

### Progress Report Cont.

#### *Weengallon Rock Wells Project*

QMDC Vegetation and Biodiversity team conducted a Biodiversity Survey at the Weengallon Rock Wells Site on the 7-8 November 2006.

A Traditional Owner Biodiversity Workshop is scheduled for 27 April 2007 at which the Biodiversity team will present their report and findings to community.

The workshop is an opportunity to share Traditional Owner Cultural Resources and Values and to further ensure appropriate development of biodiversity planning and management actions at Weengallon Rock Wells.

QMDC Inc. Indigenous Program operates inclusive processes, and Traditional Owners with an interest in the site are invited to attend this workshop.

This restoration site is an exciting example of communities working together to value, manage and protect this significant cultural and natural site.



Discovering Landcare Conference (clockwise from left)

Mitchell students, Aunty Irene Ryder and Kindon students, Uncle Brian Tobane (Jarowair Elder), Frank Manthey with Bilby (Yuwallaaray language)



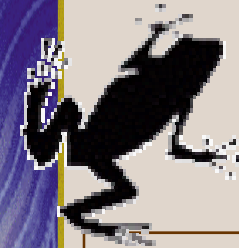
## “Elder’s Message Stick” ‘Yarning Up - Cultural Resource & Values©’

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### Protocol

I would like to pay respect to the Traditional Owner Elder’s, Elder’s and Seniors of the countries (nations) in the Queensland Murray Darling Committee Inc. region and their neighboring countries.

I would like to pay respect to the Goomeroi Elders, St George Aboriginal Elder’s, Gungarri Elders, Manandanji Elders, Yuwaalaraay Elders, Bigumbul Elders, Iman Elders, and thank you for your direction and guidance in the ongoing development of the QMDC Inc. - Indigenous Program, and Workplan for 2006-2007.

Our meetings, protocol discussions and Elder directives support ongoing development of a culturally appropriate Indigenous work program in QMDC Inc.

Thank you for giving your valuable time and service, and for inviting me to attend your Elder meetings to talk about how your directives are being implemented.

Thank you for all working together to improve Indigenous Traditional Owner involvement in natural resource management, throughout the Maranoa-Balonne & Border Rivers, and neighbouring regions.

Regards Fe



### Latest News

#### *Traditional Owner Meetings throughout the Region*

Thirty-five meetings have been conducted during September and October with Traditional Owner Groups throughout the Region to discuss natural and cultural resources and community capacity building strategies.

#### *World Rural Women’s Day Breakfast – Mt Abundance*

Twelve Traditional Owner Elder Women attended the QMDC Inc. World Rural Women’s Day Breakfast at Mt Abundance on 15 October 2006. Guest speaker students from Kenya and China shared their rural living and life experiences with Elder women.



Kenyan visitor



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Indigenous Program Publication



### **Regional Traditional Owner Elder Women's Steering Committee**

Traditional Owner women across the region have decided to form a Regional Traditional Owner Elder Women's Steering Committee. The inaugural Steering Committee meeting was held on 15 October 2006 at Mt Abundance.



Goomeri Elders

Elder women are keenly planning their Second Steering Committee meeting, which is scheduled for 9 December 2006 in Goondiwindi. Traditional Owner Goomeri Elder women are planning as cultural hosts of this meeting, to share natural and cultural resource initiatives, which their community are driving. The Indigenous Program of Border Gwydir and their Elder women community members are invited to participate and contribute to the Steering Committee meetings.



St George, Goomeri, Gungarri, Manandanji & Yuwallaaray



### **Thirri-li yana-a (come to) Discovering Landcare Conference 2006**

Thirri-li yana-a is an Indigenous youth involvement strategy, which commenced in early September 2006. In the lead up to Discovering Landcare Conference 2006, three Cultural Connection (Water) workshops have been conducted across the region. Participation in these workshops included 70 children, 12 Adults and 7 Elders.



Toomelah Public School middle years Students

The Indigenous youth across our region are creating a four metre canvass on which they have expressed their cultural connections with water. A recent Cultural Connections (water) workshop held near Goondiwindi was conducted in partnership with Border Gwydir CMA, Indigenous Program. Border Gwydir conducted the Water Bugs workshop component of QMDC Inc. Cultural Connections (water) workshop.

The figures for increased participation and involvement of rural and remote children in Discovering Landcare Conference are:  
2005 - 5 Indigenous student participants  
2006 - 67 Indigenous student participants, 7 Elders and 12 Adults.



Mitchell State School senior students



### **Up-Coming Events**

#### **"That's Not Science" - "Wurrii gari (giving language) Both Ways" - Discovering Landcare Science Forum 2007**

A joint submission has been made for QMDC Inc. to conduct "That's Not Science" through the Commonwealth. We are seeking the maximum funding of \$40000 for this exciting science forum.

The Indigenous Program is partnering with the Communications, Education and Capacity Building team to design and deliver an exciting and challenging Forum, which will explore the relationship between environmental science and Aboriginal Traditional Owner environmentally sustainable management practices.

The Forum will be held in the region with St George and Roma locations as current front runners. The Regional Traditional Owner Elder Women's Steering Committee will participate, guide and be involved in the design, development and delivery of our 2007 Science Forum.

#### **Oral History Workshops**

The Indigenous Program, QMDC Inc. is partnering with Border Gwydir CMA Indigenous Program to deliver an Oral History Workshop series throughout the region and border areas. The first two Oral History workshops are scheduled for 22 & 23 November 2006.



Toomelah Public School Pre school - Year Two students

### **Progress Report**

#### **Regional Traditional Owner Cultural Resource & Values Plan**

Great progress is being made on the draft Plan. It is scheduled for launch in March 2007 and will be distributed for eight months public consultation. An Indigenous knowledge sharing partnership is being grown with Far North Queensland Regional Body. The QMDC Inc. Indigenous Program and cross discipline team have been invited by FNQ Regional Body to visit their region (26-29 November 2006), to sit with their Traditional Owner Elders and planning team, to share and learn from experiences in the development and implementation of their Aboriginal Plan.

The strategic vision for our region's Plan, is to secure a Commonwealth funding agreement which will enable implementation of key cultural resource and values planning. FNQ has achieved this level of support from the Commonwealth for their Plan and our team looks forward to benchmarking our current project.

#### **Invitation for Artwork Submission**

Indigenous students are invited to submit contemporary Indigenous artwork for inclusion in the QMDC draft Regional Traditional Owner Cultural Resources and Values Plan. Many Indigenous students who attended the Discovering Landcare Conference 2006 have submitted artwork. This is an opportunity to get your artwork published in the community. Contact Fiona Wellington or Renee Fletcher for more details.

