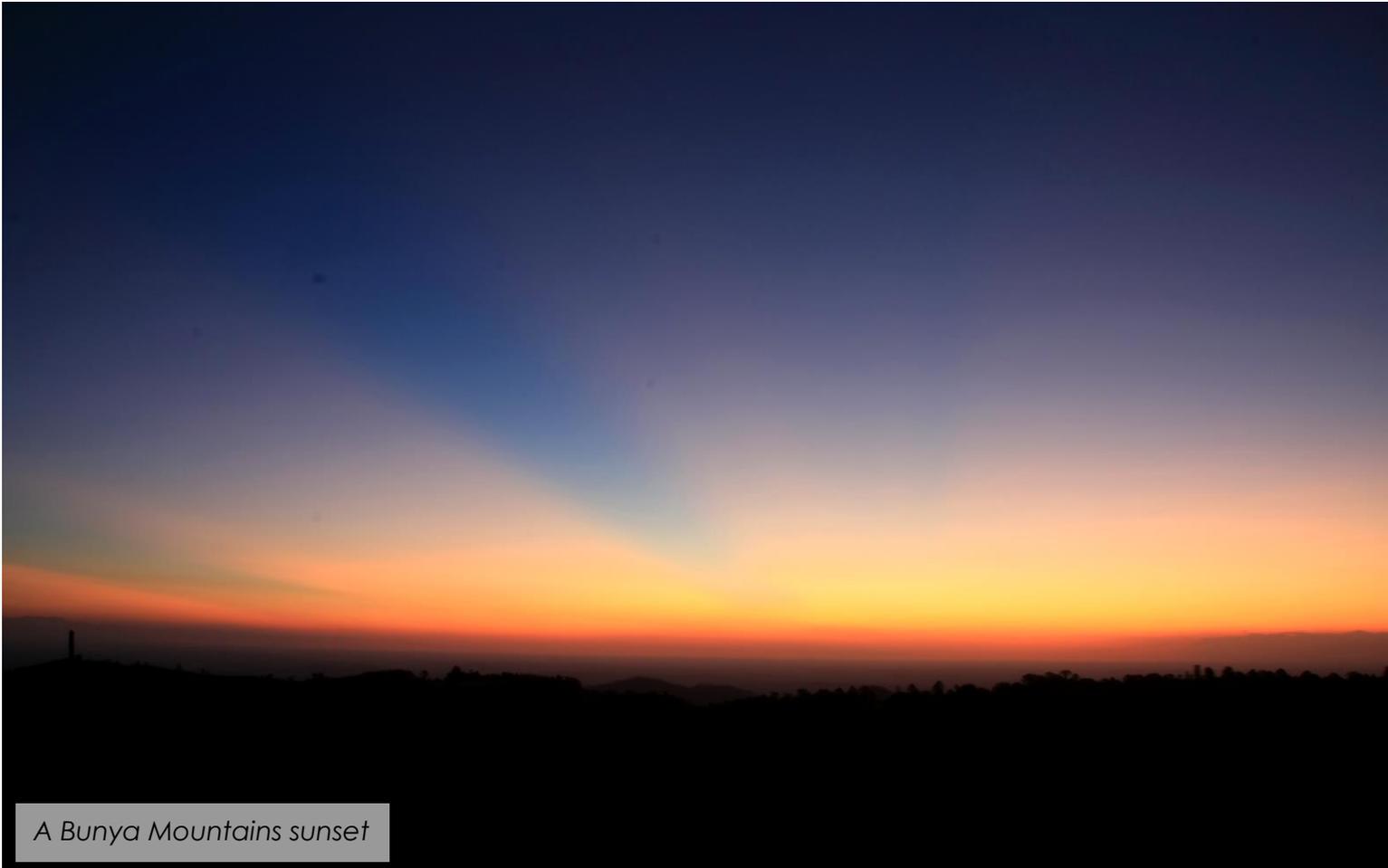




Bonye Bu'ru News

Bunya Peoples' Aboriginal Corporation and the
Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers Newsletter
Reconnecting Country and Culture

Logo artwork by Maurice Mickelo



A Bunya Mountains sunset

Bunya Peoples' Aboriginal Corporation Annual General Meeting

The BPAC held their 2014 AGM on Saturday the 25th of October at the Lyrics Restaurant in the Bunya Mountains. It was a modest turnout, but a productive meeting. Three Director positions were vacated to be filled. The BPAC are pleased to welcome Florence Bell to the Board of Directors. Florence is a Wakka Wakka Traditional Owner, and is passionate about her country and people. Florence has governance experience serving the Wakka Wakka people with the Bunya Wakka Aboriginal Corporation, and is a great asset to the BPAC. Unlce Mal Colling and Dave Calland were re-elected to the BPAC Board, and we look forward to continuing the great work that all the BPAC Directors have been contributing to. *BPAC Board of Directors: Uncle Mal Colling, Uncle Darby McCarthy, Aunty Lurl Henderson, Aunty Cheri Yavu-Kama Harathunian, Donna Moodie, Dave Calland, Florence Bell and Ara Harathunian (specialist Director)*

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Phone: 0448 058 734

Email: BRAdmin@bmrq.org.au

Post: PO Box 181 Wondai QLD 4606

Office: 32 Bramston Street, Wondai QLD 4606

Gnyeeree Juwoon and K'gari are back!

The Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers would like to acknowledge and congratulate the Wakka Wakka people and the Butchulla people on their recent success of reuniting people with their land.

On the 19th of July Wakka Wakka people attended an important ceremony in recognition of the return of 126ha of land at Maidenwell.

The heritage around this site is substantial and is recognised as one of the most significant ceremonial areas within the South Burnett. The site also contains stone arrangements and rock art which is believed one of the most important rock art sites in South-East Queensland and most likely one of the very few that is left in existence.



Wakka Wakk Dancers at Gnyeeree Juwoon. photo South Burnett Times

On the 25th of October Butchulla people also attended a ceremony that has recognised them as the traditional owners of Fraser Island.

The future is now in the Butchulla people's hands with having the legal recognition as the owners of K'Gari, or Fraser Island and being able to protect areas of the landscape. An immediate venture that may be undertaken is an indigenous based eco-tourism venture.



Butchulla people celebrate at a ceremony on K'gari photo ABC Wide Bay

Rangers are on the Job!

The Ranger team has been hard at it over the past couple of months undertaking various activities.

The Kids on Country program is in full swing. A number of school groups being involved from Kindy through to high school age participants.



Ficks Crossing Bull Riding school on a tour at the Bunyas

Maurie Mickelo has been quite busy with a constant flow of tour groups at the Bunyas as well as doing presentations on Indigenous burning regimes on the mountain.

On-ground Rangers have had their fair share of work involving feral animal control, surveillance work, collecting data and general upkeep duties in Russell Park.



Ranger Nathan maintaining Russell Park walking track.

Rangers are on the Job! (continued)

Over the next couple of months the Rangers will be assisting Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service with track construction and also attending wild fire emergencies. It's a busy time with ideal weather conditions for serious wildfire outbreaks so please stay alert and stay safe!

With weather conditions heating up Feral pests have been on the move around the Bunya landscape.

Feral pigs have had a large impact on the edges of the grassland balds with their pesky diggings springing up at a number of locations.

We have captured a large amount of animals on our Reconyx cameras including dingos, birds, brush tail possums, echidnas, feral cats, feral pigs, rabbits, cattle and bandicoots just to name a few.

With these observations it allows the Ranger team to identify areas of high traffic and implement control measures for the capture or baiting of pest animal species.



Feral pig making tracks along the edge of a grassland bald.



Dingo Spotted on a Rangers reconyx camera set up at the Bunyas to help with observations of animal numbers.

Traditional Plant Use

Maidenhair Fern: *Adiantum atroviride*

Adiantum atroviride is 1 of 200 species of ferns from the Adiantaceae family. The genus name comes from Greek meaning "not wetting", referring to the fronds ability to shed water without becoming wet. It is a common native fern of rainforests, watercourses, and moister shady areas. It grows to about 50 cm tall with dark brown to black stipes, forming dense clumps of erect fronds spreading by short rhizomes.



Aboriginal people would sun-dry the leaves, and when needed, soak the leaves in hot water sweetened with honey. The liquid was then taken to reduce fever. Fresh leaves were bruised, soaked in warm water overnight and the liquid taken to relieve cold and fever. The leaves were also chewed and the pulp packed into wounds.