

# MEDIA RELEASE

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QUEENSLAND  
MURRAY-  
DARLING  
COMMITTEE



## QMDC's Tim Knox receives Churchill Fellowship

Toowoomba's Tim Knox will head to America later this year to increase his knowledge of blending old and new practices to enhance the environment after being awarded a 2010 Churchill Fellowship.

Mr Knox, Regional Coordinator for the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee's Aboriginal Program, is one of 19 Queenslanders to be awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2010, one of only a handful of Aboriginal recipients in the history of the prestigious scheme.

"One of the best things about the Churchill Fellowships is the fact they are open to people from all walks of life who want to pursue research that will enrich Australia," Mr Knox said.

"I will be travelling to the far north of the United States in September to learn how Native Americans incorporate natural resource management practices they have learnt from their ancestors with modern practices to ensure the sustainability of their landscapes and their people.

"As a Kamilaroi man the continuation of such practices and cultural traditions is something I am very interested in which brings the youth and elders together in practicing our traditional customs."

Mr Knox said while the landscapes would be quite different, the Native American people and Australian Aboriginals had similar practices with regard to the preservation of natural resources.

"I am particularly keen to learn how the American Indians, on their reservations, ensure the quality of their streams and through their land management practices, the condition of their open grasslands and pastures," he said.

"It's vitally important that we achieve a balance between not only traditional practices and the preservation of our native animals and resources for the future but also between primary production and the preservation of our entire landscape and everything that relies upon it."

Mr Knox said the information collected would be shared across the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin.

He said he hoped receiving the Churchill Fellowship would also encourage other Aboriginal people to take up new opportunities in their lives.

"I think it's pretty amazing that someone from Dirranbandi, a town of about 500 people, can receive something like this.

"Of course, this isn't something that's happened in isolation. The support I have received from my family and from the Executive, CEO and work colleagues at the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee has been wonderful."

Mr Knox and the other Queensland recipients of the Fellowship will be presented with their certificates by the Queensland Governor, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO, in Brisbane on July 23.

### Media contact/s

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