

We thought you might be interested in receiving our 'Aboriginal people and rivers' project update!

This short newsletter is to let you know what has been happening with TRaCK project 2.2 - 'Indigenous socio-economic values and river flows'. This is the project that is looking at the importance of the Daly River to the Aboriginal people that live along it.

After each trip to the Daly we would like to keep you updated with what is happening.

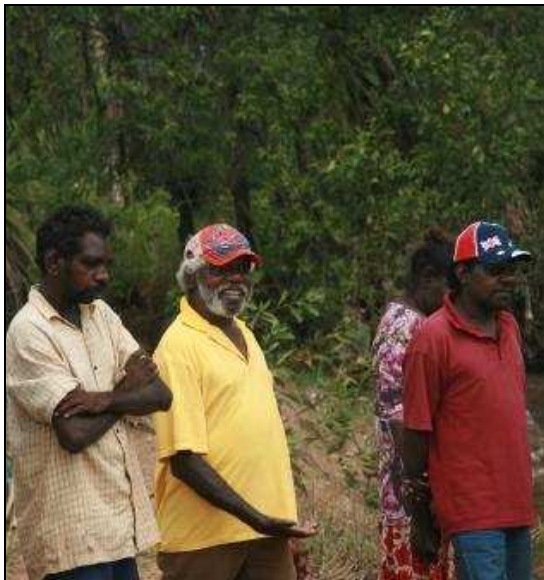
This is the first update which covers our visits to the Daly in July and August 08.

When did we visit?

July and August 2008

Who did we talk to?

Malak Malak at Woolianna; Nauiyu community people; people from Kybrook Farm & the Wagiman Rangers, people living at Pine Creek Town Camp



Wagiman Rangers – John, Jabul and Paul learning about water testing with Greening Australia



Daly River at Nauiyu

Who do we want to meet with next time?

More people at Nauiyu including the Fish River mob; Kamu on the Daly River; Malak Malak; People at Kybrook Farm and Pine Creek Town Camp (the Compound).

What did we discuss with people?



Jabul – Wagiman Ranger



Red Lily Billabong

The purpose of the project:

We want to learn more about how important the river is to the Aboriginal communities living along it. This information can help inform other people, including the government, of the importance of the river. This trip involved planning for the project, talking with people about where they go along the river and why these places are important.

What the project involves:

We are talking with people about a survey we would like to do with participating households 4 times a year over the next two years. We'll ask the same questions each time to find out what fish, plants and other foods people have collected from the river and wetlands. The project will also work closely with local people to record stories about the River; to map important places on the River that people like to go and to develop ways that landowners and land-mangers can monitor the health of the River and wetlands.



Fish Billabong

Research Agreements:

We let people know that the TRaCK program has applied for a research permit with the Northern Land Council and if communities want a research agreement we can help them put one together to make sure the research is done well.

Payment for Aboriginal involvement:

We have talked with people about paying them to help us with introductions in the community, to participate in some river mapping work, to guide us to places on the River and for the monitoring program.

What are the next steps?



Pine Creek

Over the next couple of weeks we will be contacting people to let them know the exact dates we would like to visit, and arranging times to meet. If you have any questions or would like to be involved and haven't so far, please let us know so we can come and talk with you.



Emma project planning with people at Nauiyu

What will be trying to do in the next visit?



When we visit again in late September and October, we would like to do some more planning with people in preparation for the start of the household surveys. We would like to continue to map the important places that people like to visit along the River. This information can be collected in groups or separately with people – it is up to the community. This information will not be released to the public without permission and we will pay people for the time they spend working with us.



Suggesting ideas for a seasonal calendar at Nauiyu - Benigna, Molly, Catherine, Maureen and Patricia



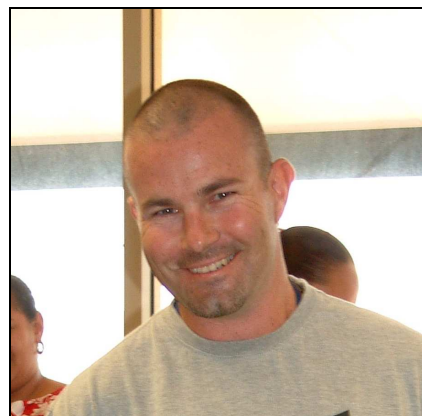
When will we back in the Daly?

Emma and Marcus will be back in the Daly region in the second half of September and all of October. They will be contacting people in the next couple of weeks to let them know when we will be coming and explain the next step of the research.

Thank you!



Emma Woodward



Marcus Finn

If you would not like to receive any further newsletters please let us know.

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