of keeping an eye on what's happening in an area and is being used more and more often by research scientists as a way of finding out more about the behaviour of both native and feral animals. The images here show a selection of animals that have been caught on camera at a couple of sites; a pair of brolga observed during a biodiversity survey for a TCA in the Mataranka region, an image of a fox checking out a bait station on Newhaven, and a giant desert skink and mulgara returning to their burrows—also from Newhaven.







Staff from NLC and local Traditional Owners discuss annual burning at a fire planning meeting in Nauiyu, Daly Region.

## BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY

The principle behind capacity building is both the recognition of the challenges that land managers face in tackling NRM issues, as well as providing them with the skills and resources they need to carry out this type of work in their region. The Territory's size, coupled with its low population means that the resources available for carrying out NRM projects are often limited. This is why it's important to get community groups involved in caring for their natural resources. Valuing and utilising all forms of community skills and knowledge is a direct way of empowering communities and engaging them more actively. These activities form a foundation for raising awareness and building capacity at a local level.



## FORUMS AND FIELD DAYS

*Every year, TNRM hosts and supports regular events such as forums, field days, regional meetings, training courses, demonstration activities and our annual NRM conference. These events cover a range of subjects and give natural resource managers opportunities to learn from experts, share their knowledge and network with others in their field of activity, which can lead to collaborative plans that go beyond individual fence lines. Over 2013-14, TNRM hosted the following events;*

### **SOUTHERN NT FORUM 26TH JULY 2013 AND 18 JUNE 2014**

45 people attended the 2013 forum in Alice Springs which included information about useful NRM tools such as InfoNet and soil conservation techniques, as well as input from a number of presenters about the latest results from their NRM projects. Attendance to the forum was up by 10% in 2014 with approximately 50 attendees present. Eight presentations were made on topics including bush medicine harvest and use across the region, camel management, weed management, Indigenous business development, and precision pastoral management tools.

The aim of these forums is to share knowledge, experience and information on NRM best practice across this large sub region and they welcomed representatives from NT Government, Central Land Council, Ninti One, CSIRO, Arid Lands Environment Centre, Low Ecol, Land for Wildlife, MTP Contracting, Charles Darwin University, Desert Wildlife Services and NARMCO.

### **NORTHERN BIODIVERSITY WORKSHOP: 30-31 JULY 2013**

This two-day workshop brought together around 60 experts from across northern Australia to discuss how to protect the biodiversity values of our northern landscapes. The workshop was very well-received and while the common issues of weeds, fire, ferals and small mammal decline remained the main topics of conversation, ideas about how different organisations could share better information and resources were also raised as topics of high priority.

## HOSTING AND SUPPORTING FIELD DAYS

TNRM supported a Chinese Apple workshop that was held in Katherine in late July 2013 and provided helpful advice on managing this invasive species. This well-attended workshop delivered some effective management options to improve control of this weed. In December 2013, TNRM supported the first Desert Poppies Ladies Luncheon, an event which celebrated Central Australian women who are living and working rurally to create a great community in the desert. Over 50 central Australian Women were present with guest speakers Sarah Cook from Supplejack Station and Minister for Women's Policy Bess Price sharing their stories of achievements.

As part of the Land for Wildlife (LFW) cat and fox control program around Alice Springs, LFW - with funding from TNRM - hosted a feral fox workshop at Olive-Pink Botanic Garden in April 2014 as part of their community engagement activities.

Meetings were held with Traditional Owners of PUIA ALT on 21st and 22nd February and with Traditional Owners for Pmere Nyente and Atnetye ALTs on 4th November 2013 and 18-19 March 2014. Maps were prepared and utilised in engaging Traditional Owners. Seven Traditional Owners and one ranger coordinator were engaged at three meetings.

In February 2014 TNRM supported an Integrated Pest Management workshop for Vietnamese growers at the AgVet Chemical User course (AusChem) run by James Gorrie from TrainSafe NT. The workshop enabled growers to obtain their Schedule 7 certificates which are valid for three years. The "In Safe Hands Toolkit" workshop was held at Darwin's TNRM office in March 2014.

Run by Conservation Volunteers Australia, this safety management toolkit is targeted towards community groups in practical conservation. This workshop was attended by conservation agencies and Landcare groups.

Traditional Owners in the Western Top End region attended a roadshow of information sessions about the Carbon Farming Initiative, early season savanna burning, and fire planning in early 2014. The Northern Land Council, facilitator Paul Josif and Territory Natural Resource Management collaborated closely to coordinate the meetings in Pine Creek, Wadeye, Peppimenarti and Daly River, with approximately 100 Traditional Owners attending in total.

Throughout the year, TNRM have been organising and facilitating Finniss Reynolds Catchment Management stakeholder meetings through the Finniss Reynolds Catchment Management Project Officer Developing catchment scale strategies that involve effective stakeholder communication and engagement methods have been a major part of these meetings.

The Kimberley to Cape Network is a growing group of organisations and individuals from multiple sectors who want to work together to support development and conservation across Northern Australia that maintains natural and cultural values and strengthens communities. Working with numerous organisations and with support from TNRM, Kimberley to Cape hosted a two day Northern Australian Futures Roundtable in Darwin on the 7- 8 May. Over 80 people from about 50 organisations participated representing agricultural, tourism, NRM, Indigenous, pastoral, finance, mining, oil/gas, conservation, research and government sectors.





## 2013 TNRM ANNUAL FORUM, NT NRM AWARDS AND NT LANDCARE AWARDS

The social highlight of the TNRM calendar, our annual Forum was this year complemented by an awards and gala night. The event commenced on the 5th of November with a series of workshops and a field day, and on the following day we hosted the forum over the course of the day, while the NT NRM Awards, NT Landcare Awards and Gala Dinner were held on the same evening. The event was a great success, attracting record attendance numbers and receiving a great deal of positive feedback.

### WORKSHOPS AND FIELD DAY

59 people from across the NT joined in on a series of 6 workshops which offered participants the opportunity to gain or further develop useful skills relevant to their area of activity, such as project reporting, documentation of project outcomes or fundraising. These workshops focused on being engaging, hands-on and interactive sessions.



35 people attended the half day field trip to the Fogg Dam region. One group participated in a photography workshop with NT-based photographer Paul Arnold, while the second visited a biochar research site on an organic farm in Lambells Lagoon and learned about new research and land management techniques. This was followed by a quick tour of Fogg Dam and a talk from Jeremy Hemphill from Friends of Fogg Dam. Both groups then finished off the excursion with an aerial spraying demonstration by Aerotech NT.



### FORUM

183 people gathered to hear about NRM projects from all over the NT covering themes such as sustainability, feral animal management, large scale weed management, cross border fire management and business development in the field of NRM.



### AWARDS

208 attendees participated in a gala event that showcased the fantastic work, dedication and the achievements of Territorians that are looking after our natural environment for future generations. Category winners are featured on the next page.



## 2013 NT NRM AWARD WINNERS



### **BEST COLLABORATION IN NRM: NAILSMA I-TRACKER**

The I-tracker program is an example of collaboration between Indigenous ecological knowledge and western science. It has been adopted over a large scale network and provides ongoing outcomes and opportunities.

Highly Commended: Crocodile Islands Rangers

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### **OUTSTANDING TERRITORY RANGER GROUP: CROCODILE ISLANDS RANGERS (CIR)**

The CIR have engaged their community in local environmental projects including beach clean-ups, a Junior Ranger program, weed control work, wildlife surveys, sacred site monitoring, illegal fishing patrols, and establishing a Turtle Sanctuary.

Highly Commended: Muru-Warinyi Ankkul Rangers

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### **PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL NRM CHAMPION: TWIN HILL STATION**

Twin Hill Station have restored severely weed infested land and improved the commercial viability of the pastoral property. They also engage with other properties through contractual arrangements, sharing their knowledge and experience.

Highly Commended: Corella Creek (MTP Contractor PTY LTD)

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### **BEST USE OF IEK IN NRM: BUSH MEDICINE HARVESTERS, CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL**

Using Indigenous Ecological Knowledge and custodial knowledge the traditional owners have been developing harvesting protocols and producing regional maps which will aid future medicinal plant management, and is a great example of successful networking, sharing information and engagement.

Highly Commended: Healthy Marine Harvest, Larrakia People & RIEL

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### **SPECIAL AWARD: CONTRIBUTION TO NRM IN THE NT (JOYE MADDISON)**

The late Joye Maddison had a lifelong passion for the environment, working in Kakadu National Park for 22 years then as Group Coordinator with Wangamaty Landcare since 2005. Joye was highly respected amongst her peers and community and leaves a legacy of knowledge and inspiration.

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### **BEST URBAN NRM GROUP: FROGWATCH NTH INC**

FrogWatch has partnered with the local council and other organisations to deliver their community education and cane toad control programs and for undertaking research on the impact of cane toads on reptiles.

Highly Commended: City of Palmerston

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### **INDIVIDUAL NRM CHAMPION: SUE MCKINNON**

Sue has played an outstanding volunteer role as Chair for Friends of Mitchell Creek. She has engaged the local community, corporate businesses and government organisations to work together on addressing local environmental issues.

Highly Commended: Rob Lindsay, Russell Cornall

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### **SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT IN NRM: JOE MORRISON NAILSMA**

CEO of NAILSMA, Joe has supported Indigenous land and sea managers to continue to live on and care for their traditional lands and has facilitated merging traditional knowledge and modern NRM practices and fostering Indigenous economic development.

Highly Commended: Colin Stanton

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### **PEOPLE'S CHOICE NRM AWARD: COLIN STANTON**

Colin Stanton has had a successful career as Soil Conservation Officer with the NT Government. Since the 1970s, Col has worked with stakeholders across Australia on soil conservation issues, particularly erosion.

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## 2013 NT LANDCARE AWARDS



### **INDIVIDUAL LANDCARER: SUE MCKINNON**

In her volunteer role as Chair for Friends of Mitchell Creek, Sue has successfully engaged the local community, corporate businesses and government organisations to work together on addressing environmental issues in Mitchell Creek.

Highly Commended: Colin Stanton

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### **PARTNERSHIPS WITH LANDCARE: ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE (ALEC), 'BIODIVERSITY MATTERS'**

ALEC's 'Biodiversity Matters' program is innovative and multidisciplinary, achieving true collaboration through a great diversity of partnerships based over a wide geographical area, creating a win-win situation for all volunteers and organisations involved.

Highly Commended: Conservation Volunteers, 'Corridors of Green'

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### **INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES: LAKEFIELD STATION, GARRY & MICHELLE RIGGS**

Lakefield Station is a great example of how diversifying into several on farm economies can add economic sustainability to agricultural business and demonstrates how investing in conservation and animal welfare can improve productivity outcomes.

Highly Commended: Twin Hill Station, Twin Hill Aboriginal Corporation

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### **COASTCARE AWARD: CROCODILE ISLANDS RANGERS (CIR)**

CIR's Coastcare activities address environmental issues through behaviour change, community engagement, partnerships, role modelling and community ownership of the project. They were also congratulated for their Junior Rangers school program, Milingimbi beach clean-up and turtle sanctuary.

Highly Commended: Humpty Doo Scout Venturers

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### **QANTAS INNOVATIVE LANDCARE COMMUNITY GROUP AWARD: FRIENDS OF FOGG DAM INC (FOFD)**

FOFD have a committed and innovative approach to the management of a significant conservation and tourism area in the NT. The dedicated volunteers carry out on-ground works year round as well as planning, project monitoring and reporting and developing partnerships.

Highly Commended: FrogWatch North Inc

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### **LANDCARE FACILITATOR OR COORDINATOR: PETER CLIFTON**

Former NT Regional Landcare Facilitator, Peter Clifton supported a range of groups and individuals across the NT through his workshops and field days. He was instrumental in developing the Gulf Rivers Landcare Group, and the reinvention of the Douglas Daly progress association.

Highly Commended: Shaun Ansell

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### **JUNIOR LANDCARE TEAM AWARD: GIRRAWEEN PRIMARY SCHOOL 'FARM HANDS'**

This program educates students on all areas of environmental awareness through a hands-on approach; it demonstrates strong links to the wider community, environmental education embedded into the curriculum, and a Landcare ethos throughout the school.

Highly Commended: Junior Ranger Program, PWCNT, Milkwood Steiner School, Moil Primary School

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### **INDIGENOUS LAND MANAGEMENT AWARD: ROPER RIVER LANDCARE GROUP & MANGARRAYI LAND MANAGEMENT RANGERS**

This project on Mangarrayi Lands will have positive long-lasting effects to the wider community and strengthen two-way land management in the region. Rangers have collected important Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, recorded into a book, with maps to show song lines - with the approval of Traditional Elders and the NLC.

Highly Commended: Twin Hill Station (Twin Hill Aboriginal Corporation)

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### **WESTPAC AGRIBUSINESS INNOVATIVE YOUNG LANDCARE LEADER AWARD: RUSSELL CORNALL**

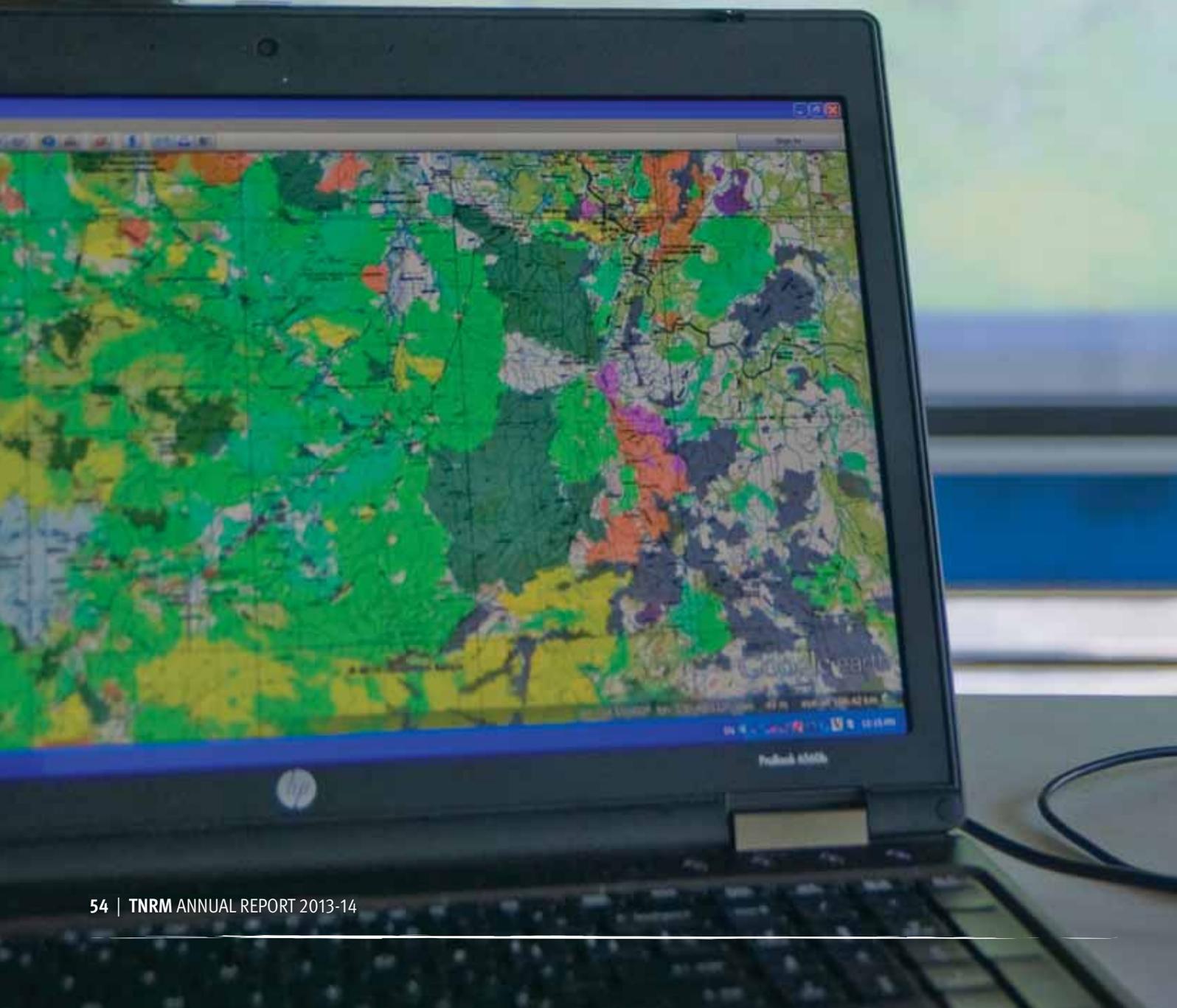
Russell has engaged a variety of stakeholders in projects and has been instrumental in organising the successful VRD Regional Wild Dog Management Group and for securing partnerships to deliver combined weed control projects and pasture improvement in the VRD.

Highly Commended: Shaun Ansell

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## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Geographical Information Systems, also known as GIS, is a computer-based tool that allows us to capture and analyse information about landscapes. It is a very useful tool in land management as it lets users observe patterns and trends across large areas. Using GIS helps us to deliver better land management strategies.





Indigenous rangers in Arnhem Land receiving GIS training as part of a project to protect Arenga Palm.

2014 saw further development of TNRM's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capacity, enhanced by the addition of two staff members to the TNRM team who, while not having GIS focussed roles, have a high proficiency in GIS. In addition, two staff received additional training and are able to apply their knowledge in developing project plans. Despite the modest size of the TNRM team we have sound GIS capability and have been able to provide support to a number of organisations and projects in the NT. While TNRM GIS relies mainly on free GIS data and software, the acquisition of two ArcGIS licences has boosted our capabilities in two areas; the ability to develop interactive map narratives and explore additional mobile GIS options. GIS supports our project development and we are now also able to provide digital project boundaries to partners as required.

In addition to providing expertise to stakeholders through individual training and three-monthly mapping forums, TNRM now plays a crucial mentoring role in external GIS projects.

We assisted Dhimurru in delineating fire scars in North East Arnhem Land not visible on NAFI's maps and with TNRM's support the NT Seafood Council have developed two NT-wide GIS layers able to accurately and rapidly inform fishers of the exact location and extent of fisheries' legal boundaries. Seventeen licence holders in the Barramundi Fishery and 11 licence holders in the Aquarium Fishery have benefited from the GIS knowledge provided by TNRM. We have also provided training and mapping support to several local landcare groups.

The Finnis Reynolds Catchment Group (FRCG) Project is a stakeholder focussed project which provides support for managing two invasive species in the catchments of the Finnis and the Reynolds rivers. GIS has been

instrumental to the project as the information displayed on catchment level maps provides a talking point for the project participants, enabling a common ground for discussion during meetings where people are not necessarily familiar with one another. This is important for relationship building between project members, and also helps to make everyone feel that their work is part of a bigger picture.

## INFONET

TNRM funds the delivery of a number of web-based tools designed to provide easy access to NRM information across the regions. The *NRM Infonet* website is a planning site which allows the user to create simple summaries of key natural resources for areas of land in northern Australia. The site has undergone some recent development in response to user feedback; some of the changes include:

- A new interface featuring Google Maps – style navigation tools, with satellite imagery available as a backdrop
- New fire reporting tools which quantify the fire history and fire management of an area, drawing on data from the NAFI website
- Species lists available as a .csv download
- More pre-set reporting areas, and
- Compatibility with tablet devices

A new *Fire Manager* website has been designed as an easy to use knowledge-sharing site focused on fire management. Intended to build knowledge around fire management and facilitate the exchange of ideas between fire managers across Northern Australia, the site is expected to be fully functional by the end of the year.



Left to right: Christine Michaels tracking cats at Newhaven sanctuary, Maxine Keighran (Indigenous NRM Trainee) undertaking mammal monitoring on Vanderlin Island, and Sammy Guyula setting up a photo monitoring point in Arnhem Land.

## INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

*Supporting and developing the capacity of Indigenous people and organisations to achieve natural resource management outcomes is a key area of activity for TNRM. We work in partnership with a large number of Indigenous organisations across the NT on a range of NRM projects. Most of these projects include training and capacity development activities, from weed identification and the transmission of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge; to full time employment and enrolment in formal qualifications through our new Indigenous Traineeship Program.*

Over the last year, TNRM's Indigenous capacity development activities have been a key focus of 6 projects that have built on the success of the previous year's Territory Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Program. Indigenous people have communal ownership over 85% of the Northern Territory coastline, and there are number of Indigenous organisations and ranger groups implementing land and sea management plans in this this area. TNRM has supported five of these organisations to undertake on-ground coastal and marine maintenance and restoration actions including revegetation, control of invasive weed species, marine debris removal and feral animal control. The projects have supported numerous training and capacity development activities of rangers, junior rangers and school students in such areas as native plant propagation and rehabilitation, feral animal

management and monitoring, weed identification and treatment, chainsaw use, and the recording and transmission of Indigenous ecological knowledge.

TNRM has also provided assistance for a number of Indigenous groups to attend and present at conferences throughout the financial year. In addition to the networking and learning opportunities presented through our own annual Conference, TNRM supported the Anindilyakwa rangers and the li-Anthawirriyarra sea rangers to present at the international Island Arks Symposium in Tasmania in February. The Anindilyakwa rangers also delivered a presentation about their marine debris removal work at the national NRM Knowledge Conference, under the theme of 'Communities in Action'.

TNRM continues to recognise and support economic development opportunities for Indigenous people in the natural resource management industry. TNRM has been working with the Northern Land Council and other organisations to design and develop an online 'directory' of Indigenous land and sea management service providers across the Northern Territory, with key information about their skills and capacity, area of operation and contact information. Although still in the design phase, this is a promising resource to support emerging Indigenous groups engage in NRM businesses.



Li Anthawirriyarra Sea rangers ready to depart by chopper to check on marine debris on Vanderlin Island.

## INDIGENOUS TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

*TNRM's Indigenous Traineeship Program was created in 2014 and combines work and structured training to provide nationally recognised qualifications and skills that will equip Indigenous trainees with the necessary skills to work in the Natural Resource Management industry.*

The traineeship includes a full time one year contract with TNRM and placement of the trainee with an Indigenous host employer organisation. Trainees are registered with Australian Apprenticeships NT (AACNT), and enrolled in a Certificate II Conservation Land Management at CDU.

In May 2014, TNRM signed on our first trainee, Maxine Keighran, to the program. In June, Thomas Ah Fat was selected as our second trainee.

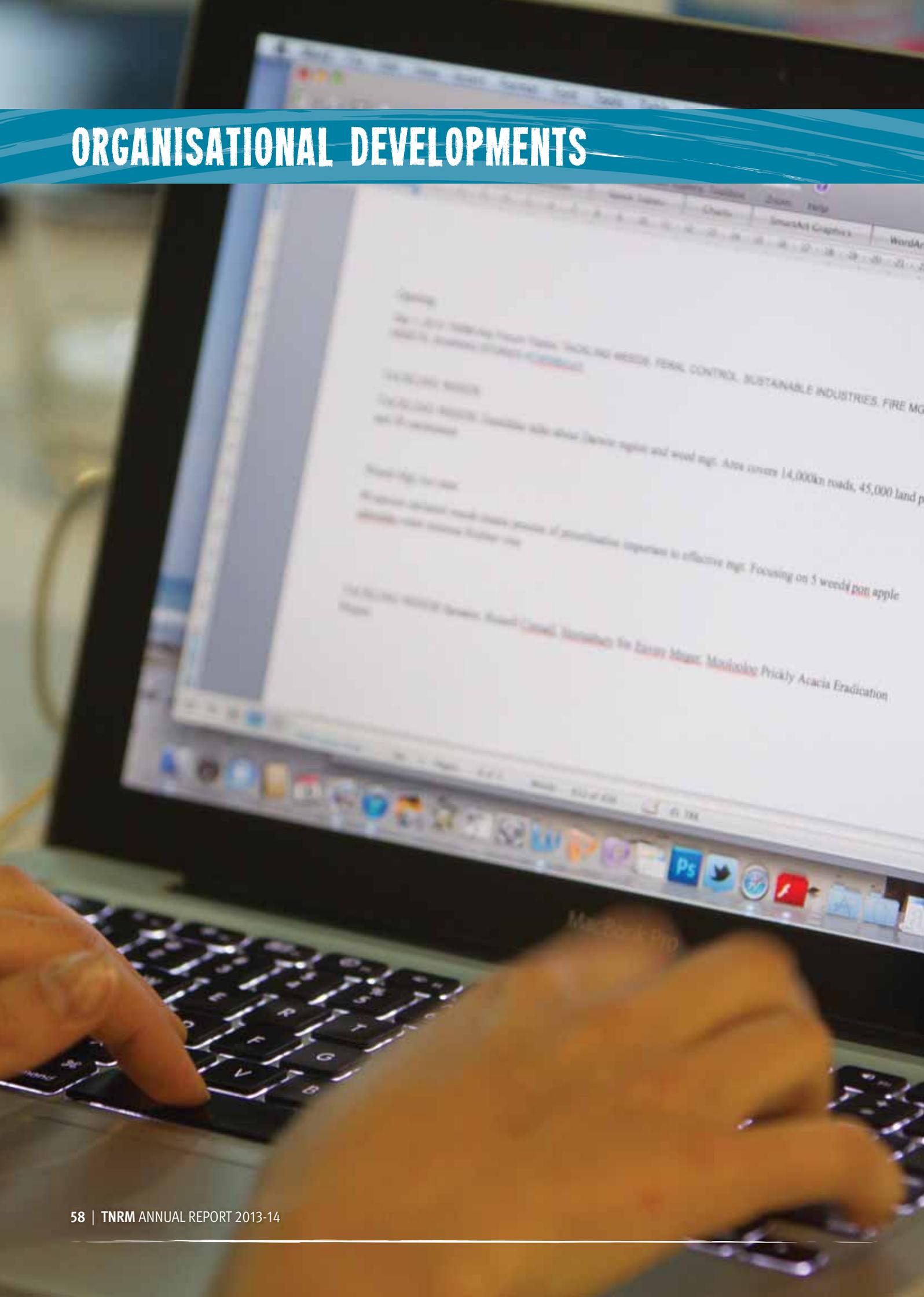
Maxine Keighran is a Garrawa woman from Borroloola, and is based with the li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers, hosted by Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Inc. Maxine is new to natural resource management work, and since completing Year 10 at Kormilda College in 2007 has worked at the Malandari Store in Borroloola and the Robinson River Clinic. She has participated in the annual turtle monitoring camp at West Island, as well as helping out

as a volunteer on the TNRM-funded feral cat management project, also on West Island. Maxine will work towards a Certificate II in Conservation Land Management while working with the Sea Rangers.

Thomas Ah Fat is from the Daly River area and is hosted by the Indigenous Land Corporation on Fish River Station. Thomas also completed year 10 at Kormilda College in Darwin and has since been working at the Nauiyu store and also on Fish River Station, where he has been involved in fire management and weed management work.

In addition to our new trainees, TNRM also welcomed Wayne Barbour to the role of Indigenous Project Support Officer in March 2014. Wayne is from Alkwepetye country near Alice Springs, and has had extensive experience in NRM across the Northern Territory, with strong links in the Top End and Alice Springs areas. Wayne plays a key support and mentoring role in the traineeship program, and is also supporting capacity development opportunities with other Indigenous stakeholders where needed.

# ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



## MEMBERSHIP

TNRM is a membership based organisation. Community input and participation in our activities is important to us. Membership is free and open to all NT associations, businesses and organisations with an interest in NRM in the NT. A member must be incorporated in the NT or represent residents of the NT. A membership structure encourages networking across our region, communication of events and the opportunity to spread news of the Members' Organisation.

Each Member nominates a delegate, who holds a voting right at the AGM. The Delegate also has the opportunity to input on items provided to the Members for comment, and can nominate to participate in the Board Director recruitment process. At the end of June 2014, we had a total of 33 members, up from 15 members at the same time last year.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Our second membership-based AGM took place on the 5th November and was attended by 10 of the 17 Member delegates (a minimum of five is required)

Accepted amendments to our constitution included;

- Clarification of 'Member present' definition; delegates can attend by teleconference, video conference or by proxy and the process required
- Clarification of how to change a Member delegate
- Clarification of process if an office holder position becomes vacant prior to AGM
- Introduction of the proxy vote
- Minor amendments to numbering, grammatical errors and formatting

A copy of the Constitution is available on our website, or from our main office.

Other business arising from the AGM included the election of the Director Selection Panel (two Directors and three Member delegates). Georgia Underwood was thanked for her six years of service to the Board of TNRM and the passing of Joye Maddison was marked through reflecting on the remarkable commitment and legacy she created in NRM.

## TNRM MEDIA PRESENCE

Greater media exposure, community engagement and broadening of networks has led to an increase in the number of groups and people engaging with TNRM and participating in natural resource management activities. We continue to work on our social media sites and in June 2014 we launched our new website. At the end of June 2014 TNRM had 320 Facebook fans and

430 Twitter followers, and there were 650 subscribers to our monthly newsletter 'Network Notes'. Work on rebranding of the TNRM logo and collateral over the last year has helped to create a consistent and up-to-date look and feel for the organisation.

## STAFF CHANGES

Diane Pearson joined our team in the role of Program Manager in September 2013 while Paul Donohoe was contracted to work on our updated INRM Plan in December. Gulf Savanna Regional Coordinator James Wright left his position in December and was replaced by Daniel Chapman in April 2014. We also bid farewell to the Tablelands Regional Coordinator at the end of 2013, who was replaced by Jon Hodgetts (formerly of BLCA) in February 2014. Jon is also currently filling in for Arid Lands Regional Coordinator Heidi Groffen—who is on maternity leave. Naomi Wilson, also formerly from BLCA, joined the Darwin team as Regional Landcare Facilitator in February 2014 along with Susanne Casanova, who started on as Grassy Weeds Project Officer (and is now also acting as the Finnis Reynolds Catchment Group Project Officer).

Our Indigenous Capacity Support Officer Robert Fuller left the team in October 2013 and was replaced by Wayne Barbour in March 2014. Contract Support Officer, Anita Hallam left the team in September 2013 while our Communications Officer Cara Burke departed in May 2014. Ros Consoli has also been contracted to assist with the coordination of the NRM and Landcare Awards in November.

## STAFF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TNRM encourages training and development of staff to support our team to grow and develop to maximise performance and achieve positive results.

Training and development undertaken by staff this year includes:

- Geographic Information Systems training (in-house)
- Open Standards Planning
- 'Dragonfly' training
- Emergency warden training
- CPA Global strategy and leadership
- CAP/Open Standards Coaches Training
- Governance foundations for not for profit directors
- First Aid training
- Four Wheel drive training
- Diploma in accounting
- Diploma in Management.

# THE BOARD

The Board remained at eight Directors over the past financial year, including the Chair. Director recruitment is based on the skills and knowledge required to support best practice governance and business development, capacity building and community development as well the management of the Northern Territory's natural resources. Directors are selected from across the Territory with consideration given to gender balance. Board appointments are for two years and no Directorship can be held for longer than 3 consecutive terms.

Director	13-14 Aug 2013 Meeting #49 Darwin	17-18 Oct 2013 Meeting #50 Darwin	AGM 5 Nov 2013 Darwin	27-28 Feb 2014 Meeting #51 Darwin	29-30 May 2014 Meeting #52 Alice Springs
Kate Andrews (Chair)	1	1	1	1	1
Georgia Underwood (Deputy Chair , FAC Chair)	1 Deputy Chair	1 Deputy Chair			
Matt Darcey (Public Officer)	1	1	1	1	1
Tracy Jones	1	1	1	1	-
Rowan Foley	1	1	1	-	1
Stephen Morton Deputy Chair	1	1	1	1 Deputy Chair	1 Deputy Chair
Mona Liddy	1	1	1	1	1
Brooke Rankmore (FAC Chair)	1	1	1	1 FAC Chair	1 FAC Chair
Sally Sullivan				1	1
Karen May Chief Executive Officer	1	1	1	1	1
Alisa Westland Executive Support Officer	1	1	1	1	1
<b>TOTAL ATTENDED</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

## REAPPOINTMENT AND RECRUITMENT

Sally Sullivan was appointed to the Board in January 2014, while Georgia Underwood finished her six-year term in October 2013.



### KATE ANDREWS, CHAIR

With her family involved in the cattle and buffalo industries, Kate spent her early childhood in Darwin and then on Mudginberri cattle station. Since then she has lived in many parts of Australia, working for many years for a wide range of NRM and sustainable agriculture organisations and in a wide range of roles such as facilitator, researcher and manager. Along with chairing TNRM, Kate also sits on the Australian Landcare Council, the Advisory Committee for CSIRO's flagship for Sustainable Agriculture and the National Working Group of NRM Chairs.



### STEVE MORTON, DEPUTY CHAIR

Steve started his career with the Supervising Scientist at Jabiru, before moving across to the CSIRO team in Alice Springs. He went on to become a member of the Executive Team of CSIRO and 10 years of this was Group Executive for areas that covered research in environment and sustainability, energy, manufacturing and materials, and mining. Steve currently Chairs the Scientific Advisory Panel to the Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum, and is a trustee for the Olive Pink Botanic Garden in Alice. Previously he was on the Board for the Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre.



### BROOKE RANKMORE, FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Brooke's enthusiasm and drive is reflected in her completion of an Australian Rural Leadership Program and her engagement in multiple areas of NRM, including pastoral and Indigenous issues. Brooke runs her own environmental consultancy business that largely assists pastoralists with environmental issues. She brings with her a practical scientific and conservation background along with a good understanding of the pastoral industry.



### MATT DARCEY, PUBLIC OFFICER

Matt has broad experience at a senior level in agricultural development, environmental regulation and natural resource management – primarily in the agribusiness sector. Matt joined the Board as Public Officer in February 2010 and brings a sustainable economic development perspective to the organisation.



### **TRACY JONES, DIRECTOR**

As managing director of her own company, Tracy brings her business and marketing skills to the board. She initially trained as a journalist moving later on to public relations and marketing in 1989, working in executive roles for the Northern Territory Government and Charles Darwin University before starting her own business in 2006. Tracy is a Fellow of both the Public Relations Institute of Australia (PRIA) and the Australian Marketing Institute, is a national secretary and former national president of PRIA and is a multi-award winning marketer and public relations strategist. Tracy was appointed to the TNRM Board in March 2011.



### **ROWAN FOLEY, DIRECTOR**

Rowan is the General Manager of the Aboriginal Carbon Fund, Chair of the National Indigenous Climate Change Steering Committee and member of the RIRDC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee. Rowan is studying a Masters of Environmental Law at the Australian National University. He is a ranger by trade and has consistently played a leadership role in Aboriginal land and sea management, and more recently climate change and carbon farming. Rowan was appointed to the TNRM Board in March 2011.



### **MONA LIDDY, DIRECTOR**

Mona is a Wagiman woman from the Daly River region with strong cultural knowledge and land management experience; is well-networked with broad expertise in community development, and experience working in water management, planning and research, including working with western science and Indigenous Knowledge. Mona sits on the Northern Australian Indigenous Experts Forum on Sustainable Economic Development, Daly River Management Advisory Committee (DRMAC) and the Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group (DRARG).



### **SALLY SULLIVAN, DIRECTOR**

Sally has been in the Territory since 1987, working as a Soil Conservation Officer based in Darwin, Katherine and then at Kidman Springs in the VRD. Along with her husband Rohan and his family, Sally has owned and managed Cave Creek Station (near Mataranka) since 1991. She is committed to sustainability in the cattle industry and brings to the Board a wealth of practical knowledge in weed and feral animal management, soil erosion control and conservation of native pastures, flora and fauna. Sally has considerable experience in the management, accountability and governance of community organisations, for many years holding executive positions on the Roper River Landcare Group, Mataranka School Council and the NT State Council of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA).

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# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Clive Garland  
KPMG  
GPO Box 1616 Darwin NT 0801

31 October 2014

Dear Sir

## Representation letter - audit of special purpose financial report for period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the special purpose financial report of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated (the Entity) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes (financial report) for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity and its performance in accordance with the accounting policies as determined by the Management Committee.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. We understand that omissions or misstatements of items are considered material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the economic decisions that users make on the basis of the financial report. Materiality depends on the size and nature of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The size or nature of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, having such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

### General

- 1 We have considered the status of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated and believe that the Entity is not a reporting entity as defined in AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*.

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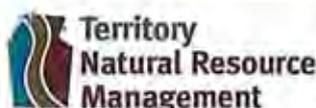
#### Alice Springs Office

Leichhardt Building  
Cnr Gregory & Leichhardt Terrace  
Alice Springs, NT 0870

AMN 52 624 459 784

- 2 We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated 14 May 2013, for the preparation of the financial report that gives a fair presentation of the financial report. We have prepared the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Northern Territory Associations Act, the Entity's Constitution and in compliance with AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107 *Cash Flow Statements*, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, AASB 1048 *Interpretation and Application of Standards*, AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures* and AASB 1031 *Materiality*. We have also complied with all the recognition, measurement and classification requirements of other relevant Accounting Standards and, to the extent determined appropriate by the Management Committee, the disclosure requirements of those standards.
- 3 In preparing the financial report:
  - We have considered the accounting policies necessary for the financial statements to present a fair view of the financial position and performance of the entity to the members of the Management Committee and have adopted these policies consistently throughout the financial report. We believe that the accounting policies are appropriate to meet the needs of the users of the financial report.
  - In adopting the appropriate accounting policies and disclosures for preparation of the financial report we have considered the substance of the underlying transactions as well as their form.
  - Measurement methods and significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
- 4 We have provided you with:
  - Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial report such as records, documentation and other matters;
  - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
  - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- 5 All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and reflected in the financial report.
- 6 We acknowledge our responsibility for such internal control as we determine necessary for the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error. In particular, we acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.
- 7 We understand that the term "fraud" includes misstatements resulting from fraudulent financial reporting and misstatements resulting from misappropriation of assets. Misstatements resulting from fraudulent financial reporting involve intentional misstatements or omissions of amounts or disclosures in financial reports to deceive financial report users. Misstatements resulting from misappropriations of assets involve the theft of an entity's assets, often accompanied by false or misleading records or documents in order to conceal the fact that the assets are missing or have been pledged without proper authorisation.

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- 8 There have been no:
- (a) Fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Entity and involves:
    - Management;
    - Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
    - Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial report.
  - (b) Allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Entity's financial report communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- 9 We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws or regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report. Further, we have disclosed to you and have appropriately accounted for and/or disclosed in the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report.
- 10 All events subsequent to the date of the financial report and for which Australian Accounting Standards require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- 11 We acknowledge that we will not publish the audit report on the financial report on our website.

#### Going Concern where there are no material uncertainties

- 12 We have made an assessment of the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern taking into account all available information about the future, which is at least, but is not limited to, twelve months from the end of the reporting period. We confirm that we are not aware of material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### Assets and liabilities

- 13 The Entity has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities. We believe the carrying value of all material assets will be recoverable.
- 14 The measurement, presentation and disclosure of fair values are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The amounts recorded or disclosed in the financial report represent our best estimate of fair value of assets and liabilities in accordance with AASBs. The measurement methods and significant assumptions used in determining fair values are appropriate in the circumstances and the resulting valuations and disclosures are reasonable.
- 15 We have recorded all liabilities and disclosed all contingent liabilities in the financial report in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*.

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- 16 All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report have been disclosed to you and accounted for and/or disclosed in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*. Except as disclosed in the notes to the financial report, we are not aware of any additional claims that have been or are expected to be received that could have a material effect on the financial report.
- 17 The Entity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the Entity's assets other than those reflected in the financial report.
- 18 The Entity's cash generating units (CGUs) have been appropriately identified in accordance with AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*. We have appropriately assessed, at the reporting date, whether there is any indication that an asset or CGU may be impaired.
- 19 We have no non-current assets that are required by AASB 5 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*, to be classified as held for sale.
- 20 We have identified each part of an item of property, plant and equipment and equipment that is significant in relation to the total cost of the item and depreciated each item separately in accordance with AASB 116 *Property, Plant and Equipment*.

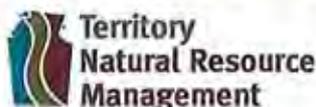
#### **Contracts, covenants and commitments**

- 21 There were no material contractual commitments for capital or other expenditure at year end not included in the financial report.
- 22 Throughout the period the Entity has conformed with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial report in the event of non-compliance.
- 23 As at the statement of financial position date, the Entity had measured appropriately any obligations arising from:
  - Onerous contracts, i.e. those contracts under which the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations exceed the economic benefits to be received under it;
  - Liabilities for interest on deposits and other indebtedness, including subordinated notes and participation loans;
  - Losses from transactions not recognised in the statement of financial position.

#### **Revenue**

- 24 The revenue recognition criteria have been applied to the separately identifiable components within a single transaction to reflect the substance of the transaction in accordance with AASB 118 *Revenue*.

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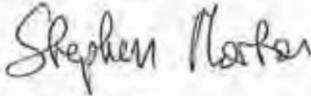
### Judgements and assumptions

- 25 Judgements have been properly disclosed in the notes to the financials, apart from those involving estimations, management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements Post employment benefits

### Records

- 26 We have made available to you all minutes of meetings of the Management Committee, and when applicable, summaries of actions of meetings held after the reporting period for which minutes have not yet been applied.

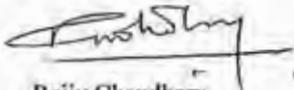
Yours faithfully



Stephen Morton  
Deputy Chairperson



Brooke Rankmore  
Public Officer



Rajiv Chaudhary  
Finance Manager

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**Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated  
Special Purpose Financial Report  
For the year ended 30 June 2014**

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Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

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**Statement of financial position  
as at 30 June 2014**

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2,254,927	2,533,432
Trade and other receivables	5	-	2,541
Prepayments		4,307	15,304
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>2,259,234</u>	<u>2,551,277</u>
Property, plant and equipment	6	20,850	26,413
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>20,850</u>	<u>26,413</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>2,280,084</u>	<u>2,577,690</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	7	369,725	233,518
Provisions	8	106,013	74,639
Unexpended grants	9	1,555,181	2,071,222
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>2,030,919</u>	<u>2,379,379</u>
Provisions	8	97,571	53,129
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<u>97,571</u>	<u>53,129</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>2,128,490</u>	<u>2,432,508</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>151,594</u>	<u>145,182</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated funds	10	151,594	145,182
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>151,594</u>	<u>145,182</u>

The notes on pages 5 to 10 are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

### Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Interest income	54,429	76,429
Other income	11,837	3,674
Government grants	5,180,486	5,126,184
<b>Total income</b>	<u>5,246,752</u>	<u>5,206,287</u>
Depreciation and amortisation	5,563	7,063
Employee benefit expenses	1,609,516	1,347,630
Grants expended	3,279,404	3,954,256
Other operating expenses	721,085	683,461
Disbursement refund	140,813	3,087
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>5,756,381</u>	<u>5,995,497</u>
Transfer from unexpended funds	516,041	786,144
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>6,412</b>	<b>(3,066)</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>	<u><b>6,412</b></u>	<u><b>(3,066)</b></u>

The notes on pages 5 to 10 are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

### Statement of changes in equity as at 30 June 2014

	Accumulated Funds \$	Total Equity \$
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2012</b>	148,248	148,248
Deficit for the year	(3,066)	(3,066)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2013</b>	<b>145,182</b>	<b>145,182</b>
Profit for the year	6,412	6,412
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2014</b>	<b>151,594</b>	<b>151,594</b>

The notes on pages 5 to 10 are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

### Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2014	2013
		\$	\$
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>			
Cash generated from operations		5,054,052	5,269,590
Interest received		54,429	76,429
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(5,386,986)	(5,789,165)
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	4	<u>(278,505)</u>	<u>(443,146)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		-	(12,505)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>(12,505)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
		-	-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(278,505)	(455,651)
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 July		2,533,432	2,989,083
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June</b>	4	<u>2,254,927</u>	<u>2,533,432</u>

The notes on pages 5 to 10 are an integral part of these financial statements.

# Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2014

### 1. Reporting entity

The Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated (the Association) is an entity domiciled in Australia. The principal place of business of the Association is Level 5, 8 McMinn Street, Harbour View Plaza, Darwin NT 0800. Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated is a not-for profit entity and was established in order to implement a strategic approach to natural resource management through the Northern Territory Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) Plan.

In the opinion of the Management Committee, the Association is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the Management Committee there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are unable to command the preparation of a report tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, this "special purpose financial report" has been prepared to satisfy the Management Committee's reporting requirements under the Northern Territory Associations Act and the Association's Constitution.

### 2. Basis of preparation

#### (a) Statement of compliance

The special purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Association Act (NT) and the Association's Constitution and classification aspects of all applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

The financial report does not include the disclosure requirements of all AASBs except for the following minimum requirements:

- AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements
- AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows
- AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
- AASB 1031 Materiality
- AASB 1048 Interpretation and Application of Standards
- AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures

#### (b) Basis of measurement

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars and has been prepared on an accruals basis.

The preparation of a financial report in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other source. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The Association has consistently applied these accounting policies.

**Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2014**

**2. Basis of preparation (continued)**

**(b) Basis of measurement (continued)**

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in the financial report.

**3. Significant accounting policies**

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements, and have been applied consistently by the Association.

**(a) Revenue and Other Income**

(i) Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds or the right to receive the assets, it is probable that the future economic benefits comprising the asset will flow to the Association, and the amount can be reliably measured.

Government grants are assistance by the government in the form of transfers of resources to the Association in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the operating activities of the entity.

Unexpended funds at year-end are reflected in the statement of financial position as a liability, as these will be returned to the funding body.

(ii) Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**(b) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**(c) Receivables**

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less provision for doubtful debts. Receivables are usually due for settlement no more than 30 days from date of recognition.

**(d) Property, Plant and Equipment**

Items of property, plant and equipment are depreciated from the date that they are installed and are ready for use.

**Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2014**

**3. Significant accounting policies (continued)**

**(d) Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)**

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of property, plant and equipment less their estimated residual values using the straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. Depreciation is generally recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, unless the amount is included in the carrying amount of another asset.

The estimated useful life of office furniture and equipment is as follow:

	<b>Useful Life</b>	<b>Depreciation Rate</b>
Office Furniture and Equipment	4 - 10 Years	10 - 25%

**(e) Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the Association reviews the carrying values of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

**(f) Payables**

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Association prior to the end of the financial year which remain unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

**(g) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

**(h) Tax Status**

The Association is tax exempt under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, a non-profit Association.

**(i) Goods and Services Tax**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2014

3. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(j) Leased Assets

Leases where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset but not the legal ownership are transferred to the Association, are classified as finance leases. Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for that period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease term. Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term, except where another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leased asset are consumed. Contingent rent arising under operating leases are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

(k) Going concern

The Association receives funding from the Australian Government and in-kind support from the Northern Territory Government for its operations. The Association is currently funded by the Australian Government to December 2014 to deliver outcomes under Northern Territory Regional Investment in Agriculture and Environment. Under the Australian Government Biodiversity Fund the association is funded until June 2017 to deliver the Finmiss Reynolds Catchment project for management of invasive species. The association has funding through to June 2016 to deliver an updated community NRM plan for the Northern Territory, once this plan is completed, the Association will have the role of overseeing and implementing the plan.

TNRM is one of 56 Regional NRM organisations across Australia that act as delivery agents under the regional stream of the Australian Governments National Landcare Programme, as such management expects the commitment of funding from the Australian Government for Northern Territory regional delivery to continue through until 2018.

At reporting date management has determined that the Association expects to continue as a going concern and has prepared the financial statements on this basis.

(l) New standards and interpretations

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 July 2013, and have not been applied in preparing these financial statements. None of these is expected to have a significant effect on the financial statements of the Association, except for AASB 9 Financial Instruments, which becomes mandatory for the Association's 2016 financial statements and could change the classification and measurement of financial assets. The Association does not plan to adopt this standard early and the extent of the impact has not been determined.

*New Standards*

The Association has assessed the impact of the change in respect of AASB 119 Employee Benefits. One of the impacts of this change is that annual leave has changed from short term employee benefit to another long-term employee benefit. Accordingly, the Association classified the annual leave provision as a non-current liability.

## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>4. Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Bank balances	2,254,717	2,533,222
Cash on hand	210	210
	<b>2,254,927</b>	<b>2,533,432</b>
 <b>Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities</b>		
<b>Cash flows used in operating activities</b>		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	6,412	(3,066)
Adjustments for depreciation	5,563	7,063
Change in trade and other receivables	2,541	(235,139)
Change in prepayments	10,996	13,216
Change in trade and other payables	(379,834)	(267,831)
Change in provisions	75,817	42,611
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>(278,505)</b>	<b>(443,146)</b>
 <b>5. Trade and other receivables</b>		
Trade receivables	-	-
GST receivables	-	-
Other receivables	-	2,541
	<b>-</b>	<b>2,541</b>
 <b>6. Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Office furniture and equipment – at cost	50,138	50,138
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(29,288)	(23,725)
	<b>20,850</b>	<b>26,413</b>
 Total non-current assets - at net book value	<b>20,850</b>	<b>26,413</b>
 <i>Office furniture and equipment reconciliation</i>		
Carrying amount at beginning of year	26,413	20,971
Additions	-	12,505
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation	(5,563)	(7,063)
Carrying amount at end of year	<b>20,850</b>	<b>26,413</b>

## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>7. Trade and other payables</b>		
Trade payables	197,165	67,067
Accrued expenses	93,064	59,838
GST payable	18,787	51,482
Super liability	12,166	9,528
Other*	48,543	45,603
	<b>369,725</b>	<b>233,518</b>
*Other payables include PAYG withholding payable		
<b>8. Provisions</b>		
<u>Current</u>		
Provision for annual leave	106,013	74,639
Provision for long service leave	-	-
Balance at end of year	<b>106,013</b>	<b>74,639</b>
<u>Non-current</u>		
Provision for annual leave	12,694	17,013
Provision for long service leave	84,877	36,115
Balance at end of year	<b>97,571</b>	<b>53,129</b>
<b>9. Unexpended funds</b>		
Balance as at beginning of year	2,071,222	2,857,366
Funds received during the year	5,246,752	5,206,287
Funds expended	(5,762,793)	(5,992,431)
Balance at end of year	<b>1,555,181</b>	<b>2,071,222</b>
<b>10. Accumulated funds</b>		
Balance at beginning of the year	145,182	148,248
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	6,412	(3,066)
<b>Balance at end of the period</b>	<b>151,594</b>	<b>145,182</b>
<b>11. Operating lease commitments</b>		
Less than one year	60,955	48,129
One to five years	67,348	81,273
	<b>128,303</b>	<b>129,402</b>
Operating leases relate to the lease of motor vehicles. The Association does not have the option to purchase the leased vehicle at the end of the lease period.		
	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>12. Remuneration of auditors</b>		
Audit of review of the financial report	21,500	20,000
Assistance with preparation of financial statements	5,200	5,000
	<b>26,700</b>	<b>25,000</b>

## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

### Statement by the Management Committee for the year ended 30 June 2014

In our opinion:

- (a) the accompanying financial report as set out on pages 1 to 10, being a special purpose financial statement, is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2014 and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date;
- (b) the accounts of the Association have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association; and
- (c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

We confirm as follows:

- (a) The names of the committee members of the Association during the relevant financial year were:

Kathryn Andrews	Chairperson
Georgia Underwood	Deputy Chairperson & Chair Finance and Audit Committee
Stephen Morton	Director/Deputy Chairperson
Tracy Jones	Director
Rowan Foley	Director
Brooke Rankmore	Chair Finance and Audit Committee
Mona Liddy	Director
Matthew Darcey	Public Officer
Sally Sullivan	Director

Matthew Darcey resigned from the Committee on 20 July 2014.

Georgia Underwood's term with the Committee expired on 18 October 2013.

- (b) The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were:

- The Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated (TNRM) is one of 56 regional organisations that play a key role in managing Australia's natural resources;
- The TNRM works in partnership with farmers, landholders, and community groups, non government and indigenous organisations, governments and business to secure our farming resource base; and
- The mission of the TNRM is focused on helping the Northern Territory's Natural Resource Management (NRM) community meet their aspirations. It does this by implanting a strategic approach to NRM through the NT Integrated Resource Management Plan and the Australian Government's current environmental funding under the Caring for our Country initiative.

- (c) The net profit of the Association for the relevant financial year was \$6,412 (2013: net deficit \$3,066).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Association:



Stephen Morton  
Deputy Chairperson

Date 31 October 2014



Brooke Rankmore  
Public Officer

Date 31 October 2014

This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.



## **Independent audit report to the members of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes 1 to 10 comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

### *The Management Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The Management Committee of the Association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in note 2 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Act (NT), the Association's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Management Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as they determine necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Management Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 2 to the financial statements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated's financial position, and of its performance and cash flows.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



### *Independence*

In conducting our audit we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

### *Audit Opinion*

In our opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated as of 30 June 2014 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in notes 2 and 3 to the financial statements.

### *Basis of Accounting*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to note 2 to the financial report which describes the basis of preparation. The financial report has been prepared to assist Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated to meet the requirements of the Associations Act (NT) and the Association's constitution. As a result the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

KPMG

Clive Garland  
*Partner*

Darwin

31 October 2014

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a lighter, sandy hue near the shore. A long, narrow strip of land with a sandy beach and dense green forest runs along the coast. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a beautiful, natural landscape.

### Photography credits

Nigel Weston, Nathalie Laurence, James Wright, Jon Hodgetts, Heidi Groffen, Gary Riggs, Daniel Chapman, Naomi Wilson, Camilla Osborne, Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation, Rhys Arnott, J. Schofield (via AWC), Rachel Paltridge, Jane Addison, Anthony Kerr, li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Ranger Unit, Crocodile Islands Rangers, Department of Defence.





**Territory Natural Resource Management**

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