



**OLKOLA**  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

# News

December 2024

## Protecting arrgi\*

**We, the Olkola people, all stand together as one, upholding our traditions and culture with great respect for our old ways.**

We lead and govern our traditional lands, business and future.

Others will listen to what we are saying and support our Ways.

Our ancestors have entrusted us to carry on the traditions and to care for the country and all the animals, plants and food within.

We do not take more than the land can give, so it will provide for generations to come.

Our elders teach the young people language and knowledge of how to protect our sacred sites, artifacts, water places and stories of our land, so they continue to live on for generations to come.

We support each other to live life to the fullest, living a healthy lifestyle, ensure we have happy homes, good healthcare and a safe community free of violence and crime.

\*country

# A word from our Chair...

At the start of the year we all came back to work after a refreshing holiday break over the Christmas and New Year period, here we are, already preparing for this year's break, Olkola Aboriginal Corporation chair Mike Ross writes...

Most of our crew travelled to Darwin for the ICIN Savanna Fire Forum which is always good for the Corporation to attend, because a lot of information comes out and this year more people from Cape York Ranger groups attended and to hear them present on their Carbon projects.

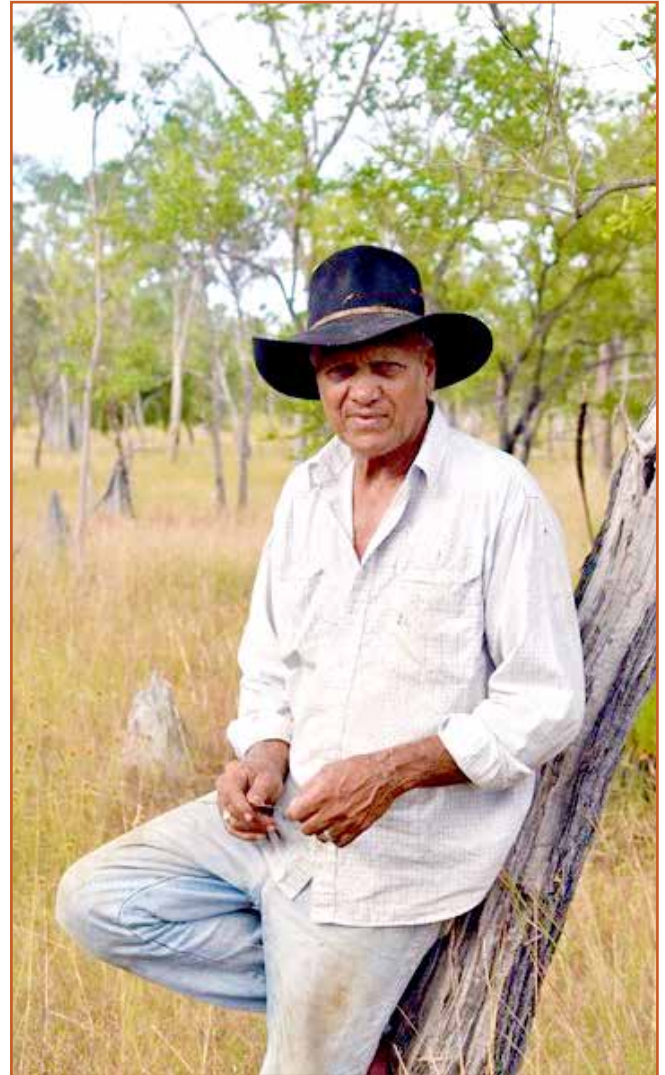
After that forum, we all came back and knuckled down into work.

The Olkola Rangers and Land Managers went back on country to do their part in maintenance after the heavy rainfall and this year's longer wet season, such as clearing waterways with shovels to make access to places easier and safer to travel through.

After a few weeks break, the Rangers had a lot of work to do and it was an exciting time for them to get back into it.

Over the past few years, there have been some conversations about the potential for nominating parts of Olkola country for World Heritage Listing.

In September 2023, the Corporation met with Federal and State Government



representatives in Laura to discuss the process and what it would mean to Olkola.

This included having yarns Olkola members at the 22-23 AGM this year, about taking the first step into the tentative submission process and what the journey ahead looks like for country.

Not many months later, on the 20th of June, we met with Federal, State and local government representatives followed by a media conference which ABC News and Seven News came and filmed.

The Federal and State governments announced Traditional Owner groups across the Cape, including Olkola,

Olkola Rangers watching OAC Chairman Mike Ross and operations manager Ashaley Ross presenting at the ICIN Savanna Fire Forum





were nominating for the initial part of the World Heritage Tentative Listing submission process.

Seven News interviewed me afterwards and I was asked what protecting country and what country meant to me. I said, "to me, that's the home of my ancestors".

**After the One Claim determination in July, our Rangers out on country and office staff continued progressing and getting tasks done as the year has gone by – time hasn't stopped.**

In early August, the Corporation celebrated two major events on country – the official Indigenous Protected Area's Dedication Ceremony and the official opening of the Nukakurra Walking Trail.

Joining the IPA program has given Olkola People a chance to work on our country.

It gives the younger generation an opportunity to learn on country and gather knowledge of the cultural values of our country.

It also helps to bring together the five clan groups that makeup Olkola – Kurrumbilla (Grasshopper), Kan Kan (Fish Hawke Eagle), Ootalkarra (Dingo), linyarra (Worm), Alhuj Aalu (Hot Water People) and Alwal (the golden shouldered parrot) – to work more closely and to allow the young generation to learn and to respect their ways on their homelands their grandfathers and grandmothers lived on.

It has taken more than 200 years for the Olkola People to return to country – some were removed from their land and some had no choice but to work on country, on pastoral leases and mines, under the Protection Act.

Today, the younger generation can work and walk on this country they call home freely.

**Officially opening the Nukakurra Walking Track was a special day for many as well this year.**

In September, I spoke with a news editor

from the Meanjin Paper about the journey of Olkola people their getting land back, the story of the Olkola Corporation, the Nukakurra 3D Storytelling project and how that has progressed and the collaborative work we've done with researchers from the University of Melbourne.



The Meanjin Paper is available online to read here:  
<https://meanjin.com.au/essays/well-its-beautiful-country-really/>

# AIATSIS Summit Melbourne, June 2024



After our yarn, the Meanjin Paper published a book with a chapter about those items and the book is available online to read.

As we proceed into the dry season, the wildfires have started so the Olkola Rangers have been busy for a few weeks fighting fire in 38–40-degree heat.

We'll look more into the fire scars of this year when we have our planning workshops in early 2025.

The fire season has been severe.

The efforts the rangers have made to respond, often in the heat of the day, takes a lot out of all of us.

**The Sandy Creek Cultural Knowledge Centre will be completed and certified in the next few weeks.**

Soon it will be operational, which is another job we will have to put our skills and knowledge together to make it work.

Overall this year marks 10 years of Olkola doing land management on country, since the Olkola-five land hand-back in 2014.

There are a lot of good milestones that have happened in the last decade or so, including the Olkola Healthy Country Plan, which will be re-visited in 2025 because we have completed most of the tasks that were listed.

As our Olkola young people are starting to get involved, we still have much to do and much to be proud of.

*Mike*



# A word from our CEO...



Another big year coming to a close.

The 2024 year started with a prolonged wet season due to the heavy rainfall from Cyclone Jasper.

The flooding and prolonged wet heavily impacted vast areas around Olkola nation.

Despite this Olkola continued operations as usual.

Throughout the year, the Corporation has been involved in many conferences across the country including the annual Savannah Fire Forum held in Darwin in February, the AIATSIS Summit in June held in Melbourne, presenting about the

Cultural Knowledge Centre both in person and online and attending meetings with the State and Federal Governments to name a few.

**2014 was the year of the remarkable event of the 'Olkola Five' land hand back state dealings.**

The Olkola Elders's tremendous hard work was recognised, and their work and legacy continue today, an unbelievable 10 long and solid years of Olkola people managing 869,822 hectares of country, its waterways, cultural sites and sacred stories.

Each year that has passed, the Corporation has sizeably grown with the amount of successful on-going projects such as the Land & Sea Rangers program, the IPA program, Bringing Alwal Home Project and the Ajin (fire) Carbon Abatement program just to name a few.

The Corporation continues to increase the employment of more junior and senior rangers as well as providing employees opportunities for up-skilling on the job and learning pathways.

**Our Cultural Centre is tracking along steadily with many works and fixtures such as fitting the timber window frames and doors.**

We have reports that the rainwater tanks have also been operating and effectively containing water.

Our Rangers have been working hard continuing repairs and maintenance on roads throughout country, repairing wash-aways and keeping access to country safe for staff to travel.

The Olkola Rangers have made extensive efforts to do early season burns but now our major focus right through to the end of this year is to act and respond to wildfires across country.

## Annual General Meetings

We thank Olkola members who attended the 22-23 FY AGM in Cairns on May 15 this year.

Please email or phone the Corporation if your contact details have changed.

We'd like to inform Olkola members the Corporation has sought approval from ORIC to extend holding its 23-24 FY AGM until early 2025.

We will notify members in the new year of the time and date and location.

Members who cannot travel in person will be able to join us virtually through Zoom or telephone.



# Olkola 2024 Planning Workshop





### Laura Roadhouse Compac OPT

The unattended 24/7 Compac Fuel pump continues to perform exceptionally well, considering there is little to no maintenance required.

## 2025 Journey to Olkola Country Tours

'Journey to Olkola Country' tourism venture is marked to start operations in 2025.

The Corporation has spent many years meticulously planning the tours, improving and upgrading roads on the planned route and, most importantly, incorporating the travel and future stay at the Sandy Creek Cultural Knowledge Centre.

Many jobs will be available in early 2025 for tour bus drivers, cook/catering positions to Tour Guides and more.



**If you are interested in any of these positions, please forward your resume and cover letter to [admin@olkola.com.au](mailto:admin@olkola.com.au)**

## Mining & One Claim update

The Corporation has ongoing concerns with mining but the Olkola Rangers and Land Manager staff continue to do our conservation work regarding putting a stop to mining on Olkola country.

We will keep Olkola Members informed as we go down this journey.

## What have we achieved?

- Established a ranger base on Country with a well-resourced, skilled and an active Land Management team that includes men, women and youth and represents each family/clan group.
- Assess access needs and issues as we have developed and maintained access to country (including roads, tracks and CASA-approved airstrips) based on minimisation of key risks including, weeds, erosion, unauthorised access etc, and achieving land management objectives and livelihood needs.
- Further investigated protection mechanisms to secure the health of Olkola country through opportunities such as Indigenous Protected Areas and World Heritage
- Continued to use all available means to protect our natural and cultural assets from unwanted mining and other land uses

We'd like to inform our Members that the Corporation has moved office locations from 184 Mulgrave Road, Westcourt and we are now located at 11A-15 Sheridan Street Cairns City.

# Fire training ongoing



**In the 2023 fire season, nearly 50 per cent of Olkola country was burnt by Rangers, and only 6.3 per cent by wildfires.**

In the previous year, the wildfire tally was 17.6 per cent, an improvement due to the massive efforts of our team who put in some good planning and strategies early in the year, ensuring there were protections in place ahead of the season.

Olkola Corporation was also one amongst many other Traditional Owner groups from across the top end to attend the sixth Northern Australia Savanna Fire Forum hosted by the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network on Larrakia country in February this year.

Olkola Ajin Ranger Curtis George, Senior Ranger Richard Ross, Operations Manager Ashaley Ross and Ranger Brendan Ross stood up at the forum to explain Olkola's ajin (fire) program for 2023 and spoke proudly about ten years of managing country with fire, what we do and the planning behind it.

Curtis told the forum what Olkola was

working with.

"We have wetlands and escarpments," he said.

"We are up on the great divide, so we have a lot of river catchments from the west side and east side of the Cape.

"In the hotter months, we are prepared to manage and respond to wildfires that come about."

Ashaley said they did it as a team.

"We sit down with the crew, use maps and combine our knowledge to see how the country was back in the days when the old people used to muster it in the 70's," he said.

"We look at the method of fire control they used back then because area's across our arrgi (country) dry out differently.

"Getting the staff trained, having the right equipment and jointly working with QPWS goes a long way.



“Even just ten years ago, when we started our fire program, we could see that country was always getting burnt out by the late season wildfires.

“We have reduced that to what you see now.

“It’s good to have the older and younger ones out there, we all help support each other, and I think that makes the older Olkola people proud that we’re working our land.”

Brendan said the use of new technologies worked well with what they had learned.

“We got a grader now so we can touch up on our boundaries, internal roads and fence lines, so we can control our fires and any wildfires that are coming towards us, we can lock onto it,” he said.

“We do a lot of on-ground burning, not only for Carbon but for the Golden Shouldered Parrot to help them with their feeding, so we don’t have wildfires destroying all their native grasses and seeds.

“As part of annual training and up-skilling employees, at least 12 Olkola staff participated in a week-long course in fire training, held at Killarney towards the end of May.

“We all learned during this course about preventing injury, responding to wildfires, assisting with prescribed burning and preparing, maintaining and testing response equipment.”

Already, as we lead into the hotter months at the end of the year, the Olkola ajin team are on watch, ready to respond to wildfires until the rains settle in for the wet season.

# Keeping the fires burning



TRADITIONAL Owners in the Cape York have established Australia’s first Carbon Management Hub, (CMH) to monitor and respond to persistent and more frequent wildfires in the region.

Boasting more than 30 years combined experience in cultural burning, carbon abatement and fire management, Ajin CMH also undertakes a range of services including fire implementation plans, risk analysis, compliance training and various fire management training programs.

CEO Deb Symonds said they were a team of dedicated individuals, well-equipped to address the ongoing challenges of wildfires, which had been exacerbated by the effects of climate change on seasonal patterns in recent years.

“This pioneering fire management hub is set to be the first of its kind, not just in Cape York,” she said. “As leaders in our field, we believe the Ajin CMH has the potential to significantly impact operations and deliver essential services to all landholders in our region.

Operations Manager and Traditional Owner, Ash Ross, is deeply passionate about reviving traditional land management practices and cultural connections. He is also dedicated to supporting Indigenous communities in embracing and preserving these traditions while seeking sustainable opportunities for their future.

With an in-depth knowledge of savanna burning processes and ERF (Emissions Reduction Fund) requirements, Ash has been a key person in the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation’s savanna burning project since 2013.

This initiative has not only created employment opportunities for an expanding Ranger group but has also facilitated the acquisition of equipment while ensuring rigorous training and safety standards are met.

Ms Symonds said Ajin’s vision was to provide service delivery to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous landholders through partnerships.

“With emerging technologies, including AI, we can deliver almost real-time fire snapshots of Country and our response teams are capable of deploying within 24 hours to provide on-site



Ajin operations manager Ash Ross. Picture: Christine Howes.

firefighting assistance.”

Ajin can also mobilise helicopters equipped with water buckets to reach inaccessible areas and offers a comprehensive range of services, starting with the development of Fire Implementation Plans that can be built on year after year, comprehensive risk analysis and compliance training for carbon abatement projects.

The Ajin team also includes: Dr Leslie Felderhof, the Managing Director of Firescape Science, who has helped Indigenous groups and pastoralists on Cape York Peninsula to successfully engage in the carbon market for more than a decade; Mick Blackman, one of Queensland’s leading professionals in fire management, having implemented many fire programs across Northern Australia over 30 years; and Clare Blackman, an experienced land management trainer having delivered numerous Certificate III and Certificate IV courses in adult learning environments.



One of the Olkola rangers in action in Cape York.





## Olkola Corporation held an official ceremony for dedicating Olkola's Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) program on country in early August.

The event was attended by about 20 government officials who came by road or took a 70-minute flight from Cairns on the Hinterland Aviation mail plane into the Killarney airstrip.

Olkola Chair Mike Ross warmly welcomed everyone and acknowledged all of the passed Olkola elders who could not join to celebrate the dedication.

IPA Rangers continue their work with cultural site monitoring and mapping in various areas on country and, after many years of maintaining and caring for jointly managed land with Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service, the Corporation also officially opened the Nukakurra Lagoon

Walking Trail in August.

Walking the trail and passing the campground, it's not difficult to imagine groups of our old Olkola people making their campfires and telling stories.

The interpretive signage explains the major plants and their uses such as the nonda plum tree, the dilly bag grass, kapok tree and historic scar trees that were used and made by our ancestors.

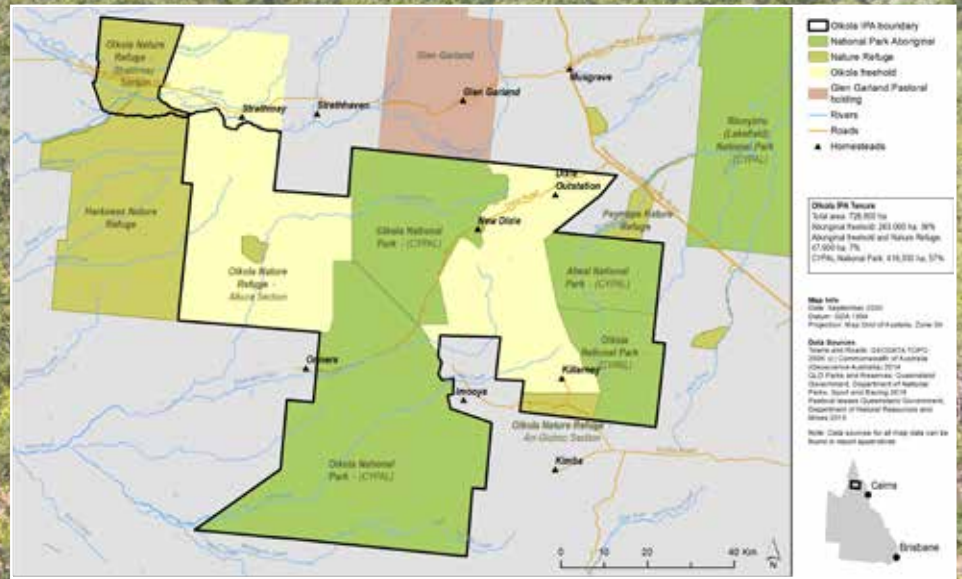
The 3D storytelling project on Nukakurra remained a work-in-progress, with ongoing testing and modelling to ensure that from the moment our virtual reality goggles go on, the surrounding sounds of the birds chirping and elders speaking in Olkola and English language are flawless.

This project helps to showcase the trail to Olkola people who cannot travel to country themselves.

We are grateful to the Corporation's partners for their support and contributions over the years.



# IPA Dedication goes ahead



# Nukakurra Walking Trail open



# Olkola Ranger News

We are at the end of another collaborative year of working with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to jointly manage our waterways and diverse country across Olkola and Alwal National Park areas.

Aside from meeting with QPWS in mid-March for the annual Fire, Pest and Weed workshop planning for the year, and reflecting on the previous years' work, a key item from the discussions at the Joint Management meeting was negotiating the purchase of a loader from the PAA budget.

"Having now secured a loader, it is an invaluable tool for use across Olkola nation as it opens up fire trails and strategic fire breaks post wet season, assists in clearing and maintaining important boundary fences and transporting bulk materials such as gravel and rocks," CEO Deb Symonds said.

Corporation staff travelled to Elgoy in mid-May to meet with neighbouring stations and QPWS staff about Olkola's fire program plans for 2024, weed and pest management works as well as cattle management.

QPWS and Olkola rangers have conducted aerial feral animal control within Olkola and Alwal National Park in mid-June to mainly target pigs and horses and another has been scheduled for late November to continue with feral animal management.



In early June, we welcomed Sir John as the Cultural Advisor for Olkola and Alwal National Parks.

Sir John was vital to our work to continue upholding our cultural lore and customs, in particular with recording cultural sites and artefacts such as scar trees and grinding stones when coming across them during surveys.

Head ranger Richard Ross said their preparation for this year's wildfire season had started a little behind schedule due to several roads and tracks still under repair from the year's extended wet season.



"We need the wet, but bloody hell," he said. "We had two cyclones hit the coast there, and we copped some of that, not the wind, but the rain.

"As a result, we've got a lot of erosion, trenches and breakaways all over the place.

"It's finally drying out reasonably, so we can start to bring a little bit of heavy machinery in.

"We don't want to be getting bogged and wasting time with dragging them out."

He said it had been some months since they could get in or out.

"We can't move from here, we're still waiting for the rivers to go down," he said.

"Once we got across Algal, the 8-Mile, we managed to get to Nukakurra and clean up around there.

"And we've been doing a lot of burning around the homestead here."

He said their main crew was back to Killarney.

"There's three crew at Sandy Creek, but

they haven't been able to do much out there either," he said. "The Glen Garland crew is also on board along with the three of us here with our new ranger, Douglas.

"We've also expanded our equipment since our last news, we have a loader and a little slasher tractor, which is making life a bit easier.

"We can do the airstrip here with that."

He said a highlight for the past year for the rangers was the Darwin Fire Forum.

"There were a lot of people, maybe 500, there," Richard said.

"Our whole crew, board members and the office staff were all there for a week, and it was pretty cool.

"Everybody there had their say, we're on the same sort of page.

"I don't mind going and listening to other people to see what they do, it's a good thing."

He said they had looked forward to the opening of Nukakurra in September.

The discovery of a new rock wallaby population in Alwal National Park in 2020 was published in a genetic assessment report published in September this year.

The report discussed the genetic diversity between two species found in the Park and progress towards determining if using genomic markers could differentiate between the two closely related species found on our country. The report results will help guide future management decisions for the population and species.

MEANWHILE a half day workshop hosted by Sharks and Rays Australia (SARA) was held in Cairns for the Olkola junior rangers who then learned about the biology of sawfishes.

Their new knowledge included current and emerging threats to sawfish, what was known about the distribution of the population and different types of methods of research and data collection.

The information may prove invaluable as there was potential for sawfish hot spots in Olkola waters and rivers.



# New ranger base underway

A new ranger base at Sandy Creek on Dixie Station is set to go ahead, after significant funding from the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) was announced at the 2023 Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Summit.

Located at Sandy Creek on Dixie Station, the fit-for-purpose base was to help OAC better manage its “significant” estate which included 869,822 hectares of OAC-owned Country and 1.4 million hectares as per the registered Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Body.

ILSC Group Chief Executive Officer Joe Morrison said the ILSC was pleased to invest the funds to support OAC’s vision and self-determination.

“The ranger base will allow OAC to care for their Country in much-needed upgraded facilities,” he said.

“Habitat protection will also result from this development, which is one of the ILSC’s fundamental priorities.

“Importantly, the ranger base will provide OAC the opportunity to present and showcase Olkola culture to the general public, creating longer-term tourism opportunities for

the OAC team.”

Olkola Aboriginal Corporation chair Uncle Mike Ross said he was excited to see the ranger base progress and in turn, enhance the both the OCKC’s and rangers’ capabilities.

“We want to use the centre for all projects recording knowledge and collecting information of the Country and our culture and use all the knowledge we can get of our landscape to manage Country,” he said.

“Putting together scientific information and cultural knowledge, we can do a lot in a centre based on Country, because you’re not talking about your Country – you’re on Country.”

Six Indigenous people were to be employed during its construction, leading to the upskilling of rangers in construction skills while using local materials including timber and rammed earth.

The ILSC said they were proud to support the OAC team by providing over \$1 million in funding as part of its ‘Our Country Our Future’ land management program, with OAC contributing the remaining funds from the income provided by its successful carbon abatement program.

The total budget for the build was approximately \$1.5 million.

The base has also provided further opportunities for women to join the ranger team with the inclusion of separate facilities for male and female rangers.

The new base will reduce travel time for the rangers, increasing their efficiency and productivity in conserving Country and managing wildfires.

Source: [ILSC News: https://www.ilsc.gov.au/home/news/new-ranger-base-underway-to-progress-olkola-cultural-knowledge-centre](https://www.ilsc.gov.au/home/news/new-ranger-base-underway-to-progress-olkola-cultural-knowledge-centre)



*Olkola Rangers at the Darwin Fire Forum in February this year.*



## Olkola rangers were invited to participate in the three-day 2024 Queensland Indigenous Land & Sea Rangers Conference held at Tjapukai Cultural Centre in mid-March.

The conference was for Land & Sea Rangers to collaborate and share knowledge and skills for mutual benefit and better outcomes on country.

The opportunity was also there to establish some important partnerships within the dingo forum network as well as training/development in sessions

which included biosecurity, pest plant and animal sample collection, media techniques for filming and photography which included using the equipment and utilising video editing software.

As a result, rangers were able to make short videos of the work they do on country and capture compliance activities.

Ongoing conservation efforts

with our endangered species on country were a point of interest with our significant sightings and survey methods for the Ghost Bat in Alwal National Park and our hands-on monitoring of the Alwal and the Red Goshawk during their seasons, particularly our recordings of the successful fledglings of both species' chicks.



## The Olkola Rangers are proud to collaborate with BirdLife Australia on the National Red Goshawk Program, monitoring the nesting and fledging success of this endangered raptor.

In July 2024 BirdLife Australia ecologists Chris MacColl and Jessica Rooke visited Olkola country to provide training on raptor identification and effective monitoring techniques.

The red goshawk is a rare, powerful bird of prey, now endangered with an estimated population of just 1,340 individuals.

Once found along the east coast of Australia from the Cape York Peninsula to Sydney, it is now extinct in

New South Wales and has mostly disappeared from its former range south of the Peninsula. Northern Australia remains its last stronghold.

To help improve our knowledge of this unique species Olkola Rangers are monitoring nests, recording data on courtship, nest building, incubation, nestlings, and fledglings, as well as collecting feathers, prey remains, and eggshells to learn more about their feeding

ecology and disease exposure.

After recording a successful fledging in 2023 on Olkola country, this breeding season we are focusing on a newly discovered nest site – fingers crossed!

We thank BirdLife Australia and the Australian Government for their support in providing training and resources.

Source: [Land and Sea Round-up Newsletter](https://sway.cloud.microsoft.com/b7j21mG2uWsuKJVk?ref=Link&loc=play) <https://sway.cloud.microsoft.com/b7j21mG2uWsuKJVk?ref=Link&loc=play>





Pics by Terry Mahoney, 2024

# Bringing Alwal Home

**A three-day Alwal Road Mapping and Survey Planning workshop in March this year resulted in an updated roadmap for the 'Bringing Alwal Home' Project.**

An Alwal population survey led by Olkola Alwal Program Manager Ashaley Ross, in collaboration with Bush Heritage Australia (BHA) and Terry Mahoney (Ground Up Planning and Ecology Support), was held in July.

The two-week survey was also supported by Olkola Rangers Francis Royee and Donavon Ross-Kulka.

Two senior elders – Richard and Johnny Ross – who were supportive and interested in what was happening with Alwal on Olkola country were also at Killarney at the time.

“We can report that 49 Alwal nests were recorded and that the Killarney Station Alwal population appears to be in good health with the highest density of nests and suitable habitat,” they said. “Destocking of cattle and good early burning seems to be keeping habitat healthy for Olkola’s Alwal population.”

As part of a long-standing relationship with Bush Heritage Australia, a few BHA representatives who have worked closely with Olkola have been presenting at webinars about the partnership.

They have talked about:

- The Olkola Healthy Country Plan, which highlights the importance of a strong culture in achieving healthy country

outcomes and protecting Alwal

- Olkola Corporation’s investment in building up ranger numbers and supporting more people to live and work out on country
- Keeping culture strong and supporting cultural and kinship connection with Alwal
- looking after Alwal’s story place and passing on that knowledge.
- Cultural burning to look after Alwal country.
- Working through the national recovery team to support Alwal’s story line to be strong, and
- the long-term monitoring to support the recovery of the population through the Bringing Alwal Home project.



# Sandy Creek Cultural Centre custom built



The Sandy Creek Cultural Knowledge Centre has undergone a lot of structural work with the addition of some breathtaking timber decking finishes and railing in the communal area this year.

“One day we will all be standing there enjoying a cup of tea or coffee overlooking the dam and the greenery,” CEO Deb Symonds said.

“Not only that but just recently, custom and sustainably made timber window frames and glass windows were transported for fixing onto the building.

“Our two rainwater tanks fitted in late 2023 have stood the test time for their strength and durability after the first wet season, and as of October 2024, the tanks were holding a massive volume of water at 94 per

cent of their capacity.”

She said in mid-June they escorted a Growing Indigenous Tourism Queensland team to the new Centre where the current progress of the build and many projects the Corporation has moving steadily along were discussed.

“The yarns with the Elders and crew after I arrived was a memorable highlight of my day,” one of the reps said.

Additionally, in mid-July, two project volunteers from the project management team were on country to review, inspect and report

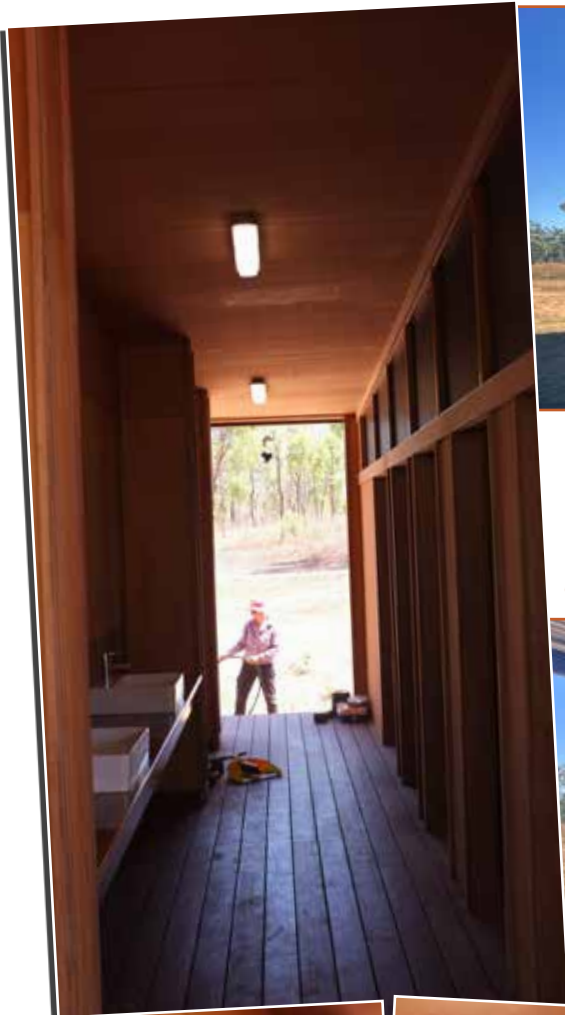
on the structural work so far to ensure the certification process for the building would be smooth.

They also provided options for tiling in the areas throughout the building.

We appreciate the work of our volunteers who have helped the Cultural Centre get to where it is and are continuing into the next two stages of the build.

The Cultural Knowledge Centre Stage 1 is now in the final stages of building certification, which is expected before the wet season sets in.





*Pics taken in June & November 2024 by our CCKC volunteers.  
Group pic by Stephanie Toy, June 24.*





**We wish everyone a  
merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year.**

Photograph taken on Olkola Country on the Pompuuraw Road by Christine Howes, 2024

***Our next newsletter will be released in the early months of 2025.  
To keep up to date check out our Facebook page and Instagram posts.  
The Corporation office will be closed for the Christmas and New Year  
break from Friday 13 December 2024 until Monday 13 January 2025.  
The Olkola Rangers and office team would like to thank you for the  
hard work and commitment of our families throughout 2024.  
We hope everyone stays safe over the holidays and wet season.***

## Contact us!

Follow Olkola's social media to keep up to date on our latest news.

Instagram: [olkolaaboriginalcorporation](https://www.instagram.com/olkolaaboriginalcorporation)  
Facebook: Olkola Aboriginal Corporation  
Cape York

Website: <http://www.olkola.com.au/>

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