

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 Fitzroy River to the Aboriginal people that live along it.

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

This is the first update which covers our visit to the Fitzroy in June 08.

**When did we visit?**

2<sup>nd</sup> June - 19<sup>th</sup> June 08

**What communities did we visit?**

Looma, Jarlmadangah and the school, Ngurtuwarda, Noonkanbah and the Kulkarriya School, Bayulu, Muludja, and Fitzroy Crossing. We also met with Executive members and staff at Karrayili, KALACC and Marra Worra Worra.



Kulkarriya School member



Kulkarriya School member

Who do we also want to meet with next time?

Kurnangki, Mindi Rardi, Junjuwa, Bayulu (GoGo) School, Fitzroy Crossing District High School

What did we discuss with people?

**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.

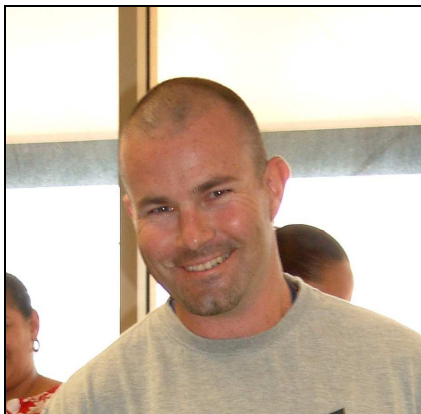
**The Researchers:**



Emma Woodward

**What the project involves:**

We said that we will visit the Fitzroy 4 times a year over the next two years. Each time we come we will do a survey with participating households. 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.



Marcus Finn



Emma Woodward, Nancy Williams, Alice Bungidi and Mary Aitkin



Sue Jackson (Right) with Doreen Street and Topsy Chestnut

**Research Agreements:**

We let people know that the TRaCK program has a research agreement with the Kimberley Land Council. However if communities want a separate community research agreement we can help them put one together.



**Doreen Street and Topsy Chestnut with Kate Golson (KLC).**



**Nancy Williams and Alice Bungidi**

### **What are the next steps?**



### **Payment for Aboriginal involvement:**

We talked with people about paying them to help us with introductions in the community, to guide us to places on the River and for the monitoring program. We also talked about some other TRaCK projects including the river and wetland food webs.



**Marcus Finn and George Brooking**

We are now sending out letters to communities that we haven't met with yet as well as those we have, to follow up with them. We are organising a full community meeting for Looma in July and are calling people and arranging meetings with Community Councils for our next visit in August – this dry season.



**Danielle Warfe, Sue Jackson, Frank Smiler, Emma Woodward and Marcus Finn**

### What will be trying to do in the next visit?

When we visit again at the end of August, we would like to do some river mapping with communities. This will involve sitting down with community members to map the important places that people like to visit. 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.

### When will we back in the Fitzroy?

Marcus and Emma will be back in the Fitzroy region for a period of 3 weeks starting the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August. We 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

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

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