



Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation News

Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation
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World Heritage listing on the horizon

Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation is engaging directly with the State government and the World Heritage Task Force to look at long-term and permanent protection of our white-sand dunes.

"We have been in direct communication with both the State and Federal governments regarding the Tentative Listing process," WAC chair Keron Murray (*below*) said in a letter to members.

"Our Elders have always been dedicated to protecting our

Whitesand/Dunes, a commitment we continue to uphold today.

"While we have legislative protection in place to prevent mining over our country, it's important to note that this can be overturned by the government at any time in the future.

"In our efforts to safeguard our land for future generations, pursuing World Heritage Tentative Listing would offer additional protection."

He said they could opt out at any stage of the five-year process of working towards their goals.

"The Wuthathi Aboriginal

Corporation Board and Wuthathi Tribal Elders Council have thoroughly discussed the process and are in support of the tentative approach," he said.

"Should members wish to opt out, we have the flexibility to do so through consultation.

"It's important to reiterate that Tentative Listing does not legally bind us to any agreements."

He said a Fact Sheet had been posted to members or was available by emailing admin@wuthathi.com

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE...





From the CEO Kori Totorewa ...

Policies and procedures, a newly endorsed organisational structure, new staff and a myriad of consultations have marked the first few months of my work here as the newly-appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation CEO Kori Totorewa writes...

The development of a Corporate Plan ensures a strategic approach to the delivery of our programs and activities, as well as measurable outcomes toward achieving the vision and aspirations of Wuthathi members, Directors and our Council of Tribal Elders.

In addition, the Corporate Plan includes a yearly Operational Plan and Budget that will be reviewed quarterly and draws from our Stronger Healthy Country Plan, which is also under review.

We are making progress.

To this end I would like to acknowledge the efforts, dedication and commitment to the Wuthathi families.

As CEO I will do my best to ensure a prosperous future for the next generation.

I am very honoured and blessed to be appointed to this role.

I am a caretaker and will do my best to achieve your aspirations.

One of our most exciting projects this year will be our Future Employment Pathways work with our young people.

Due to start in June, the idea is to create socially and emotionally strong future employees, not only for Wuthathi as a corporation but as people.

In another exciting development, we have an opportunity to deliver our

Junior Ranger Program which will run over 24 months and aims to provide our members with non-accredited training opportunities.

We hope these Country-based programs will start in September and be in time for our IPA Dedication.

As we grow in size, we must adapt to the changes in our organisational structure designed to increase our capacity and create employment opportunities for the future, particularly as we look at establishing our business enterprises.

Our chair, Keron Murray says: "We have always talked about establishing enterprises for our mob, so it's awesome to see this coming to fruition".

We hope to have given clarity to that vision through our various job roles and lines of accountability.

Our policies and procedures are also under review through our Governance Officer Yodie Batzke.

They need to reflect the existing needs of the organisation and to that end, we are working on several fronts from leave application procedures to an inclement weather policy.

The Corporation is looking at a new program called 'Mob in Jobs', as highlighted in our draft Corporate Plan.

This is a program that will see more Wuthathi-identified people in jobs and working for the Corporation, from entry-level positions to management.

Another exciting program is underway, where young Wuthathi people can undertake accredited and non-accredited training to increase their employability skills so as our corporation grows they will have the necessary skills and qualifications for roles as they become available.

I want to encourage everyone to follow our social media pages and keep an eye out on website for vacancies.

We have several current job vacancies, so please watch our Facebook page, our recently updated website and other job sites for more information.

And finally, yes, we have finally updated our website.

This is another way in which we aim to improve our communication with members and there is a strong emphasis on our staff to ensure our members are informed on matters that should concern them in 'real time'.

It has been a busy four months for our Corporation and we are excited for what lies ahead.

Kori Totorewa

WAC CEO
ceo@wuthathi.com

From our Chair Keron Murray ...



Thank you to all our mob for their support in the World Heritage tentative listing process, as we continue to protect our dreams, and follow the steps of our old people, Keron writes...

Just as they took up the fight against mining, and we have legislative prohibition of mining, World Heritage dedication of our iconic world's largest untouched lands will ensure our dreams are protected for future generations to enjoy and protect.

Remember this is only a tentative listing, it does not lock us into anything that is legally binding - at this stage we are just a dot on a map at the start of an extensive 5-7-year consultation process.

Behind everything we do and every move we make will be our Ngaachi and Karakara management strategies, our IPA plan, and Wuthathi-led World Heritage.

As mentioned in the flyer, we can opt out right up until the 11th hour, so there is no threat.

We will secure additional funding through this process.

That means more funding to manage and care for country, and create new jobs and employment for our people.

And that won't be just through World Heritage and ranger work, but through our economic and tourism enterprises, as we take our next steps towards creating our economic arm, and meeting the social and economic outcomes for our Wuthathi people.

Our Corporation is expanding fast and we are focused on building our Sea Custodian team.

I would like to encourage all of you to follow our Facebook page.

Please share info – especially job positions which are advertised through Seek, our webpage, Facebook and elsewhere.

It is disappointing to note we are not receiving as many

applications from our mob as we hoped – these are great and genuine opportunities, please do what you can to encourage your Wuthathi friends and family to consider what role they might play in our collective futures.

We are also asking our members to update their details, as we have far too many mail returns to the office and it has become burden on our staff.

The last thing we want to do is waste our resources, but it also means you are at risk of not receiving crucial information, please reach out to your director or email our office directly if you have moved or changed your phone or email.

Stay safe.

Keron Murray

WAC Chair
chairman@wuthathi.com



It's been a busy few months for our Custodian team under the direction of Senior Custodian Paul Sexton, who has been working hard with casual Custodians Marco Wilson and Jordon Solomon over the wet season this year.

"After our Christmas break, and securing everything we could at the base, we started 2024 with training and planning workshops in Cairns," he said.

"And when we had spare days in our calendar we had our custodian networking with Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service and marine parks in Cairns with the Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples PBC in Yarrabah.

"It was a great opportunity for knowledge sharing and capacity building."

GMV Rangers said it was a pleasure to have Marco and Jordon on board.

"It was great to hear the rangers sharing stories and talking about country and our respective ranger programs - the similarities, differences, and highlights," they said.

"Marco and Jordan didn't hesitate rolling up their sleeves and lending a hand with the GMV ranger team maintenance program, crocodile monitoring and work plan activities during their visit.

"It was a great couple of days and we look forward to visiting Wuthathi country one day soon."

Paul said the Custodians had also engaged in chainsaw, 4WD, first aid and CPR, chemical and biosecurity fundamentals training.

"Marco and Jordan have also been working on our water monitoring sites," he said.

Earlier this year, the Wuthathi Custodian project coordination team attended the annual Ranger Conference.

"This was a great opportunity to network with other ranger groups to learn how they manage their on-country programs," he said.

He said he was invited to present to the conference about the Wuthathi on-country program along with former Coordinator Clayton Enoch.



Pics above & left thanks to Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples PBC.

HUGE THANKS AND BEST OF LUCK to Clayton Enoch (centre left), who has resigned from his position with Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation to live and work in far north Western Australia. His work here was valued and appreciated, and he will be missed.

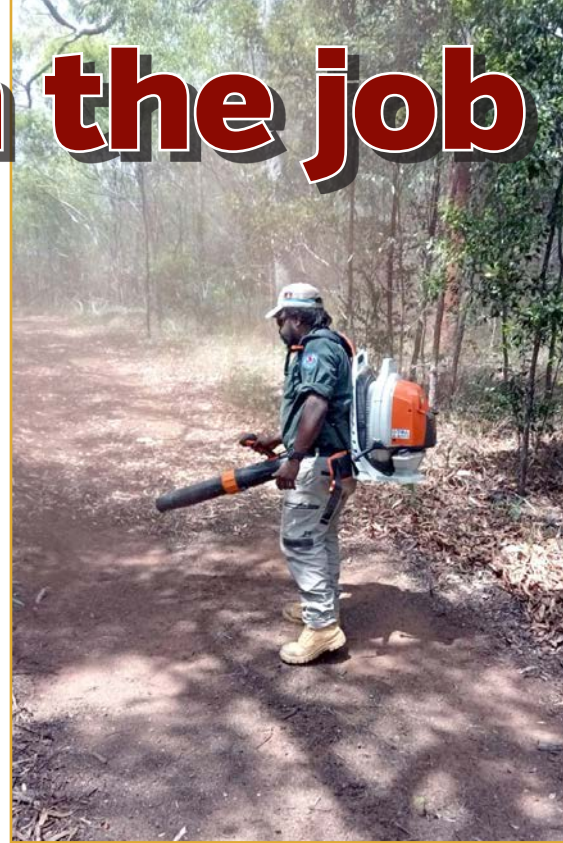
Wuthathi Future Employment Pathways Program.

WAATHIA NGAACHIKU

(Return our people to our Country)



Custodians on the job



Custodians Marco Wilson & Jordan Solomon have kept busy over the wet season with water monitoring and fire break maintenance up north on Country, and First Aid and CPR training in Cairns, knowledge exchange with marine parks staff on Fitzroy Island and side by side training at Kuranda.



Wuthathi youth have an opportunity to have a go at six months of training and cultural learning – a mixture of classroom-based learning and on-Country cultural-based activities – from June this year.

“This is an amazing opportunity for our Wuthathi youth,” Project Coordinator Kenny O’Brien said.

“It’s got everything from first aid training to attending a board of directors’ meeting, on-Country cultural learning camps with our Elders, field trips.”

He said it was all about engaging our youth in culture and Country (Kinchalore).

“We want to create pathways for better life outcomes,” he said.

“We will provide case management, support and mentorship.

“We are taking Expressions of Interest for the program now, so please contact us as a matter of urgency if you’re interested.”

Email: admin@wuthathi.com for more information.

Tourism venture taking shape

Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation has held its first Tourism Steering Committee meeting, taking the opportunity to discuss potential tourism experiences on land and sea.

A destination plan has been drafted for low-impact, environmentally friendly and unique cultural tourism experiences, and identify potential stakeholders. CEO Kori Totorewa said they were keen to start building WAC funds independent of government.

"I am keen to achieve the aspirations of the Directors and Wuthathi Tribal Elders Council to help build our WAC-owned funds through a range of business ventures," he said.

"It's important to be self-sufficient and less reliant on Government funding that will grow our capacity as an organisation.

"As a member of Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ), WAC can draw on the support of various stakeholders to support the tourism aspirations and will attend networking opportunities.

"TTNQ can provide marketing assistance to the domestic and international markets - they will be a useful resource in the future once our tourism experience has been established."

He said a draft

destination plan included a four or five day camping experience which would take in guided cultural tours led by our Wuthathi Tribal Elders Council and land custodians, a Traditional Welcome, storytelling, a guided nature walk and bush tucker experiences, cultural workshops and bush camping.

"We hope to offer a unique, immersive cultural experience for our visitors," he said.

"This meticulously planned itinerary offers an authentic and educational experience for visitors, providing a balance between cultural richness and low-impact

tourism practices.

"The accommodation, infrastructure, and staffing considerations aim to ensure visitor satisfaction while preserving the environment and cultural heritage."

He said while they were aiming for the 24/25 tourism season, Traditional Owners needed to get to walk on-country first – before opening up to visitors.

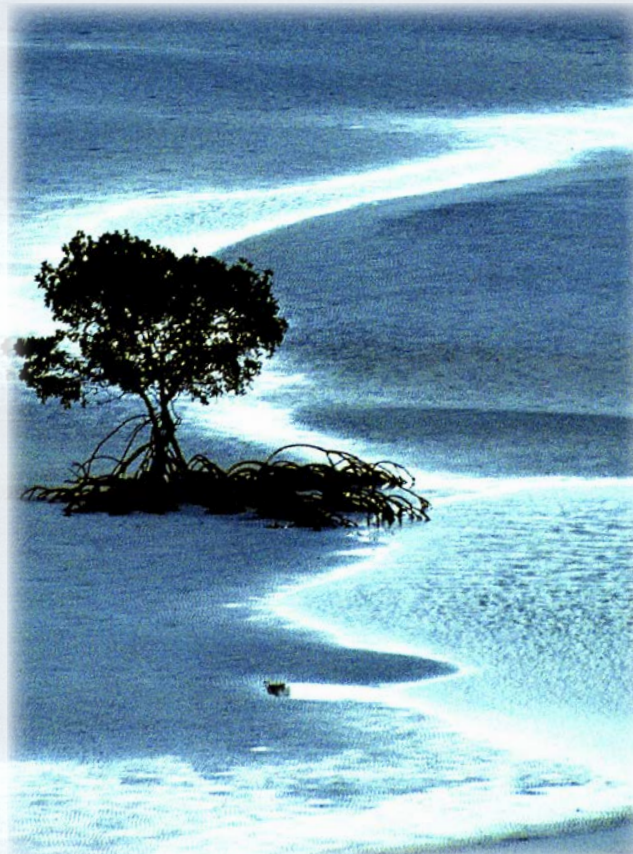
Tour groups would be capped to ensure the protection and preservation of land and sea was maintained, and a permit system would be implemented to ensure

access was monitored.

"The tourism experiences will be established as a subsidiary arm of the Corporation and will provide training and employment opportunities for mob," he said.

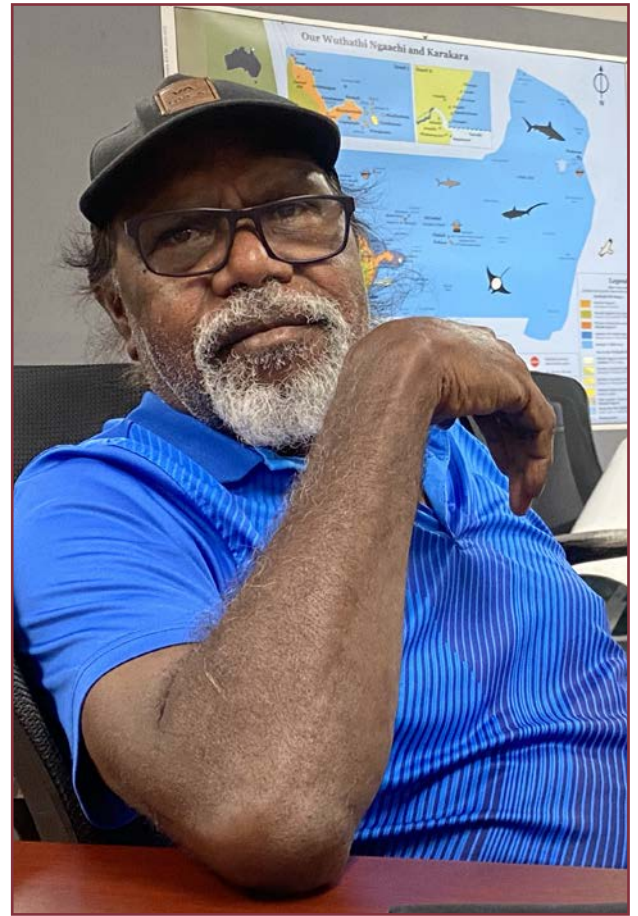
"To assist us in this venture, WAC has engaged the services of Many Rivers to support us and to develop a community employment development program."

Watch this space and our social media pages for more ...



Tribal Elders get behind World Heritage Listing

The World Heritage listing of Wuthathi Country is something the Wuthathi Tribal Elders Council has talked about for many years, chair Johnson Chippendale says.



He said he recalls discussions with federal Labor Government back in the early 2010s.

"All that came to a halt with a change in government, and that was the end of it," he said.

"But last year it came up again and it's something we are interested in.

"We want to listen, get to meetings and see what it's all about and what it can do for our Country.

"It could also be an opportunity for employment for our people.

"It's definitely back on the agenda."

He said the feedback they had so far was positive.

"It's a five-year process to sign onto World Heritage Listing," he said.

"It's a long time but we are looking forward to seeing the outcome and if it's worth it.

"If there's something in there we're not too sure about, we have time to follow up and get a better understanding of how

it works and move forward from there.

"We want to make sure we get every square ticked before we sign."

He said also high on the Tribal Elders Council agenda were plans for this year's on-Country celebrations in September.

"We believe this is the right time to have that celebration, now we've got an infrastructure on Country where our custodians are based, so that's really good," he said.

"We are planning a trip up there with the Elders and our custodians so we can do some planning for what sort of activities we will have when we have that celebration.

"We have been waiting for this since 2015, so I think they are pretty keen."

He said a big part of that trip would be introducing themselves to Country.

"This is something we are all excited about," he said.

"We haven't been on Country for the past 200 years.

"And it's a journey – we are the last initiated men and women, it's been passed down from one general to the next, but the young men and women who started the process in the 1980s and 1990s haven't gone through the whole process.

"We're the last people that have that knowledge and I want to make sure we pass that knowledge on."

He said he was also happy to see the organisation focus on Wuthathi youth, which would play a big role in that.

"We have some funding for our junior rangers and we are recruiting new staff to get that up and running," he said.

"Whoever gets that position will be working very closely with myself and the Elders and custodians.

"We need to try to patch up between when our Elders and ancestors left, to try to reignite what we have, and regenerate.

"Country needs us, we need Country."

Exciting new role for Polly

Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation is celebrating the appointment of its first female custodian, Polly Namai.

Polly started at WAC in 2023 as an admin trainee. She finished her Cert IV in Business Administration and worked in that role for 12 months before applying for the Custodian Officer role. WAC chair Keron Murray said she was a humble person and a quiet achiever. "We're very proud of you Polly, too deadly," he said. "The Corporation aims to put more of our mob in jobs. "I've always said, people

need country and country need people."

CEO Kori Totorewa said they were happy to see her in the role.

"Polly jumped at the opportunity to apply for the Female Custodian position and it's great to support her in her aspirations to look after and care for Country," he said.

Custodians were responsible for planning for fire and weed management, compliance checks, feral



animal control, sea grass monitoring, and water quality control in our creeks and river beds. Polly was appointed to the position in February this year after completing the recruitment and selection processes.

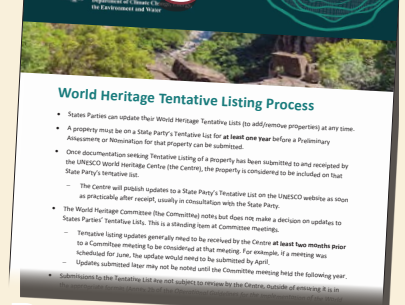


Accounts Payable and Admin Officer Tenetia Wallis started with us in February this year and brings her friendly and energetic personality to our office.

Tenetia says she is keen to expand her knowledge of finance and also loves spending time with her family, swimming and outdoor activities.

You can contact Tenetia at admin@wuthathi.com

You've got mail!



But are your contact details up-to-date?

If you are a member and you haven't yet received this World Heritage Listing Fact Sheet in the mail, let us know via the contact details below and we'll send one to you asap.

For more information about any of the stories in this newsletter please contact our Wuthathi Office on 4249 3360.



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